

# GLOBAL TRENDS

## FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN 2019

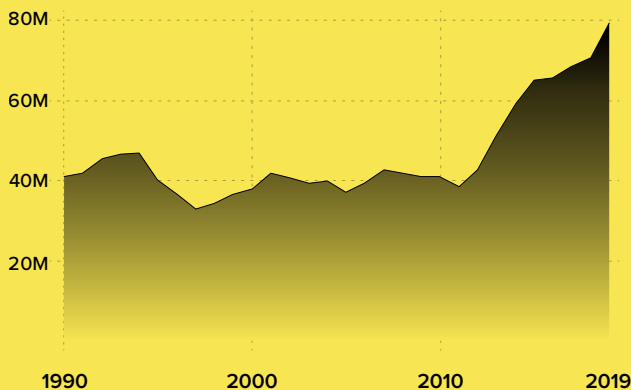


# Trends at a Glance

## 79.5 MILLION

FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE

at the end of 2019 as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order.



**26.0 million refugees**

**20.4 million refugees**  
under UNHCR's mandate

**5.6 million Palestine refugees**  
under UNRWA's mandate

**45.7 million internally displaced people<sup>1</sup>**

**4.2 million asylum-seekers**

**3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad**

## 40% CHILDREN

An estimated 30 – 34 million of the 79.5 million forcibly displaced persons were children below 18 years of age.

## 85%

HOSTED IN  
DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES

Developing countries hosted 85 per cent of the world's refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad. The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 27 per cent of the total.

## 2.0 MILLION NEW CLAIMS

Asylum-seekers submitted 2.0 million new claims. The United States of America was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications (301,000), followed by Peru (259,800), Germany (142,500), France (123,900) and Spain (118,300).

## 73%

HOSTED IN  
NEIGHBOURING  
COUNTRIES

73 per cent of refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

## 5.6 MILLION DISPLACED PEOPLE RETURNED

5.6 million displaced people returned to their areas or countries of origin, including 5.3 million internally displaced persons and 317,200 refugees.

## 107,800

REFUGEES  
RESETTLED

UNHCR submitted 81,600 refugees to States for resettlement. According to government statistics, 26 countries admitted 107,800 refugees for resettlement during the year, with or without UNHCR's assistance.

# 68%

## ORIGINATED FROM JUST FIVE COUNTRIES

More than two thirds (68 per cent) of all refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad came from just five countries.

**Syrian Arab Republic**  
6.6 million

**Venezuela**  
3.7 million

**Afghanistan**  
2.7 million

**South Sudan**  
2.2 million

**Myanmar**  
1.1 million

# 3.6 MILLION

## REFUGEES HOSTED IN TURKEY

Turkey hosted the largest number of refugees worldwide, with 3.6 million people. Colombia was second with 1.8 million, including Venezuelans displaced abroad.

**Turkey**  
3.6 million

**Colombia**  
1.8 million

**Pakistan**  
1.4 million

**Uganda**  
1.4 million

**Germany**  
1.1 million

# 1 IN 6

## ARE DISPLACED

Relative to their national populations, the island of Aruba hosted the largest number of Venezuelans displaced abroad (1 in 6) while Lebanon<sup>2</sup> hosted the largest number of refugees (1 in 7).

**Aruba**  
1 in 6

**Lebanon**  
1 in 7

**Curaçao**  
1 in 10

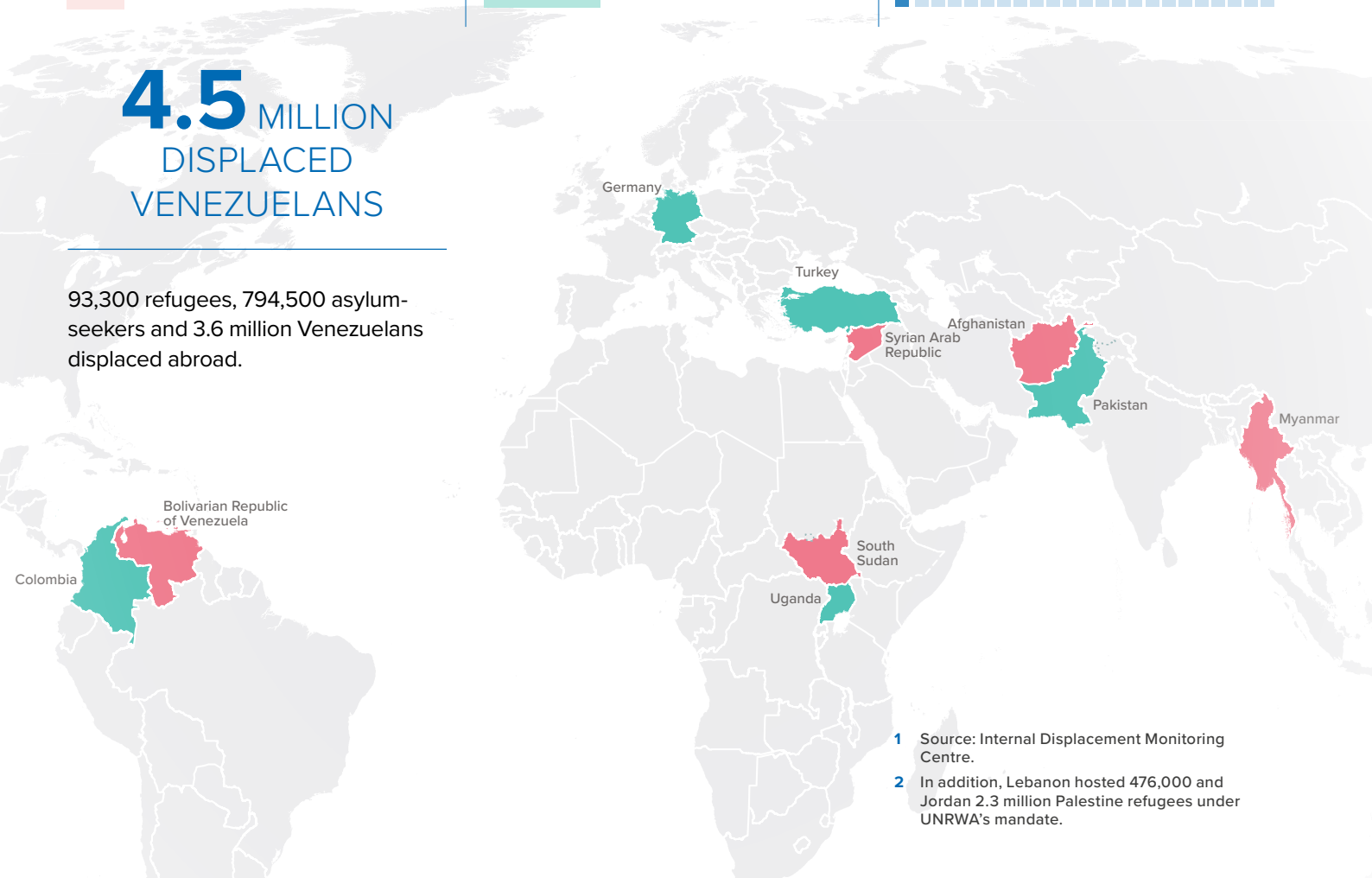
**Jordan**  
1 in 15

**Turkey**  
1 in 23

# 4.5 MILLION

## DISPLACED VENEZUELAN

93,300 refugees, 794,500 asylum-seekers and 3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad.



<sup>1</sup> Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.  
<sup>2</sup> In addition, Lebanon hosted 476,000 and Jordan 2.3 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

2010 - 2019

# A Decade of Displacement

AT LEAST  
**100**  
MILLION  
PEOPLE FORCIBLY  
DISPLACED

**16.2** MILLION  
ASYLUM APPLICATIONS REGISTERED  
[11% BY UNHCR]

**400,000**  
ASYLUM APPLICATIONS REGISTERED BY  
UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

**5.0** MILLION  
ASYLUM-SEEKERS GRANTED  
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION  
[67% RECOGNIZED UNDER THE 1951  
REFUGEE CONVENTION]

**15.0** MILLION  
PEOPLE NEWLY RECOGNIZED AS REFUGEES  
OUTSIDE THE ASYLUM PROCESS  
(PRIMA FACIE, TEMPORARY PROTECTION)

**79.0** MILLION  
NEW INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS  
[SOURCE: IDMC]

ONLY A FRACTION  
OF THE MILLIONS  
DISPLACED FOUND  
A SOLUTION

**3.9** MILLION  
REFUGEES RETURNING  
TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

**1.1** MILLION  
REFUGEES RESETTLED BY STATES  
[70% WITH UNHCR'S ASSISTANCE]

**322,400**  
REFUGEES NATURALIZED IN  
THEIR COUNTRY OF ASYLUM

**128,600**  
REFUGEES WHOSE STATUS ENDED  
AS A RESULT OF CESSATION

**31.0** MILLION  
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS RETURNING  
TO THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE [SOURCE: UNHCR]

**754,500**  
STATELESS PERSONS OBTAINING  
OR CONFIRMING NATIONALITY

Changes in population statistics can have multiple reasons in addition to the ones listed. These can include but are not limited to administrative corrections, adjustments as a result of registration, verification exercises conducted as well deaths and births. Additional reasons may include new estimates as a result of revised or improved methodologies, physical access to populations previously non-accessible and thus unaccounted for or changes in statistical classification of populations.



BURKINA FASO. *Malian refugees in Goudoubo camp on their way to receive new dignity kits at a distribution point in the camp. With no prospects for return as the conflict continues at home, these refugees are now exposed to rising insecurity in their new host country. Following attacks and ultimatums by armed groups, the Goudoubo refugee camp, recently home to 9,000 refugees, is now effectively empty as they have fled to seek safety elsewhere.*

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For detailed information on UNHCR's protection and assistance activities in support of forcibly displaced populations, see the [2019 Global Report](#)



## CHAPTER 1

# Global forced displacement

Almost 80 million people are forcibly displaced

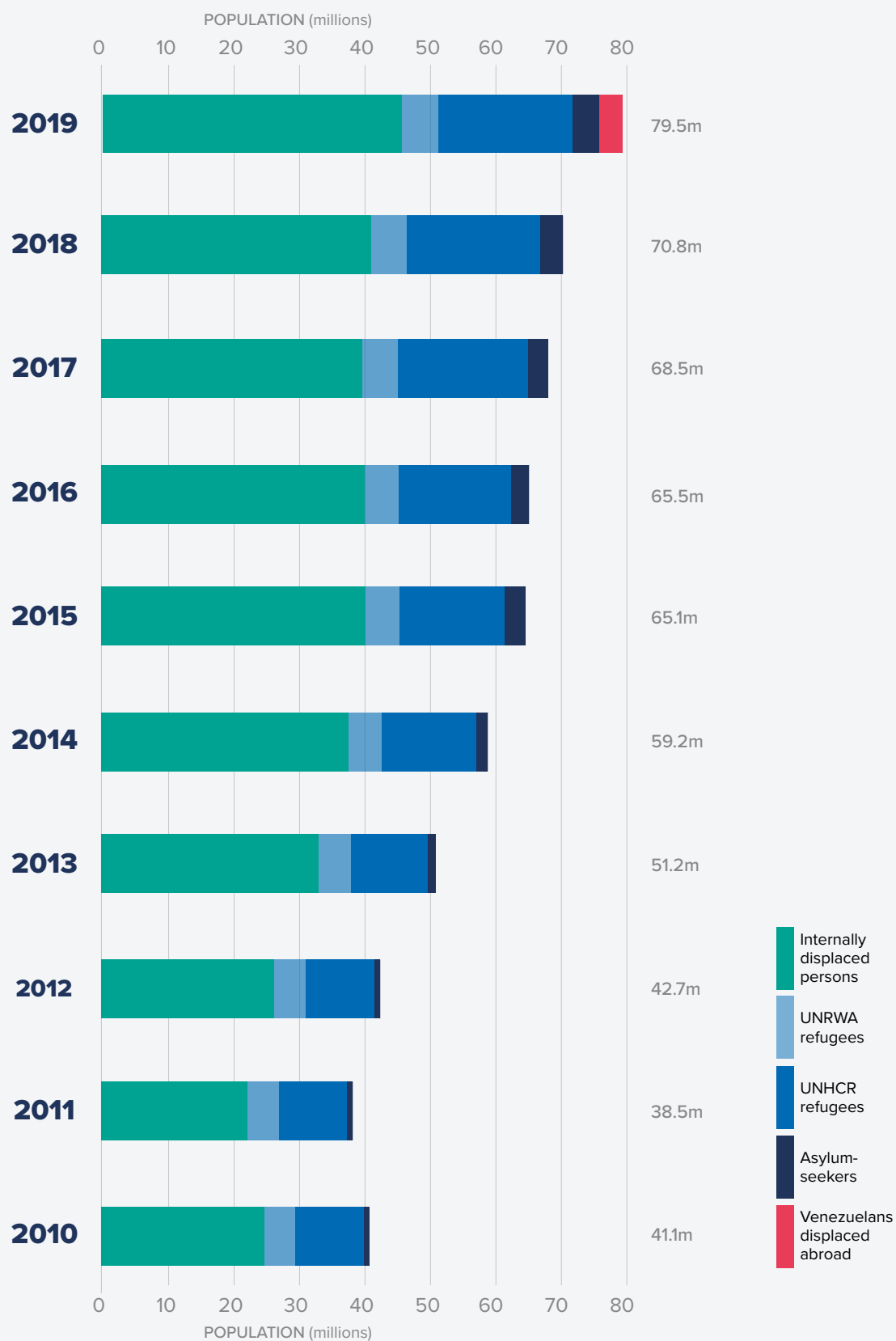
“ We are witnessing a changed reality in that forced displacement nowadays is not only vastly more widespread but is simply no longer a short-term and temporary phenomenon. ”

**Filippo Grandi**  
UN High Commissioner for Refugees

At least 100 million people were forced to flee their homes during the last 10 years, seeking refuge either within or outside the borders of their country. Forced displacement and statelessness remained high on the international agenda in recent years and continued to generate dramatic headlines in every part of the world. As we approach two important anniversary years in 2021, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, it is clear these legal instruments have never been more relevant.

Several major crises contributed to the massive displacement over the past decade, and the numbers include people who were displaced multiple times. These crises included but are not limited to the ones listed here:

- the outbreak of the Syrian conflict early in the decade, which continues today
- South Sudan’s displacement crisis, which followed its independence
- the conflict in Ukraine
- the arrival of refugees and migrants in Europe by sea
- the massive flow of stateless refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh
- the outflow of Venezuelans across Latin America and the Caribbean
- the crisis in Africa’s Sahel region, where conflict and climate change are endangering many communities
- renewed conflict and security concerns in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Somalia
- conflict in the Central African Republic
- internal displacement in Ethiopia
- renewed outbreaks of fighting and violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- the large humanitarian and displacement crisis in Yemen.

Figure 1 | **Global forced displacement** | end-year

Tens of millions of people were able to return to their places of residence or find other solutions, such as voluntary repatriation or resettlement to third countries, but many more were not and joined the numbers of displaced from previous decades. By the end of 2019, the number of people forcibly displaced due to war, conflict, persecution, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order had grown to 79.5 million, the highest number on record according to available data.<sup>3</sup> The number of displaced people was nearly double the 2010 number of 41 million (see **FIGURE 1**) and an increase from the 2018 number of 70.8 million. The most recent annual increase is due to both new displacement and the inclusion in this year’s report of 3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad who face protection risks, irrespective of their status – a category that was not included in the broader global forced displacement total in previous versions of the Global Trends report.<sup>4</sup>

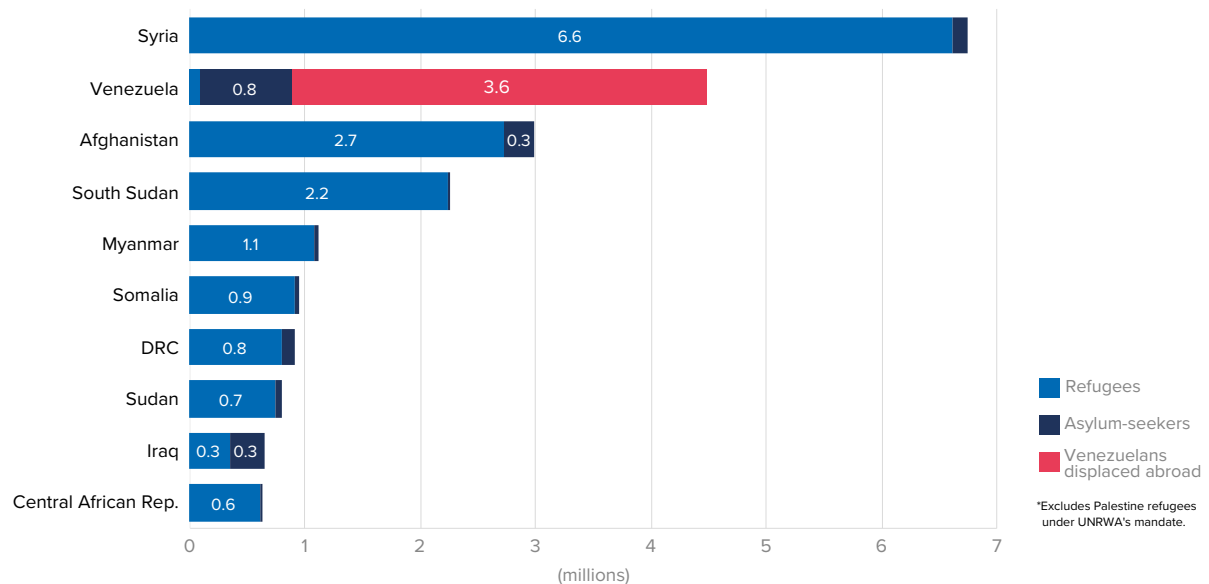
The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burkina Faso, the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), the

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Venezuela) and Yemen represent just a few of the many hotspots in 2019 driving people to seek refuge and safety within their country or flee abroad to seek protection.

The proportion of the world’s population who were displaced continued to rise. One per cent of the world’s population – or 1 in 97 people – is now forcibly displaced. This compares with 1:159 in 2010 and 1:174 in 2005 as the increase in the world’s forcibly displaced population continued to outpace global population growth.<sup>5</sup>

During 2019, an estimated 11.0 million people were newly displaced. While 2.4 million sought protection outside their country,<sup>6</sup> 8.6 million were newly displaced within the borders of their countries.<sup>7</sup> Many displaced populations failed to find long-lasting solutions for rebuilding their lives. Only 317,200 refugees were able to return to their country of origin, and only 107,800 were resettled to third countries. Some 5.3 million internally displaced people returned to their place of residence during the year, including 2.1 million

Figure 2 | **Top international displacement situations by country of origin** | end-2019\*



**3** These included 26.0 million refugees: 20.4 million under UNHCR’s mandate and 5.6 million Palestine refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The global figure also included 45.7 million internally displaced persons (source: IDMC), 4.2 million individuals whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated by the end of the reporting period, and 3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad.

**4** For details on the Venezuela situation, see page 10.

**5** National population data are from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, “World population prospects: The 2019 revision”, New York, 2019. See: <https://population.un.org/wpp/>

**6** Consisting of more than 2.0 million new individual asylum claims and 382,200 refugees recognized on a prima facie or group basis. Some of these people may have arrived prior to 2019.

**7** Based on a global estimate from IDMC.



in the Democratic Republic of the Congo<sup>8</sup> and 1.3 million in Ethiopia. In many cases, however, refugees and IDPs returned under adverse circumstances in which the sustainability of returns could not be assured.

At the end of 2019, Syrians continued to be by far the largest forcibly displaced population worldwide (13.2 million, including 6.6 million refugees and more than six million internally displaced people). When considering only international displacement situations, Syrians also topped the list with 6.7 million persons, followed by Venezuelans with 4.5 million. Afghanistan and South Sudan had 3.0 and 2.2 million, respectively (see [FIGURE 2](#)).<sup>9</sup>

Turkey hosted the highest number of people displaced across borders, 3.9 million, most of whom were Syrian refugees (92%). Colombia followed, hosting nearly 1.8 million displaced Venezuelans. Germany hosted the third largest number, almost 1.5 million, with Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers constituting the largest groups (42%). Pakistan and Uganda hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> largest number, with about 1.4 million each (see [FIGURE 3](#)).

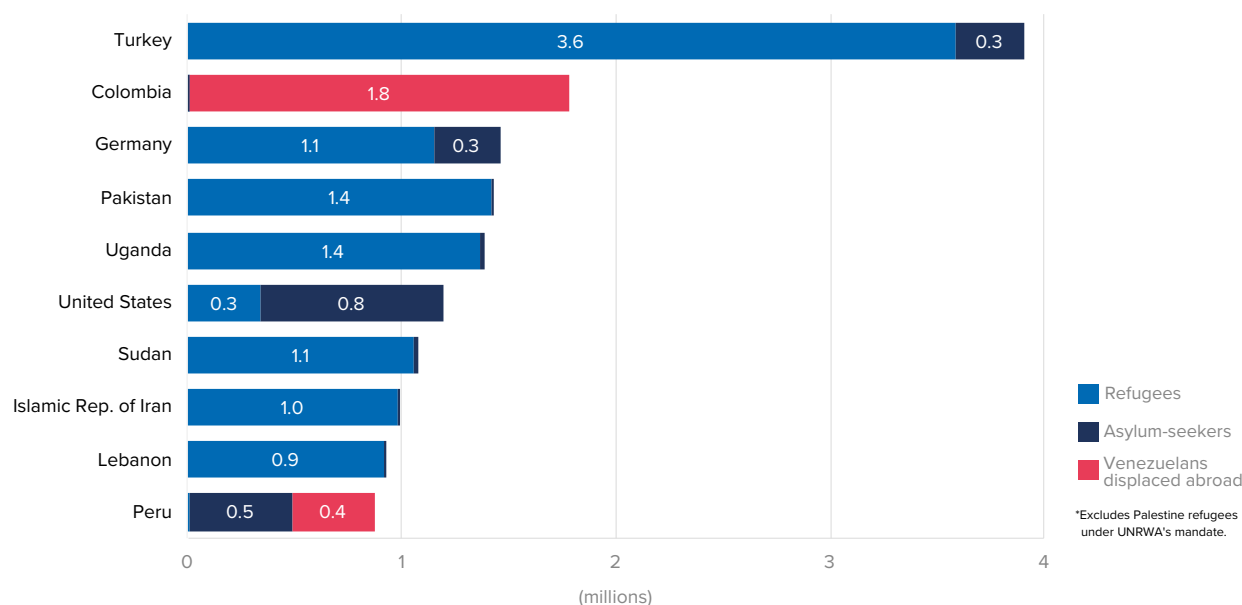
#### NOTE:

The main focus of this report is the analysis of statistical trends and changes in global displacement from January to December 2019 among populations for whom UNHCR has been entrusted with a responsibility by the international community.<sup>10</sup> The data presented are based on information received as of 15 May 2020 unless otherwise indicated.

The figures in this report are based on data reported by governments, non-governmental organizations and UNHCR. Numbers are rounded to the closest hundred or thousand. As some adjustments may appear later in the year in the Refugee Population Statistics online database,<sup>11</sup> figures contained in this report should be considered as provisional and subject to change. Unless otherwise specified, the report does not refer to events occurring after 31 December 2019.

During crises and displacement, children, adolescents and youth are at risk of exploitation and abuse, especially when they are unaccompanied or separated from their families (these children are referred to as UASC). In 2019, UASC lodged around 25,000 new asylum applications. In addition, 153,300 unaccompanied and separated children were reported among the refugee population at the end of 2019. Both figures, however, are significant underestimates due to the limited number of countries reporting data.

Figure 3 | **Top international displacement situations by host country | end-2019\***



<sup>8</sup> This figure was released by the "Commissions de mouvements de population", an inter-organizational mechanism which is held by provincial authorities and humanitarian actors. It covers the period from April 2018 to September 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Excluding Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

<sup>10</sup> See Chapter 7 for a definition of each population group.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>

**PERU.** *"I arrived today at the border with my husband and two children," says Daniela, 29, with her 10-month-old baby at the Ecuador-Peru border. "We left Venezuela five days ago by bus. We want to go to Lima where we can stay with friends. It is impossible to remain in Venezuela, there is no medicine, [and] little food."*

© UNHCR/HÉLENE CAUX



## VENEZUELA SITUATION

By the end of 2019, some 4.5 million Venezuelans had left their country, travelling mainly to other parts of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is the largest exodus in the region's recent history and one of the biggest displacement crises in the world. More than 900,000 Venezuelans have sought asylum in the last three years, including 430,000 in 2019 alone. Some countries in the region, such as Brazil, have taken steps to apply the extended refugee definition under the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees and national legislation, while other countries have gradually scaled up their capacity to process asylum claims and are developing simplified or accelerated refugee status determination case processing modalities. In addition, Latin American countries granted over 2.4 million residence permits and other forms of legal stay to Venezuelans by the end of 2019, which allow them to access some basic services. New visa requirements in many States along the Andean Corridor have left those on the move facing increased protection risks. Furthermore, the number of Venezuelans in an irregular situation continues to increase. At the end of 2019, over 50 per cent of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia were in an irregular situation. Based on reports received by UNHCR and its partners, as well as reliable information in the public domain from a wide range of sources about the situation in Venezuela, protection-sensitive arrangements are required, in particular protection against forced returns and access

to basic services, and are thus promoted for all Venezuelans displaced abroad – irrespective of their status – to reinforce the protection dimension and consistent responses across the region.<sup>12</sup>

With the objective of ensuring an accountable, coherent, coordinated and protection-sensitive operational response for refugees and migrants from Venezuela across the region, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) lead the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform (R4V).<sup>13</sup> In 2019, through its Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), partners' activities benefited over 1.6 million people in 16 countries. For the 2020 Response Plan,<sup>14</sup> 151 partners throughout the region aim to support 4.1 million people, including vulnerable host community members, including through targeted COVID-19 response activities. The Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform is complemented by eight UNHCR and IOM co-led national and sub-regional platforms in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru (at national levels) and in the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico and Southern Cone (at sub-regional levels).

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR, Guidance Note on International Protection Considerations for Venezuelans – Update I, May 2019, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5cd1950f4.html>

<sup>13</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/platform>

<sup>14</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/72254>

## Can we predict forced displacement for the next 10 years?

It is very difficult to predict global forced displacement, or its impact on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Such predictions typically rely on historical population trends and anticipate future events, which is sometimes impossible. Based on the displacement trajectory in the 1990s and 2000s, few people could have foreseen the rapidly growing number of displaced people we have seen over the last decade.

From the mid-1990s until around 2010, the number of displaced people remained relatively stable because even though new displacement continued, at the same time many displaced people eventually repatriated, built permanent homes in their host communities or resettled in third countries. In the aftermath of the early Balkan wars and the Rwandan genocide, for example, global displacement figures remained well below 40 million, and as low as 34 million in 1997, according to estimates. Between 2000 and 2009, the numbers of displaced generally ranged between 37 and 42 million.

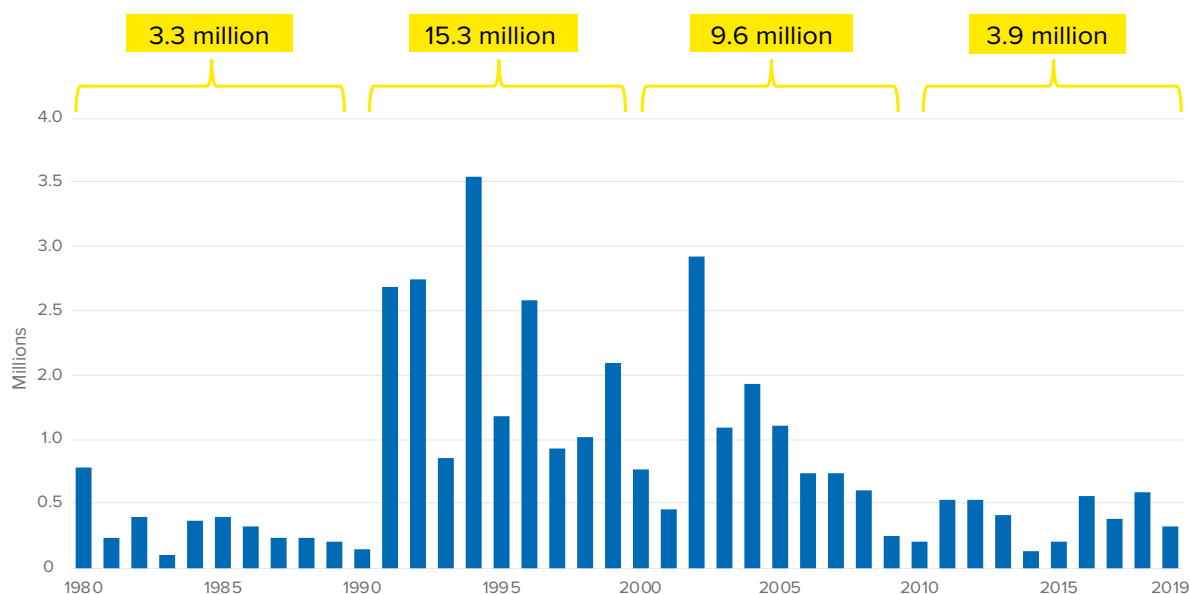
The last decade, however, brought a major shift. More people sought refuge, but those who had

### A SIGN OF SOLIDARITY

On 10 September 2019, the Government of Rwanda signed an agreement with the African Union (AU) and UNHCR to provide urgent and lifesaving assistance to African refugees and asylum-seekers currently being held in detention centers in Libya. This agreement followed a generous offer from Rwanda to host up to 30,000 vulnerable people at risk and stranded in Libya. Under the memorandum of understanding, UNHCR in partnership with the Government of Rwanda and the AU has established an Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM), to facilitate the relocation of up to 500 people of concern at any given time from the conflict zones in Libya to safety in Rwanda, while continuing to seek durable solutions options in and outside the country. The ETM in Rwanda complements the Emergency Evacuation Transit Mechanism established in Niger in 2017.

been displaced had fewer options for rebuilding their lives. As wars and conflicts dragged on, fewer refugees and internally displaced people were able to return home, countries accepted a limited number of refugees for resettlement and host countries struggled to integrate displaced populations. For instance, only 3.9 million

Figure 4 | Refugee returns by decade





refugees were able to return to their country of origin between 2010 and 2019. This compares to almost 10 million refugees who returned home during the previous decade and more than 15 million two decades prior (see [FIGURE 4](#)). With more people becoming displaced and fewer being able to return, an increasing number find themselves in protracted and long-lasting displacement situations. The world has clearly shifted from a decade of solutions to a decade of new and protracted displacement.

Climate change and natural disasters can exacerbate threats that force people to flee within their country or across international borders. The interplay between climate, conflict, hunger, poverty and persecution creates increasingly complex emergencies. For example, food insecurity may become a major driver of conflicts and displacement. An international alliance of the United Nations, governmental and non-governmental agencies working to address the root causes of extreme hunger reported that conflict, weather extremes and economic turbulence contributed to several disturbing trends. The group reported that at the end of 2019, 135 million people across 55 countries and territories experienced acute food insecurity.<sup>15</sup> In addition, 75 million children had stunted growth and 17 million suffered from wasting. These findings represented the highest level of acute food insecurity and malnutrition documented since the group's first report in 2017. Eighty per cent of the world's displaced populations were residing in these 55 countries or territories.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates how unexpected events can affect forced displacement predictions. Although the novel

coronavirus had just emerged in late 2019, the subsequent pandemic has had, and at the time of this writing continues to have, an unprecedented global social and economic impact, also affecting asylum systems. For instance, the number of asylum applications registered in the European Union in March 2020 dropped by 43 per cent compared to February as asylum systems slowed or came to a halt with countries closing borders or implementing strict border restrictions in response to COVID-19.<sup>16</sup> In other parts of the world, refugee registration, an essential protection activity at the core of refugee statistics,<sup>17</sup> also dropped significantly despite efforts by some countries to resort to remote registration and documentation. As a result, global refugee and asylum statistics may under-represent the true magnitude of the number of people seeking international protection during the pandemic. This could increase the uncertainty for predicting global forced displacement in the future.

Whatever the predictions are for future global displacement, we must reverse the current trend and massively expand pathways for the forcibly displaced to rebuild their lives – whether in their home countries, in third countries or in their host communities. In 2019, UNHCR and its partners launched the *Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways*.<sup>18</sup> The strategy foresees resettlement of one million refugees and admission of two million refugees through complementary pathways such as family reunification or labour mobility schemes by 2028. For it to succeed, States need to offer more avenues to solutions for refugees in line with the objective of greater shared responsibility set out in the Global Compact on Refugees.

<sup>15</sup> Global Report on Food Crises 2020, Global Network against Food Crises, April 2020, at <https://www.wfp.org/publications/2020-global-report-food-crises>

<sup>16</sup> See <https://easo.europa.eu/news-events/covid-19-asylum-applications-down-march>

<sup>17</sup> See Chapter 7 for more details on sources and basis of refugee statistics.

<sup>18</sup> To work towards increasing the number of resettlement places and admissions, as well as expanding the number of countries offering these programmes, the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways was launched in 2019 by governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and UNHCR. The strategy's target of 60,000 resettlement departures to 29 States in 2019 has been achieved. In 2020, the goal is for 31 countries to resettle up to 70,000 refugees referred by UNHCR. See <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/resettlement/5d15db254/three-year-strategy-resettlement-complementary-pathways.html>



*SUDAN. A 59 year old South Sudanese refugee, waiting for the distribution of food and goods such as plastic sheeting. Nivasha is one of several refugee settlements in the outskirts of the Sudanese capital Khartoum. It is temporary home to some 25,000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan.*

© UNHCR/ROLAND SCHÖNBAUER



## DEMOGRAPHY OF GLOBAL FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Demographic data is crucial to understand the impact of displacement on different population groups. It is also essential to guide effective and efficient policy responses and programmatic interventions that address the needs of vulnerable groups. Sex- and age-disaggregated information is unfortunately not always available for all forcibly displaced populations. Statistical models or estimations can be used to fill these data gaps.

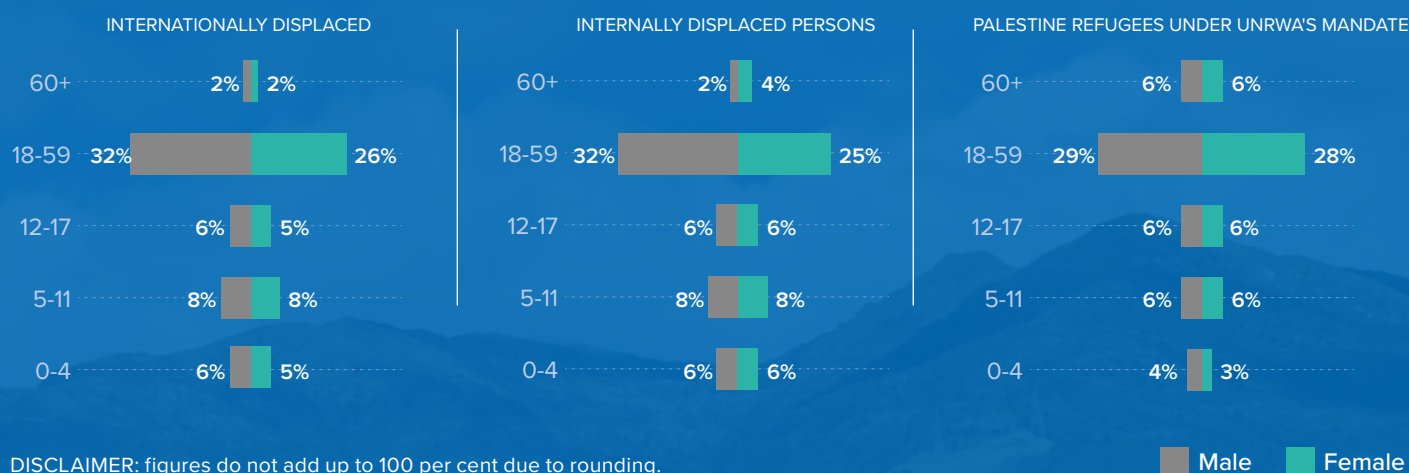
Based on a combination of different data sources (e.g. registration, surveys) and statistical models, UNHCR estimates that between 30 – 34 million of the 79.5 million forcibly displaced people are children (between 38 – 43 per cent). The three age pyramids present the demographic profile of the different populations.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Demographic data is available for 80 per cent of refugees, 33 per cent of asylum-seekers and 1 per cent of Venezuelans displaced abroad. Within a 90 per cent posterior prediction interval, between 9.3 and 13.2 million (33 – 47%) of all refugees, asylum-seekers and Venezuelans displaced abroad combined are children under the age of 18. IDMC is the source of IDP data on children ([www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)). UNRWA is the source of data on Palestine refugee children ([www.unrwa.org](http://www.unrwa.org)).





Figure 5 | Sex and age structure of forcibly displaced populations



**COLOMBIA.** Venezuelans continue to make perilous journeys in search of refuge. "We did not have anything to eat back home. It was becoming too problematic, especially with the kids." This family of 17 people has been walking for five days. They are trying to warm up in the sun after leaving their shelter early in the morning.

© UNHCR/HÉLÈNE CAUX

## CHAPTER 2

# Refugees

20 million people granted international protection in the last decade

Refugee protection is at the heart of UNHCR's mandate. It includes providing safety for refugees so that they are not forced to return to dangerous situations, providing them access to fair and efficient asylum procedures and ensuring their human rights are protected while they secure a long-term solution for a safe future.

Over the last decade, refugee protection work has faced increasingly complex challenges, as the number of refugee situations worldwide has increased. The number of refugees<sup>20</sup> has doubled from about 10 million in 2010 to 20.4 million at the end of 2019.<sup>21</sup> In addition, there were 3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad at year-end.<sup>22</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all references in this chapter to "people displaced across borders" refer to these two populations.

Between 2010 and 2019, 20 million people were granted international protection either on an individual or group basis. This includes close to one million people in 2019: 321,500 recognized on a group or prima facie basis, 60,700 granted a form of temporary protection<sup>23</sup> and 570,600 recognized as a result of their asylum application. In addition, millions of Venezuelans left their country in recent years and lodged asylum claims or were granted residence permits and other forms of legal stay in Latin America and the Caribbean.

<sup>20</sup> Includes people in refugee-like situations.

<sup>21</sup> Excludes 5.6 million registered Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

<sup>22</sup> For more details on the Venezuela situation, see page 10.

<sup>23</sup> The number of Syrians newly registered in Turkey in 2019 and thus granted temporary protection by the Government is not publicly available.



**TURKEY.** Sidra looks out across the water from the Galata Bridge in Istanbul. “It is my favourite city in the whole of Turkey. It is big and busy, and despite being crowded and the travelling I have to do get to university, I still love it.” The Syrian refugee from Aleppo has been living here since 2014 and is studying dentistry thanks to a *Turkiye Burslari* scholarship.

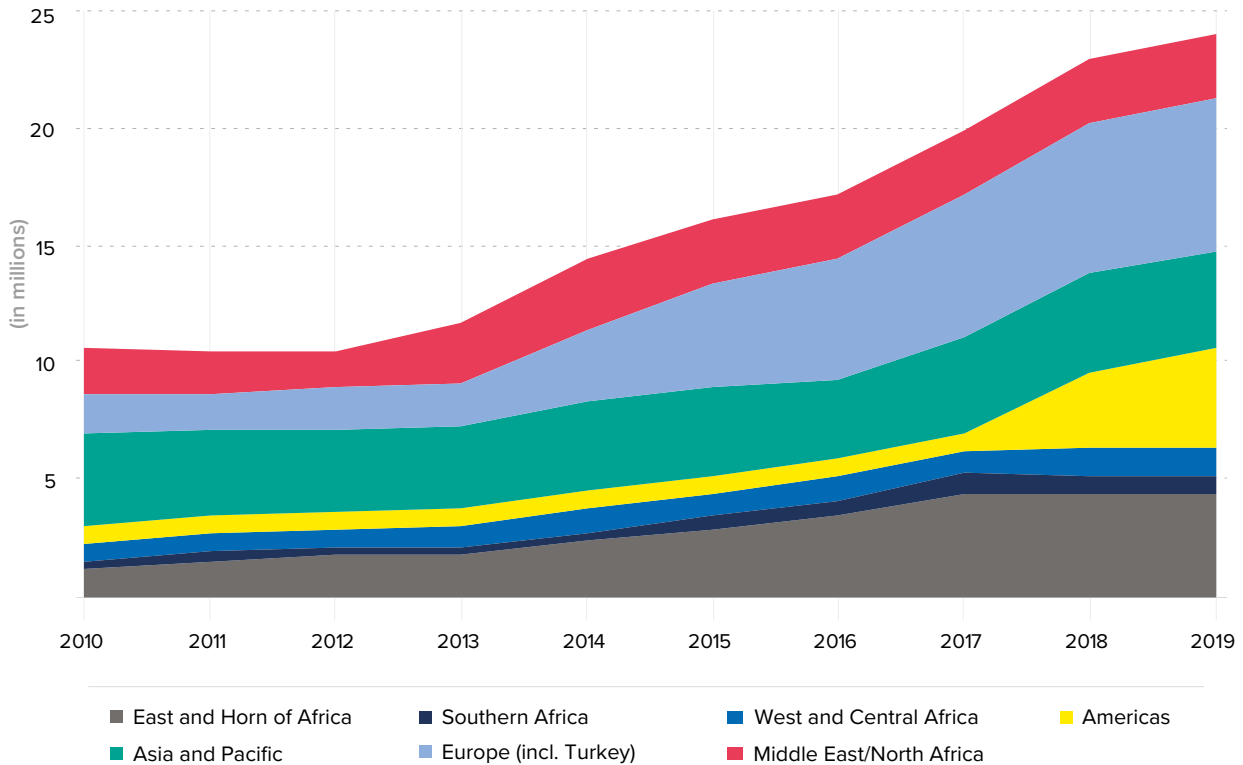
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For detailed information on UNHCR's work to support hosting countries, see the [2019 Global Report](#)



## By regions of asylum

Figure 6 | Refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad by UNHCR region | end-year



The number of refugees increased in every region over the last decade. The Middle East, North Africa and Europe all felt the impact of the war in Syria, which left 6.6 million people living in displacement at the end of 2019. The majority were hosted in Turkey (3.6 million), Lebanon (910,600) and Jordan (654,700). The rising number of refugees in the Middle East and North Africa was partly offset by a drop in the number of Iraqi refugees (from 1.6 million to 63,000), many of whom were forced to flee the conflict in Syria and return to Iraq or seek protection in other countries further afield.

In Europe, the outbreak of large-scale armed conflict in eastern Ukraine in 2014 led to a large outflow of refugees in the region. At the end of 2019, there were 60,000 Ukrainian refugees worldwide.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the number of refugees residing across the region nearly tripled in the course of the decade, increasing from 2.2 to 6.3 million. Conflict and violence in South Sudan, the DRC, Central African Republic, Somalia and

Burundi forced millions of people to flee, but other crises contributed to the rise in refugees as well.

In the Americas, there was a fourfold increase in the number of people displaced across borders during the decade, primarily due to the exodus from Venezuela, and the inclusion of 3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad in the 2019 global displacement statistics. In addition, hundreds of thousands of Central Americans fled deteriorating security conditions and violence and sought shelter across the region.

The Asia and Pacific region experienced a three per cent overall increase in the number of refugees over the decade, mostly due to the outflow of 700,000 stateless refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh beginning in August 2017. While the increase has been limited, the overall figures reflect the protracted plight of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has lasted for more than 40 years. Voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan continued through the decade, but at low levels.

Table 1 | **Refugees, people in refugee-like situations and Venezuelans displaced abroad by UNHCR regions | 2019**

UNHCR regions	Start-2019				End-2019				Change (total)	
	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Venezuelans displaced abroad	Total	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Venezuelans displaced abroad	Total	Absolute	%
- East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes	4,388,900	3,700	-	4,392,600	4,388,700	-	-	4,388,700	-3,900	-0.1%
- Southern Africa	777,500	-	-	777,500	755,300	-	-	755,300	-22,200	-2.9%
- West and Central Africa	1,164,100	-	-	1,164,100	1,204,700	-	-	1,204,700	40,600	3.5%
<b>Total Africa*</b>	<b>6,330,500</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,334,200</b>	<b>6,348,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,348,700</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Americas	534,800	108,800	2,606,500	3,250,100	592,800	108,800	3,582,200	4,283,800	1,033,700	31.8%
Asia and Pacific	4,141,600	54,600	-	4,196,200	4,133,700	48,700	-	4,182,400	-13,800	-0.3%
Europe	6,402,500	28,100	-	6,430,600	6,543,500	27,000	-	6,570,500	139,900	2.2%
Middle East and North Africa	2,649,800	42,900	-	2,692,700	2,602,400	40,300	-	2,642,700	-50,000	-1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,059,200</b>	<b>238,100</b>	<b>2,606,500</b>	<b>22,903,800</b>	<b>20,221,100</b>	<b>224,800</b>	<b>3,582,200</b>	<b>24,028,100</b>	<b>1,124,300</b>	<b>4.9%</b>

\*Excluding North Africa.

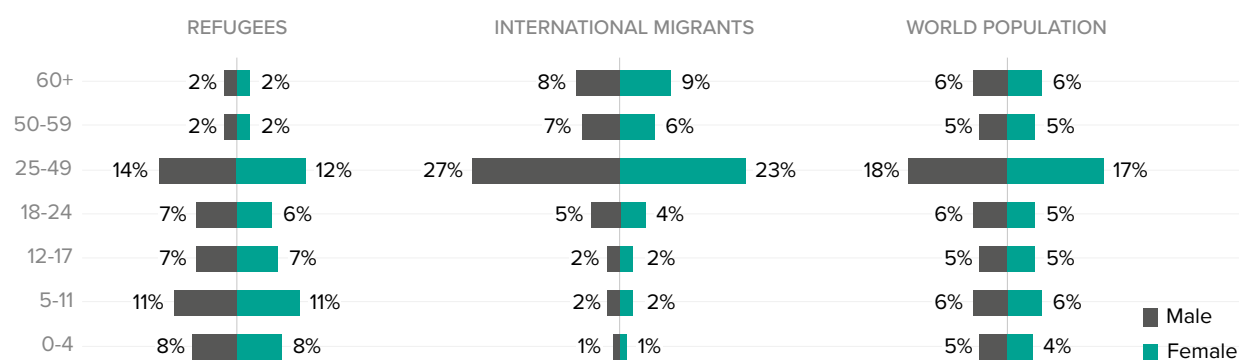
## Demographics of people displaced across borders

The demographic structure of the people displaced across borders differs from the population of the 272 million international migrants<sup>24</sup> and the 7.7 billion world population.<sup>25</sup> Children represent a larger proportion of the displaced population than they do in the international migrant population, for example. At the end of 2019, around half of refugees were children,<sup>26</sup> compared to an estimated 31 per cent of the world population and just 10 per cent of the international migrant population.<sup>27</sup> Refugee children face particular challenges,

such as access to education. An estimated 3.7 million refugee children were out of school in 2018. Enrolment rates of refugee children at primary and secondary level have improved in recent years, but only three per cent were able to access higher education in 2018.<sup>28</sup>

Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 also represent a greater proportion of refugees (13%) when compared to 11 per cent of the world population and 9 per cent of international migrants. In contrast, older persons make up a smaller proportion of the refugee population (4%) compared to the world population (12%) and international migrants (17%).

Figure 7 | **Demographic breakdown of refugees, international migrants and world population | end-2019**



DISCLAIMER: figures do not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

<sup>24</sup> The international migrant dataset includes refugees and asylum-seekers in specific countries. Source: [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/data/UN\\_MigrantStockByAgeAndSex\\_2019.xlsx](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/data/UN_MigrantStockByAgeAndSex_2019.xlsx)

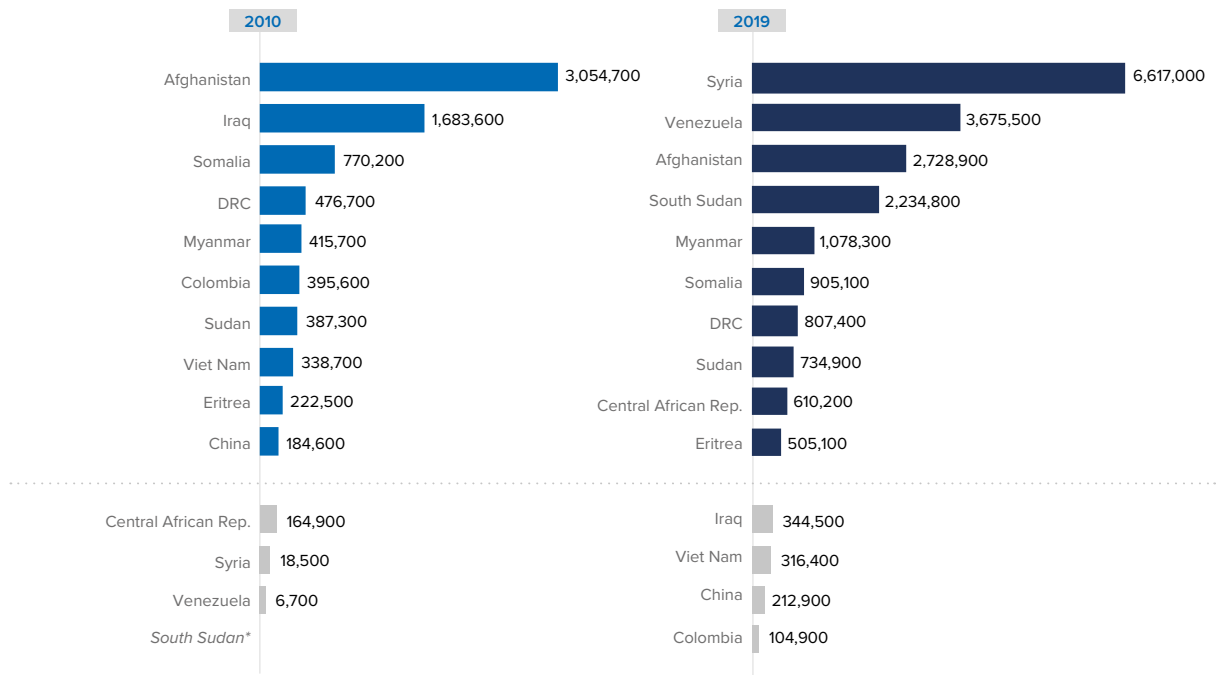
<sup>25</sup> Source: <https://population.un.org/wpp2019/Download/Standard/Population/>

<sup>26</sup> Demographic data is available for 80 per cent of refugees globally. For the remainder, UNHCR has estimated the demographics based on the refugee data available in host countries and other countries in the same region. This figure excludes Venezuelans displaced abroad.

<sup>27</sup> To enable the comparison, data for the 5-11 and 18-24 age ranges in the world population and international migrant data was apportioned to UNHCR's 5-11, 12-17 and 18-24 ranges.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/steppingup/>

Figure 8 | **People displaced across borders by country of origin** | end-year



\* South Sudan gained independence from the Republic of the Sudan in 2011.

### By country of origin

At the end of the decade, 8 out of 10 people displaced across borders originated from just 10 countries (83%). This means international displacement is heavily concentrated around these 10 countries. Five of them – Afghanistan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Eritrea – remained in the top 10 list of source countries for cross-border displacement throughout the decade, highlighting the unresolved refugee crises in those places.

Syria has been the main country of origin for refugees since 2014. At the end of 2019, there were 6.6 million Syrian refugees hosted by 126 countries worldwide. The vast majority (83%) remained in neighbouring countries or in the region. Turkey continued to host the largest number of Syrian refugees (3.6 million), followed by Lebanon (910,600), Jordan (654,700), Iraq (245,800) and Egypt (129,200). Outside the immediate region, Germany (572,800) and Sweden (113,400) continued to host the largest Syrian refugee populations.

At the start of the decade, there were just 6,700 Venezuelan refugees. But in recent years, following deteriorating political, socioeconomic and human rights conditions in the country, the

number of Venezuelans displaced abroad has surged. At the end of the decade, Venezuelans made up the second largest group, with 93,300 recognized refugees and a further 3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad. In addition, there were 794,500 Venezuelan asylum-seekers at the end of 2019.

Since the early 1980s, the number of Afghan refugees has remained sizeable. At times, the number exceeded six million. During the last decade, it dropped by 11 per cent from some 3.1 million to 2.7 million, primarily due to an increase in returns to Afghanistan from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and verification exercises<sup>29</sup> conducted in Pakistan. The Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan continue to host 87 per cent of Afghan refugees. This represents a decrease from 96 per cent at the start of the decade, as a number of countries, especially in Europe, now host Afghan refugees (Germany hosts 140,000, for example).

<sup>29</sup> Verifications are a time-bound registration activity conducted in a specific area and/or for a specific population and consist of verifying and updating individual registration records and collecting additional information, as necessary. Verifications typically lead to more accurate population figures.



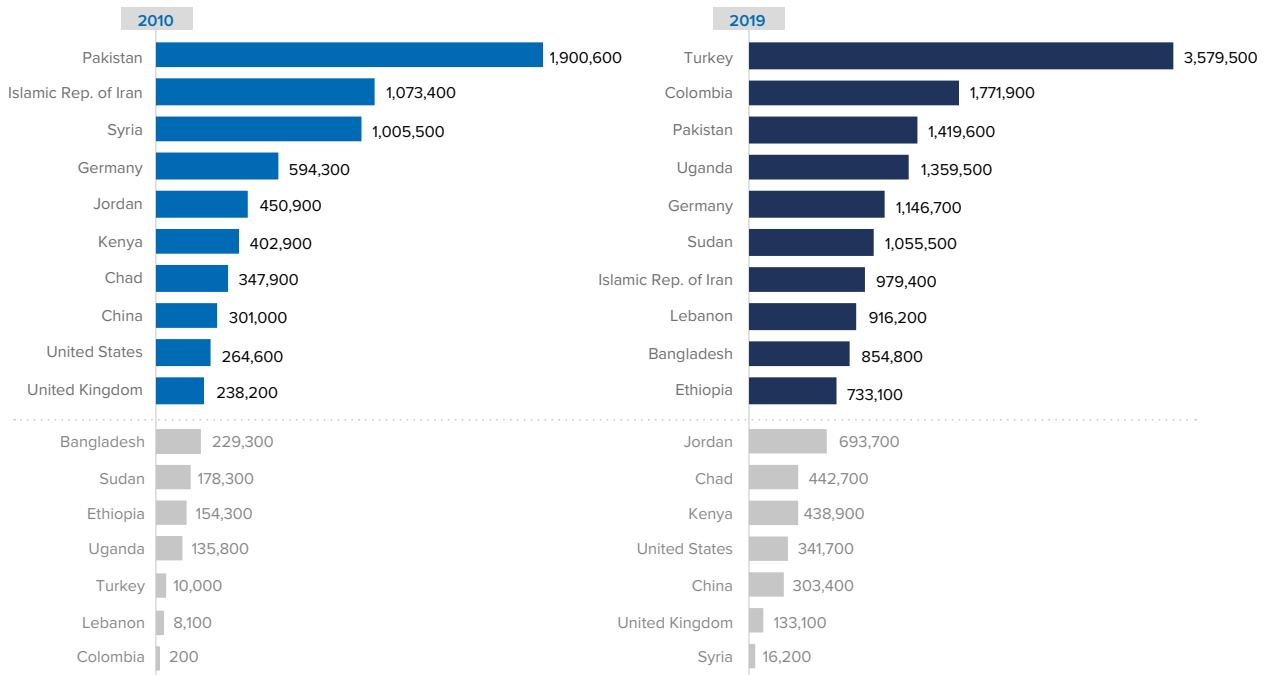
UNITED REP. OF TANZANIA. Burundian refugee Nyamoza Rachel, 24, sits with her husband and children outside her kitchen that was built to house a new stove design for refugees in Nyarugusu camp. The stoves are made by refugees themselves and use 50 per cent less firewood with less indoor smoke pollution. The project has reduced sexual and gender-based violence risks for the women who have to leave the camp to collect firewood. The United Rep. of Tanzania hosts some 192,000 Burundian refugees of which at least 58,000 live in Nyarugusu camp.

© UNHCR/GEORGINA GOODWIN





Figure 9 | **People displaced across borders by host country | end-year**



### By country of asylum

At the end of the decade, as at the start, just ten countries hosted nearly 3 in 5 of those displaced across borders. However, only Pakistan, Germany and the Islamic Republic of Iran held a position in the top 10 at both the beginning and the end of the decade. In the case of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, it is due to the protracted situation of Afghan refugees in their country. The refugee population in Germany has been influenced by the refugee crises in Europe in 2015 and 2016, when more than one million people applied for asylum, many of who were recognized as refugees or granted complementary forms of protection.

Developing regions<sup>30</sup> continued to shoulder a disproportionately large responsibility for hosting displaced populations. Nine of the ten countries hosting the largest populations of refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad were in developing regions. Some 85 per cent of these populations lived in these countries.

The Least Developed Countries<sup>31</sup> – including Bangladesh, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the

Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Yemen – were home to 13 per cent of the world’s population. Accounting for just 1.2 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product,<sup>32</sup> they had the least amount of resources available to meet the needs of people seeking refuge. Yet together they hosted 6.6 million, 27 per cent of the global total of refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad.

The three most common countries of asylum hosted people almost exclusively from one single country: Turkey, with 3.6 million Syrians; Colombia, with 1.8 million Venezuelans; and Pakistan, with 1.4 million Afghans.

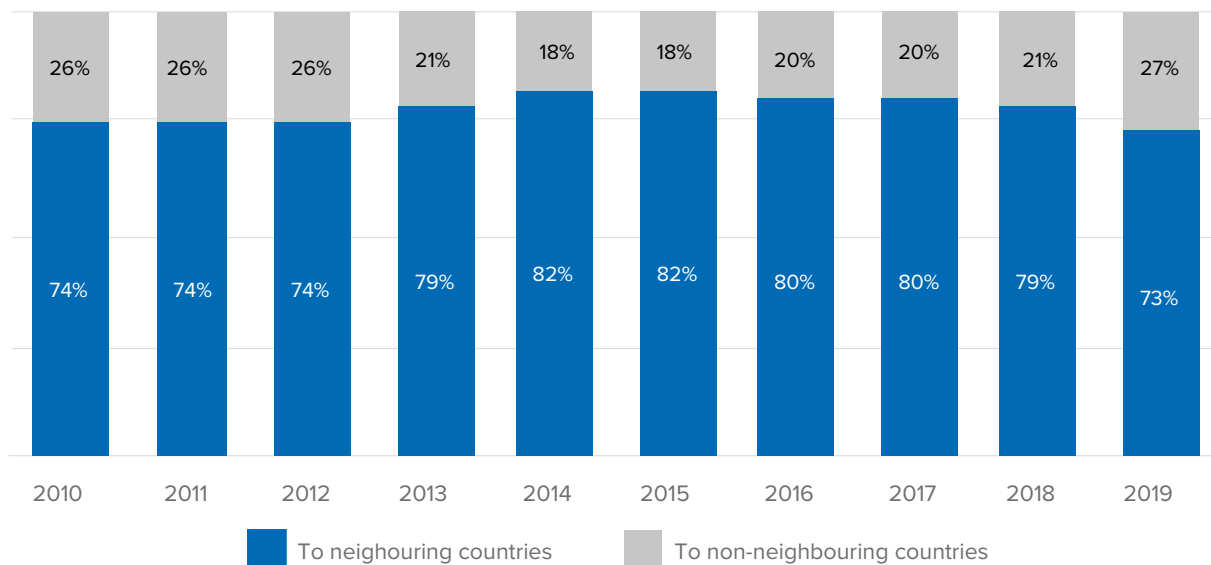
Geographic proximity is an important factor for people fleeing conflict and persecution. Over the last decade, the vast majority of refugees remained close to their country of origin. In any given year, three-quarters of refugees or more were hosted by countries neighbouring their countries of origin (see **FIGURE 10**). For Venezuelans displaced abroad, just over half (53%) remained in neighbouring countries, with others moving onwards to other countries in the region, including Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina and Panama.

<sup>30</sup> See: [unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/) for a list of countries included under each region.

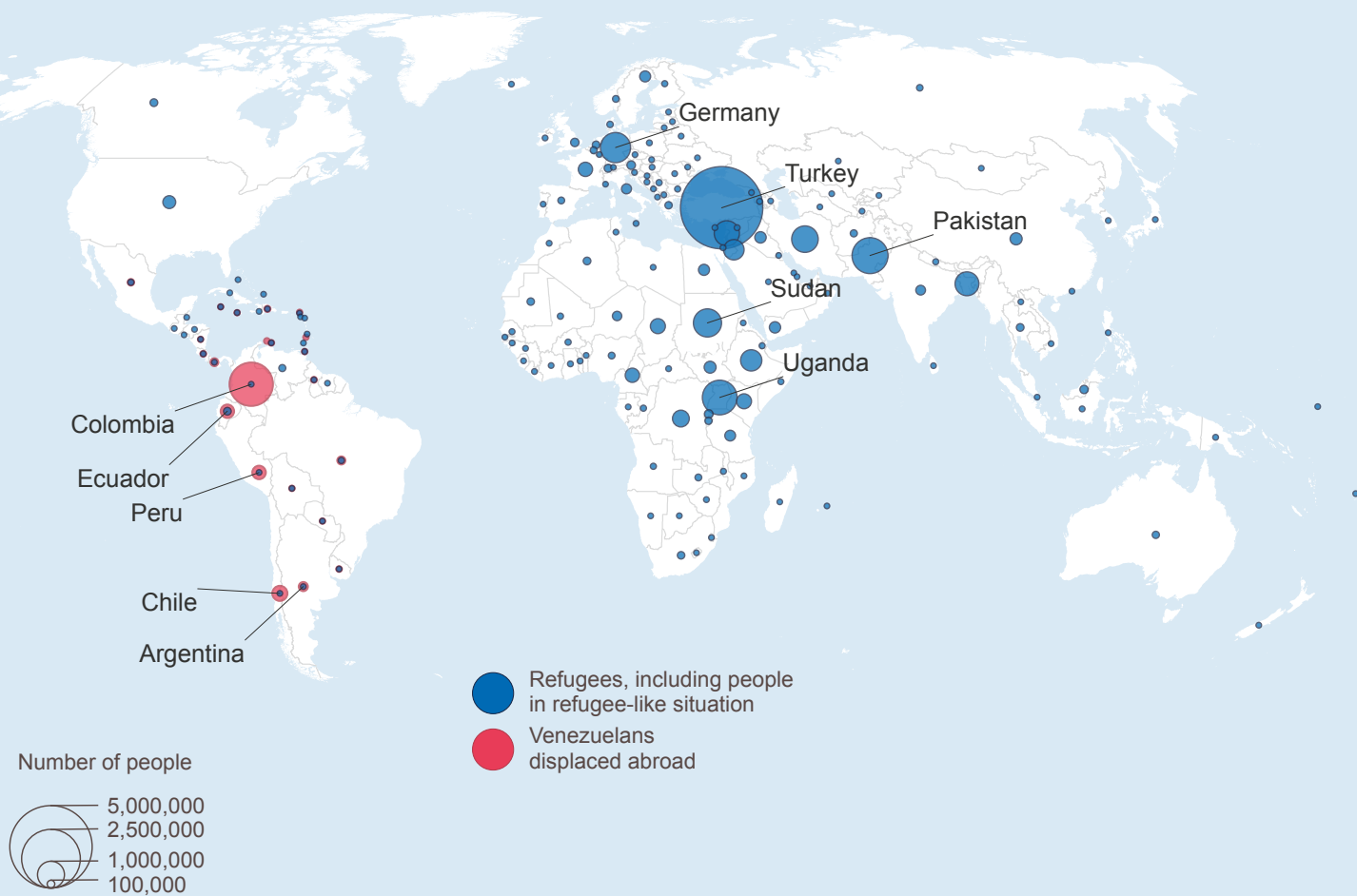
<sup>31</sup> See: [unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/) for a list of Least Developed Countries.

<sup>32</sup> Source: <https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/GDP.pdf>

Figure 10 | People displaced across borders fleeing to neighbouring countries | end-year



Map 2 | Refugees, people in refugee-like situations and Venezuelans displaced abroad | end-2019



A country is named if it features among the five largest per population group.

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



### PROTRACTED REFUGEE SITUATIONS

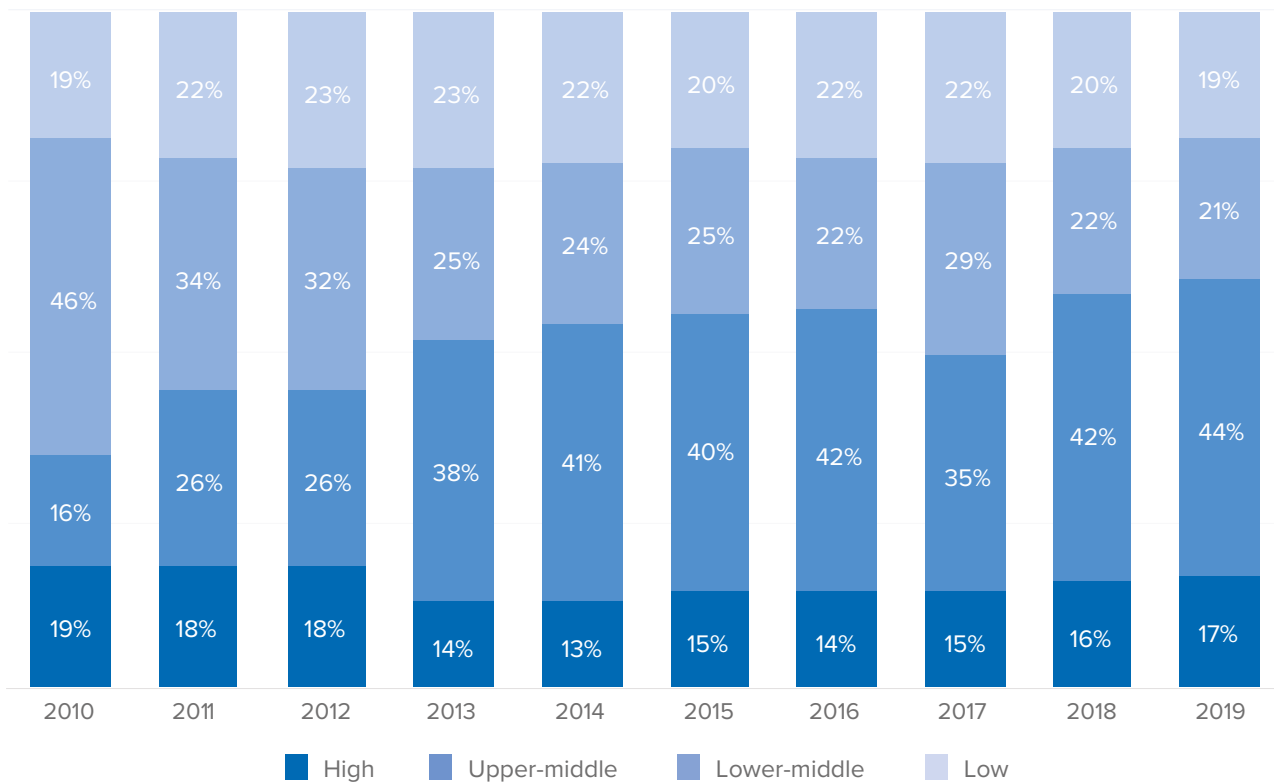
UNHCR defines a protracted refugee situation as one in which 25,000 or more refugees from the same nationality have been in exile for at least five consecutive years in a given host country.<sup>33</sup> This method, while useful for advocacy and monitoring purposes, carries some important statistical limitations. As long as a group of refugees from the same nationality does not reach or exceed the threshold of 25,000 for five consecutive years, it will not feature as protracted irrespective of the group’s duration in exile. In addition, returns or new arrivals of individuals from the same nationality within the same period may remain unaccounted for in this method as they may offset each other. Therefore, the circumstances of individual refugees are not captured in this definition.

These limitations notwithstanding, estimating the number of refugees remaining in long-term exile is crucial from a protection and solutions perspective. Based on this definition, it is estimated that some 15.7 million refugees (77%) were in a protracted situation by the end of 2019, slightly fewer than a year earlier (15.9 million). These 15.7 million refugees were living in 32 host countries, constituting an overall total of 51 protracted situations. Figures include the long-lasting refugee situation of Afghans in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran as well more recent situations like that of South Sudanese refugees in Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

In 2019, the situation of Burundian refugees in Rwanda and Uganda also became protracted. Unfortunately, no protracted situations were resolved during 2019.

<sup>33</sup> Excludes Palestine refugees under UNRWA’s mandate.

Figure 11 | **Hosting people displaced across borders by income level** | end-year



## Comparing host country situations

Responsibility-sharing among States in the provision of protection and solutions for refugees can take many forms, including providing funds for relevant programmes in other, less prosperous, host countries.

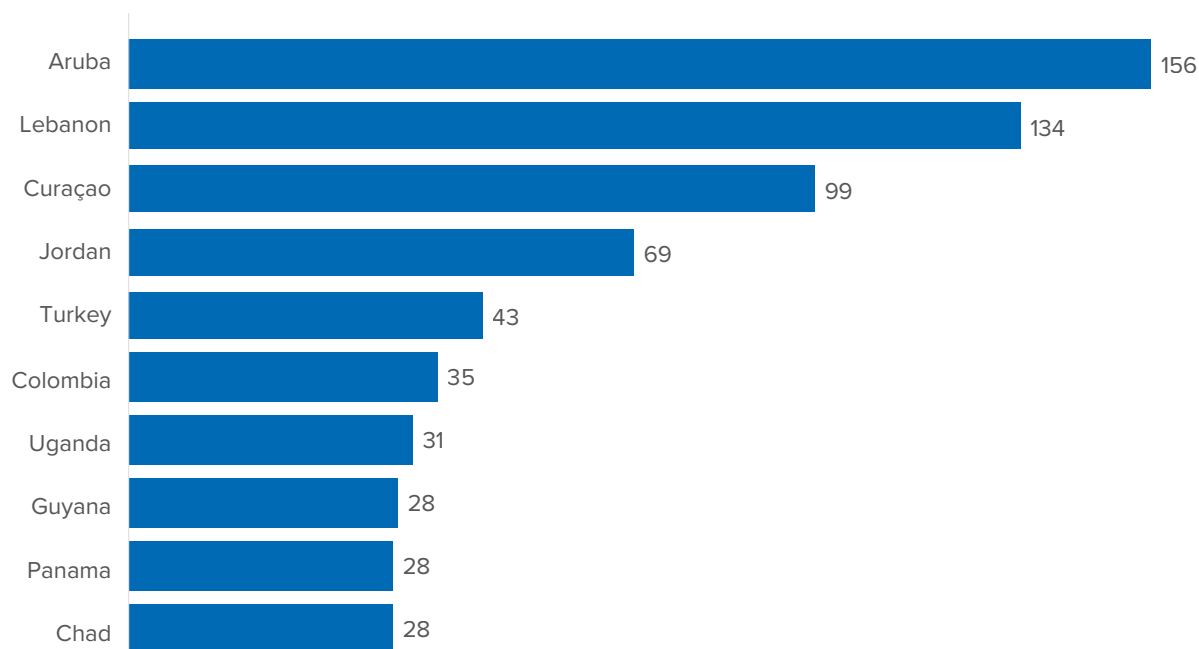
When it comes to hosting refugees, however, the burden is not equally shared. Comparing the number of people displaced across borders to national income levels according to World Bank classification,<sup>34</sup> it is clear that in the last decade, high-income countries never hosted more than 19 per cent of this population. In 2019, they hosted 17 per cent. Low-income countries, on the other hand, consistently hosted around 20 per cent per year.

In 2010, upper-middle income countries – including Turkey, Colombia, the Islamic Republic

of Iran, Lebanon and Jordan – hosted 16 per cent of refugees. By the end of 2019, they hosted 44 per cent of refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad. The share hosted by lower middle-income countries fell during the same period.

Comparing the size of a refugee population with that of a host country can help measure the impact of hosting that population. **FIGURE 12** helps to shed light on some of the major displacement situations of our time. Five of the 10 countries in the figure are directly affected by the Venezuela crisis and three by the Syria crisis. Taking into account Venezuelans displaced abroad, the Caribbean islands of Aruba and Curaçao rank 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> on the list, with 156 and 99 displaced persons per 1,000 inhabitants, respectively.<sup>35</sup> Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey rank 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> when comparing the number of refugees they host in relation to their national population size.<sup>36</sup> The only countries appearing in the top-10 list per 1,000 inhabitants yet not affected by the Syria or Venezuela crisis are Uganda and Chad.

Figure 12 | **People displaced across borders per 1,000 host country inhabitants** | end-2019



\*Limited to countries hosting at least 1,000 people. Excludes Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

<sup>34</sup> Income groupings are from the World Bank: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/OGHIST.xls>

<sup>35</sup> National population data are from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, "World population prospects: The 2019 revision", New York, 2019. See: <https://population.un.org/wpp/>

<sup>36</sup> Figures for Lebanon and Jordan exclude Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate. Lebanon hosted 476,000 and Jordan almost 2.3 million registered Palestine refugees at the end of 2019.

## THE NEW REFUGEE INDICATOR IN THE 2030 SDG AGENDA

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development makes an ambitious commitment of “leaving no one behind” in its implementation. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution<sup>37</sup> that adopted the Agenda recognized the importance of addressing the needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants.

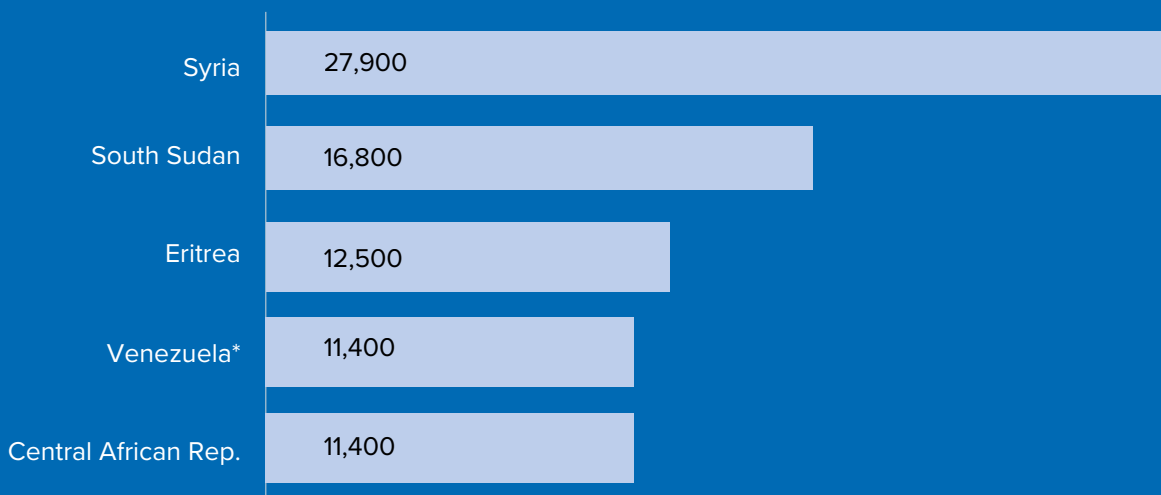
However, out of the 231 indicators in the global indicator framework designed to measure progress towards meeting the 169 SDG targets, which was developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and adopted by the General Assembly in 2017,<sup>38</sup> none specifically mentioned refugees or displacement. This had an unintended consequence of lowering the visibility of some of the most vulnerable populations in the 2030 Agenda, and therefore also making it more difficult for UNHCR to advocate for improved disaggregation of data in national statistical systems.

UNHCR worked within the IAEG-SDGs to ensure that the “leave no one behind” commitment included forcibly displaced persons. This advocacy, together with the high levels of displacement during the following years, created momentum for the recognition of an additional indicator on refugees. The indicator was approved by the UN Statistical Commission at its 51<sup>st</sup> session in March 2020.<sup>39</sup> The new indicator is: 10.7.4 “Proportion of population who are refugees, by country of origin” and is computed as follows:

$$[\text{Number of refugees by country of origin at end-year}/(\text{End-year population in country of origin} + \text{number of refugees by country of origin at end-year})] * 100,000$$

UNHCR is the custodian agency of this indicator and has commenced regular monitoring and biannual reporting. As shown in FIGURE 13, Syria, South Sudan and Eritrea have the greatest proportion of the national population who are refugees, with 27,900, 16,800 and 12,500 per 100,000 inhabitants, respectively.

Figure 13 | **SDG Indicator 10.7.4**




\*Includes Venezuelans displaced abroad

<sup>37</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1>

<sup>38</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/313>

<sup>39</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/>





PAKISTAN. "I feel so lucky. In my community many girls do not get this opportunity." Saleema is in her final year of training at the Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. As an Afghan refugee growing up in a Turkmen community in Pakistan, 28-year-old Saleema has faced a lifetime of barriers in her quest to get an education. Now, after nearly three decades of study, she is beating the odds and is set to become a doctor.

© UNHCR/ROGER ARNOLD

## CHAPTER 3

# Internal Displacement

79 million new internal displacements in the last decade

In the past decade, internal displacement surged to levels never before seen, requiring more engagement from UNHCR around the world as it used its expertise to help more internally displaced persons (IDPs) in more countries. In 2005, when the cluster approach and other aspects of the humanitarian reform process were introduced,<sup>40</sup> UNHCR was working in 15 countries with internally displaced populations.

By 2010 the number of countries had increased to 26, and it now stands at 33. In 2005, UNHCR worked with 6.6 million IDPs, a number that grew to about 15 million by 2010 and stood at more than 43.5 million at the end of 2019 – representing an almost 7-fold increase in only 15 years.

<sup>40</sup> In December 2005, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee endorsed the cluster approach for humanitarian emergencies, including for situations of internal displacement. Under this arrangement, UNHCR assumes leadership responsibility and accountability for three clusters: protection, shelter, and camp coordination and camp management.



*NIGERIA. A young mother arrives in a camp for internally displaced persons in Maiduguri, after fleeing the violence in Borno. She had to hide in the bush during an attack from insurgents for days without food or water. She gave birth to her son in the camp and is still looking for her husband.*

© UNHCR/ROMAIN DESCLOUS

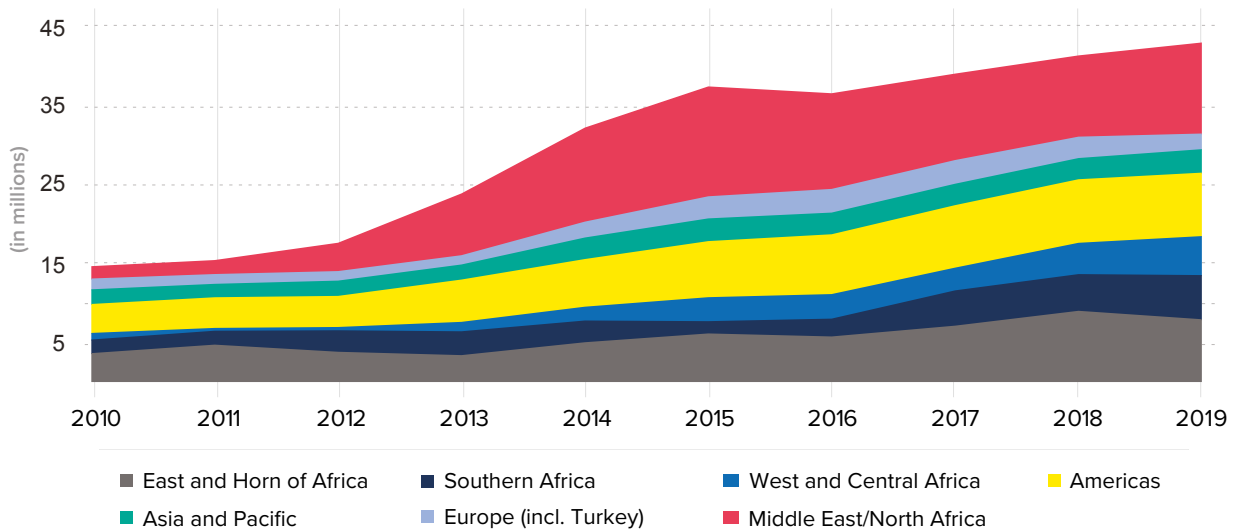


For detailed information on UNHCR's protection and assistance activities, see the *Overview on UNHCR's engagement in situations of internal displacement in the 2019 Global Report*





Figure 14 | IDPs of concern to UNHCR by region | end-year



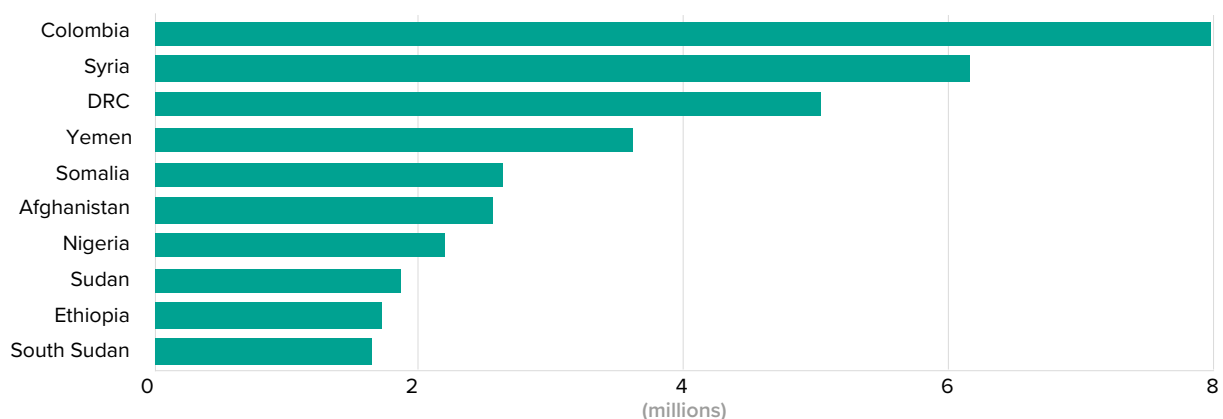
As shown in **FIGURE 14**, UNHCR has engaged with internally displaced populations all over the world. It has worked continually in all seven regions, with varying degrees of involvement. Over time, with changing operational realities and emerging solutions, investments in local government and community capacities have allowed UNHCR to move its focus to more immediate IDP needs in other locations.

In countries where UNHCR was called upon to protect or assist people within national borders during the past decade, an estimated 59 million people were newly displaced due to conflict. In some countries, people were displaced multiple

times as a result of renewed conflict, violence or human rights violations. Yet, this figure does not constitute the global number. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimates that 79 million new internal displacements took place between 2010 and 2019 due to conflict and violence.<sup>41</sup>

At the end of 2019, Colombia continued to report the highest number of internally displaced people, with close to eight million according to Government statistics. The large number of registered IDPs comes from the total cumulative figure from the Victim’s Registry which commenced in 1985.<sup>42</sup>

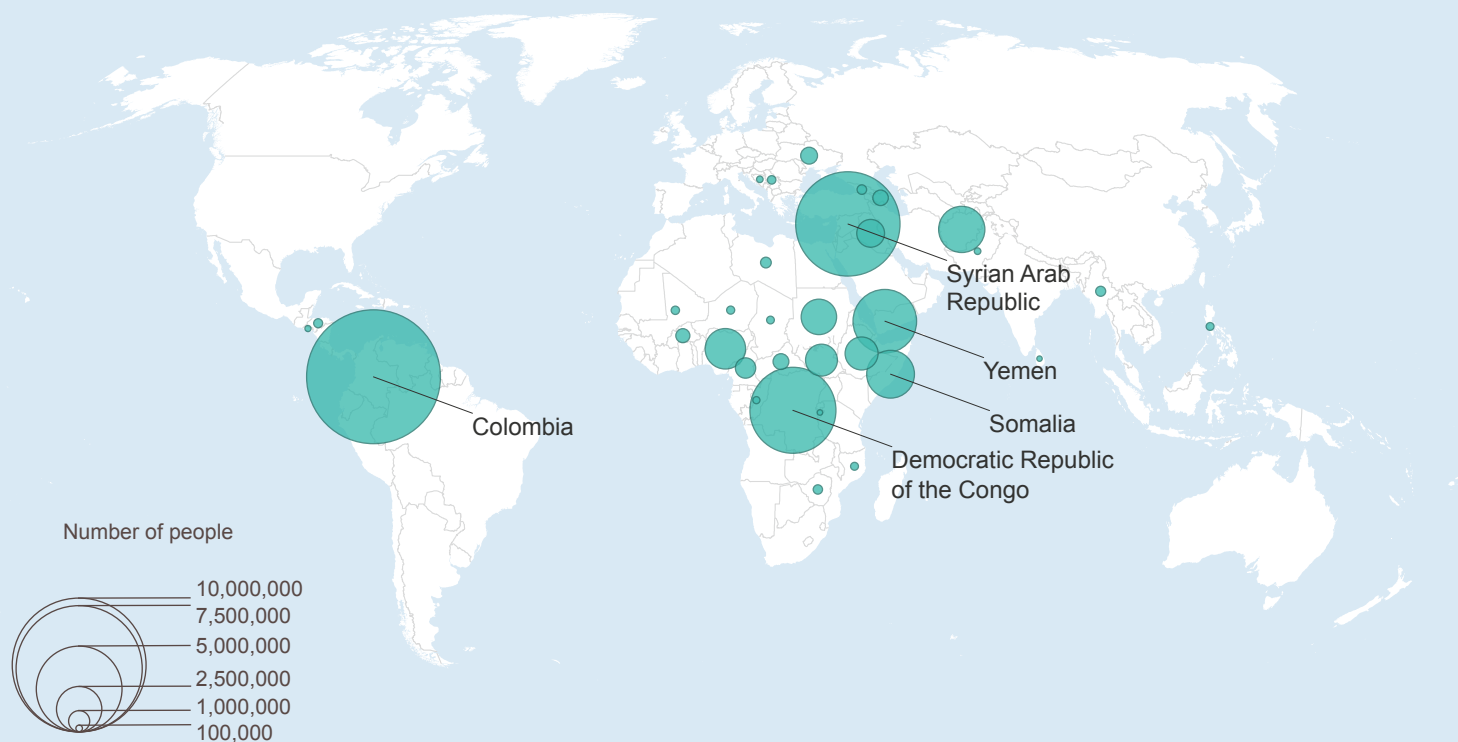
Figure 15 | IDPs of concern to UNHCR | end-2019



<sup>41</sup> Source: [Internal-displacement.org](https://www.internal-displacement.org). In the case of conflict- and violence-induced displacement, IDMC conducts situational monitoring in certain countries after learning of the occurrence of displacement, and reports the country-wide estimates of new displacement during the year and the total number of people displaced at year’s end.

<sup>42</sup> See: <https://www.unidadvictimas.gov.co/en>

Map 3 | IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR | end-2019



**A country is named if it features among the five largest per population group.**

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

Escalation of the conflict in Syria meant that the number of IDPs remained high, estimated at more than six million at the end of 2019. The intensifying conflict led to almost half a million people being newly displaced during the year.

Widespread conflict and violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo led to five million people being internally displaced by year-end, the highest number reported by UNHCR to date. Other countries with major IDP populations at the end of 2019 were Yemen (3.6 million), Somalia (2.6 million), Afghanistan (2.6 million) and Nigeria (2.2 million).

## Protection and solutions for IDPs

Protection remained the most fundamental challenge. The outbreak of war in Syria in 2011 generated one of the largest displacement crises in recent history. Conflicts which occurred after the 'Arab Spring' in Libya, Yemen and elsewhere created massive protection needs and displacement that have lasted throughout the decade. The dynamics of conflict, ongoing hostilities and protection risks, with large parts of the displaced and conflict-affected populations in

hard-to-reach areas, reaffirmed the need to ensure that humanitarian actors place protection at the centre of their work, which UNHCR led, in support of UN Country Teams, governments and local stakeholders. At the same time, the refugee crisis in Europe in 2015 and decreases in the internally displaced population in Syria around the same time were reminders of the continuum between internal displacement and refugee outflows. The protection of displaced people and those affected by conflict became paramount as escalating and renewed conflict also affected the Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Mali and Nigeria, with UNHCR engaged in operational response and coordination leadership. The conflict in Iraq, including the fall of Mosul, led to large-scale displacement and acute protection needs, particularly for ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Yazidis and presented challenges of a massive scale.

In some countries, large-scale displacement was offset by a relatively large number of IDPs returning to their places of origin. In countries where UNHCR was operationally active, an estimated 31 million or more internally displaced persons were able to return or find a solution during the decade, although many more continued to live in protracted displacement. The largest IDP return movements between 2010 and 2019 took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Iraq, presenting some of the largest UNHCR operations globally. In the DRC, more than six million people returned to their place of residence, one third of them during 2018 and 2019. In Iraq, more than five million IDPs returned to their place of residence during the decade, some 85 per cent of them in the past four years.

Working on solutions for IDPs required increasing collaboration with development partners, such as the UN Development Programme and the World Bank in countries such as Colombia and Sudan, and with peacebuilding actors as UNHCR was designated the focal point within the Secretary-General's Framework on Ending Displacement in the Aftermath of Conflict.<sup>43</sup> Nevertheless, more needs to be done to build on these partnerships

between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors and to live up to the pledge in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to 'leave no one behind', including IDPs.

Throughout the decade, UNHCR worked to find solutions for IDPs, building upon its experience in facilitating solutions for refugees and within the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs,<sup>44</sup> introduced in 2010. In some countries, such as Uganda, returns brought to a close displacement that had peaked years before in 2005 – 2006. In Libya, Mali and South Sudan, returns occurred more quickly as changing conflict dynamics made it possible for some to return home, albeit sometimes in adverse conditions. In Yemen, UNHCR worked with authorities to help thousands to return in 2012, paving the way for the approval in 2013 of a national policy on IDPs. In Somalia, UNHCR worked through the decade to provide a solutions framework, and this led to displacement solutions being included in National Development Plans and the establishment of relevant governance structures.

In a major breakthrough for the protection of IDPs in Africa, the African Union Convention on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (known as the Kampala Convention) became effective in 2012. With new and protracted displacement in Africa constituting an estimated 43 per cent of global conflict-related internal displacement at the end of 2019,<sup>45</sup> there is an evident and critical need for national legislation, policies and measures to implement the Kampala Convention. In the last decade, 30 members have become party to the Kampala Convention and seven have adopted relevant implementing legislation and policies. Along with its partners, UNHCR is promoting further ratifications and assisting Governments in Africa to domesticate the Convention, and those outside Africa to develop laws and policies on internal displacement. Since the development of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in 1998, more than 88 national laws and policies on internal displacement have been adopted, according to a global database maintained by UNHCR as part of the Global Protection Cluster.

<sup>43</sup> UN Secretary-General (UNSG), Decision No.2011/20 - Durable Solutions: Follow up to the Secretary-General's 2009 report on peacebuilding, 4 October 2011, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5242d12b7.html>

<sup>44</sup> See [https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/iasec\\_framework\\_on\\_durable\\_solutions\\_for\\_idps\\_april\\_2010.pdf](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/iasec_framework_on_durable_solutions_for_idps_april_2010.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> Source: [internal-displacement.org](http://internal-displacement.org)



UKRAINE. "I feel like the conflict is endless, Maryna\* explains as she stands on the balcony of her apartment block in Svitlodarsk, Donetsk. The 56-year-old mother of two has survived cancer and lives with her mother just two kilometres from the frontline. She has struggled with insomnia and anxiety because of the ongoing violence in Ukraine. Almost 40 per cent of people in Donetsk and Luhansk have experienced trauma, resulting in stress, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder, according to a recent study.

© UNHCR/OKSANA PARAFENIUK

\*Name changed for protection reasons



## The urbanization of internal displacement

Displacement in and to urban areas continued throughout the decade. The limited geographic information available confirms that IDPs were predominantly located in rural areas at the start of the decade. By the end of the decade, the trend had reversed. Available data on IDPs indicates that the ratio of urban versus non-urban internally displaced populations was 2:1 at the end of 2019. In other words, where UNHCR was involved in situations of internal displacement in 2019, two out of three IDPs were in urban or semi-urban areas.

From Mosul, Iraq to Mogadishu, Somalia, internal displacement was increasingly happening among urban populations in cities rather than in camps. In countries with ongoing conflict in urban areas – such as in Aleppo, Syria or Bangui, Central African Republic – protecting civilians was a major challenge. In addition, IDPs in urban environments are often dispersed and struggle to find accommodation, staying in collective centres and

public buildings. Rapid urbanization has increased protection risks posed by overcrowded or substandard living conditions, particularly where IDPs are forced to live in informal settlements, among the urban poor, or where access to safe water and sanitation is limited. Security of tenure and risk of evictions are also greater in urban settings, often resulting in further displacement. Maintaining livelihoods is also a struggle for displaced people, due to many reasons, such as undeveloped local economies, job competition or the need for a new skill set.

## Engagement in disaster situations

In 2010, the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Gaps and Responses noted that disasters and climate change could be a driver of displacement. Over the following decade, UNHCR continued to engage with people displaced internally by disasters and climate, in more than 25 operations. These included a limited role following the earthquake in Haiti, response to floods in



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. *Three Congolese girls play in the grounds of a church being used as a temporary site for internally displaced persons in Drodro, Ituri province. Some 1.3 million people have been displaced across eastern DRC during 2019 due to inter-ethnic violence between the Hema and Lendu.*  
© UNHCR/JOHN WESSELS

Pakistan, typhoons in the Philippines and at the end of the decade, hurricanes in the Bahamas and cyclones in Mozambique and southern Africa. Millions of people displaced by natural disasters were assisted by UNHCR during this decade. UNHCR's updated Policy on Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement<sup>46</sup> confirms that it will contribute to any inter-agency response to disaster-induced internal displacement where it is present, taking the lead on protection, and in agreement with the government and coordination arrangements.

<sup>46</sup> See: <https://www.unhcr.org/50f951df9>

## The demographics of internal displacement

Displacement creates specific needs and vulnerabilities, especially where it exacerbates pre-existing vulnerabilities, discrimination, marginalization or barriers to access, such as for internally displaced children, older persons, persons with disabilities and persons with intersecting identities. Specific protection considerations, such as safeguarding from gender-based violence, abuse or exploitation of children, and issues of inclusion remained key due to the demographics of internal displacement. In 16 out of the 20 operations where demographic data is available at the end of 2019, women constituted on average 52 per cent of all IDPs. The highest values were



reported in Burundi (65%), Sudan (57%), Chad and Ukraine (both 56%). The data confirmed that the overall male-female ratio of IDPs has not changed significantly since 2010, when women constituted about half of IDPs in 2010 (with some countries being an exception).

Children continued to be heavily affected by internal displacement in some of the worst humanitarian crises of the decade, and their situation remains dire today. In Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Burkina Faso, for instance, children constituted more than 60 per cent of IDPs at the end of 2019. In the Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Pakistan and Yemen, their proportion ranged between 53 and 57 per cent. Comparing these figures to IDP situations in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and Somalia in 2010, the proportion of children increased by a few percentage points.

Insufficient data on persons with disabilities still hinders a better understanding of the risks they face in displacement, although population surveys reveal that the prevalence and negative impacts of living with a disability are more pervasive in crisis-affected countries, such as Syria, where 27 per cent of the total population above 12 years of age have a disability.<sup>47</sup>

## UNHCR and the future of internal displacement

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its commitment to 'leave no one behind' provide a powerful basis for the inclusion of internally displaced people in economic development planning, as well as in all other measures taken by States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the World Humanitarian Summit held in May 2016, far-reaching commitments were made, including an ambitious target of reducing the number of people in protracted or new displacement by 50 per cent by the year 2030.

<sup>47</sup> [https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/Disability\\_Prevalence-and-Impact\\_FINAL-2.pdf](https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/Disability_Prevalence-and-Impact_FINAL-2.pdf)

Over the course of the upcoming decade, UNHCR will continue to work with national governments in supporting efforts by States to adopt inclusive policies that better integrate internally displaced people into society and social safety nets; recognize them as socio-economic assets and contributors (including through better data); and strengthen the laws that ensure their protection and human rights.

In 2019, UNHCR released an updated IDP Policy, which recommitted UNHCR to be a predictable and effective stakeholder in situations of internal displacement both operationally and within inter-agency response mechanisms, in support of affected States and communities. As an operational agency and in its capacity as lead of the Shelter, CCCM<sup>48</sup> and Protection Clusters, UNHCR will continue to work with its partners in addressing both immediate and longer-term needs of internally displaced people and host communities, and in supporting them to become resilient and self-reliant. UNHCR will, in particular, promote an active role by IDPs in decisions affecting their lives, and their communities, including through participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes.

UNHCR will also make prevention a priority, as it recognized many situations of internal displacement could be avoided, or their impact minimized, if compliance with human rights standards and international humanitarian law was maintained. UNHCR will consistently embed protection considerations in the various steps of agency and inter-agency preparedness efforts and will contribute to scenario-based contingency planning within its shelters and settlements, and camp/site coordination and management areas of expertise.

By 2030, many gains will be realized, though internal displacement situations are likely to continue due to conflict, violence or disaster, including health pandemics. UNHCR will continue to engage across the entire spectrum of forced displacement, with refugees, internally displaced, and stateless people, ensuring access to protection, addressing factors that may contribute to further displacement or onward movement, and emphasizing both solutions and prevention.

<sup>48</sup> Camp Coordination and Camp Management



## CHAPTER 4

# Asylum Trends

## 16 million new asylum-seekers in the last decade

Governments or UNHCR determine whether to confer refugee status through a process called Refugee Status Determination (RSD). The determination – made on the basis of international, regional or national law – represents a crucial step in ensuring refugees receive protection and long-lasting solutions, whether that means repatriation, building new lives in their host communities or resettlement in third countries.

Asylum applications are on the rise. Between 2010 and 2019, States or UNHCR registered more than 16.2 million individual asylum applications globally, an estimated 88 per cent of them at the first instance<sup>49</sup> and the remainder at the second instance, including with courts or other appellate

bodies.<sup>50</sup> Two-thirds of these asylum-seekers registered their claims in the last five years. In 2019, two million new asylum applications were registered, making up 14 per cent of the total for the entire decade.<sup>51</sup> In the last decade, roughly five million individuals received refugee or other protected status in 183 countries or territories as a result of their asylum claim, and about 15 million more people received refugee or temporary protection status through group procedures – for a total of 20 million people.

<sup>49</sup> The data for some countries may include a significant number of repeat claims, i.e. the applicant has submitted at least one previous application in the same or another country.

<sup>50</sup> Statistical information on outcomes of asylum appeals and court proceedings is under-reported in UNHCR's statistics, particularly in industrialized countries, because this type of data is often either not collected by States or not published.

<sup>51</sup> As some countries have not yet released all of their national asylum data at the time of writing, this figure is likely to be revised later this year.

MEXICO. *"I walked and walked, day and night. I was terrified. The journey was not safe, but at least I was not alone. Discrimination here is not as bad as in Honduras. People seem more open-minded, and people from my community have given me support." When your own identity puts you at risk, the stark choice is to leave or die. This was the decision Estefania\*, a transgender woman, made. Staying in Honduras meant either to deny her identity or face harassment, violence or worse.*

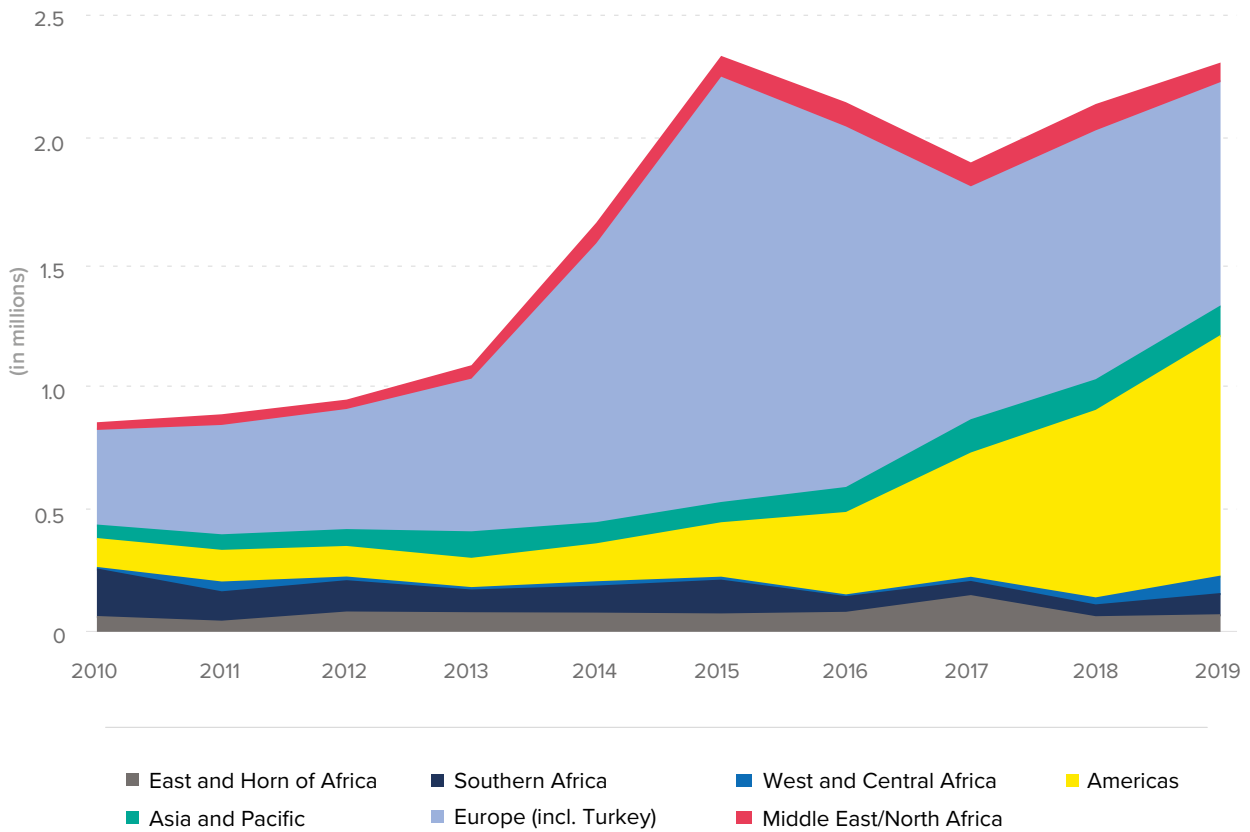
© UNHCR/DIANA DIAZ

\*Name changed for protection reasons



For detailed information on UNHCR's protection and assistance activities in support of forcibly displaced populations, see the [2019 Global Report](#)

Figure 16 | **Asylum applications registered by region**



Given the vast numbers of individuals fleeing violence and persecution who seek international protection, the process of determining whether a person receives protective status is crucial. Under the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), an Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG) mechanism is to be established to provide support to the concerned national authorities to strengthen their asylum systems with a view of increasing their efficiency, fairness, adaptability and integrity. This special initiative introduced in the GCR will bring more coherence and consistency to asylum capacity support by matching support offers with needs. This mechanism will help States adapt their asylum systems to major changes in the world, from climate change to COVID-19.

More than 16.2 million asylum applications were registered in the last decade. However, they do not represent the totality of persons who fled their country, neither were they equally distributed across

the seven major regions, as seen in [FIGURE 16](#). Europe registered 9.2 million asylum claims, the Americas 3.4 million and the three regions in sub-Saharan Africa a combined two million. Asia and Pacific recorded almost one million claims and the Middle East and North Africa region about 633,000 individual asylum applications.

### AFRICA

From 2008 until 2012, South Africa received the largest number of new asylum applications worldwide, registering 800,000 new asylum claims, mostly from Zimbabweans. The three regions in sub-Saharan Africa registered a total of two million individual asylum claims during the past decade – representing only a fraction of the overall number of refugees who sought international protection across the continent as many more were granted refugee status on a prima facie basis.



## EUROPE

Europe saw a spike in the number of new asylum-seekers in 2014, largely because of the outbreak of conflict in eastern Ukraine. It experienced another spike in new asylum requests in 2015. As the war in Syria intensified and conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan worsened, an increasing number of people risked their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea in search of safety and protection. More than one million people arrived in Europe by boat – the vast majority from these three refugee-producing countries. More than 1.5 million new asylum claims were lodged in the major European destination countries, including Germany and Sweden. Arrivals in Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Italy and Spain continued in subsequent years but remained below 200,000 between 2017 and 2019.<sup>52</sup>

## AMERICAS

The deteriorating situation in Venezuela and increased violence and insecurity in parts of Central America led to a significant increase in the number of new asylum applications registered in the Americas. Between 2016 and 2019, nationals from Central America and Venezuela lodged 1.6 million asylum applications across the continent. This compares to 220,000 between 2010 and 2015. Almost one million asylum claims were recorded in 2019 alone, notably in the United States of America, Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico, Canada and Brazil. The Americas became the largest recipient of asylum applications worldwide in 2019.

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

The Asia and Pacific region witnessed a steady increase in the number of new asylum-seekers. Almost one million new asylum applications were submitted during the last decade. Malaysia, where UNHCR conducts RSD under its mandate recorded more than one quarter of them (257,000). Australia was the second largest recipient with 188,600 new asylum claims, two-thirds in the last four years.

Table 2 | **New asylum claims registered** | 2019

United States <sup>53</sup>	301,000
Peru	259,800
Germany	142,500
France	123,900
Spain	118,300
Brazil	82,500
Greece	74,900
Mexico	70,400
Costa Rica	59,200
Canada	58,400

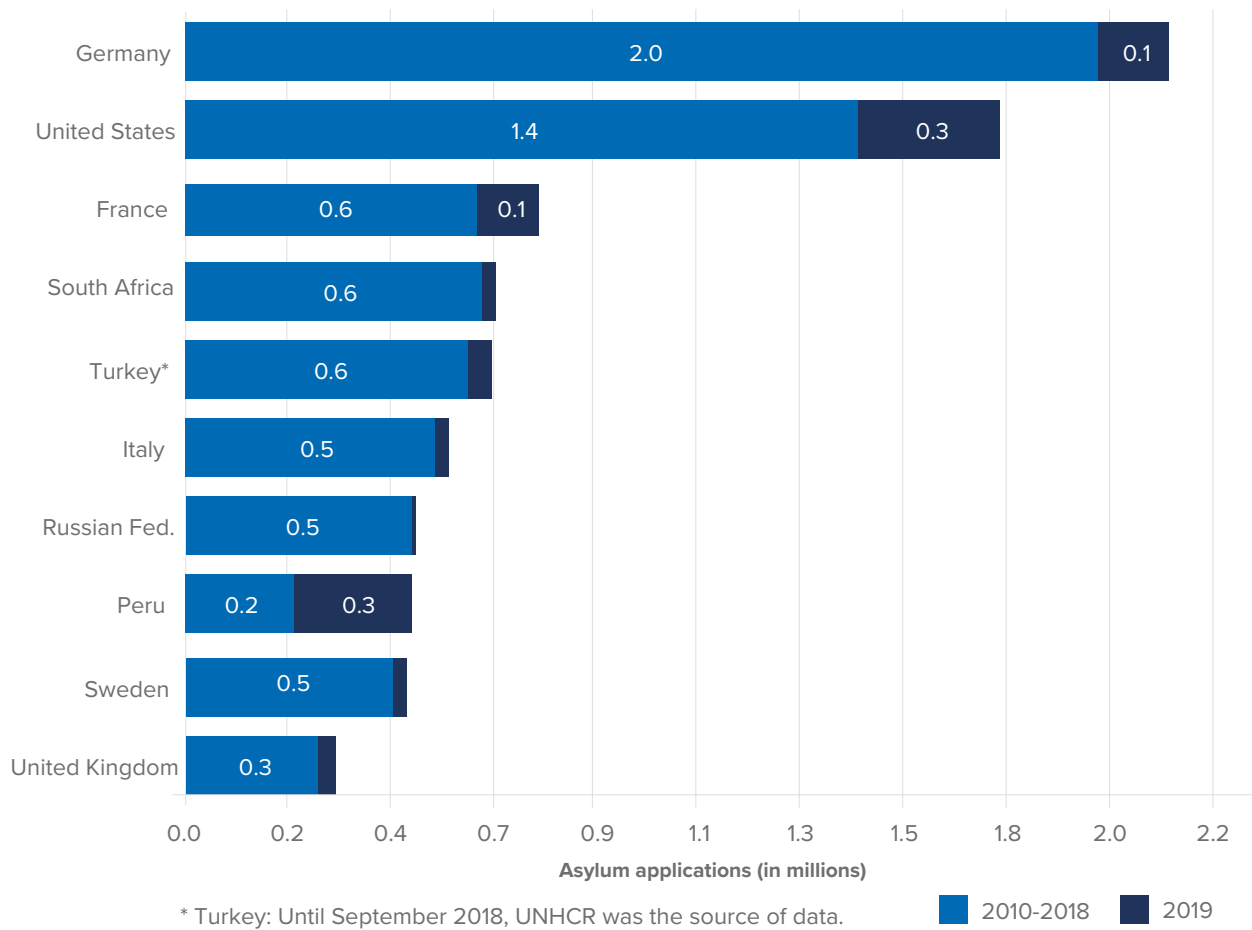
## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Across most of the Middle East and North Africa, UNHCR conducts RSD under its mandate. As such, it registered about 600,000 new asylum applications during the last decade. Four out of ten asylum claims were registered with UNHCR either in Egypt (159,000) or Jordan (99,200). It is mainly Sudanese (in Egypt) and Iraqis (in Jordan) who undergo RSD.

<sup>52</sup> See: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

<sup>53</sup> 2019 figure: estimated number of individuals based on the number of new affirmative asylum cases (89,500) and multiplied by 1.501 to reflect the average number of individuals per case (Source: US Department of Homeland Security) and the number of defensive asylum applications (166,700 individuals) (Source: US Department of Justice).

Figure 17 | Major destination countries for new asylum-seekers | 2010-2019



### By country of asylum

Germany received the highest number of new asylum applications overall for the decade, with more than 2.1 million new asylum applications registered between 2010 and 2019. One-third of these claims were submitted by Syrians (619,000), while Afghans (232,000) and Iraqis (204,000) accounted for many of the other applications. In 2019, Germany had 142,500 new applications, its lowest in six years, placing Germany third worldwide.

The United States of America registered an estimated 1.7 million new asylum claims during the past decade, including 301,000 in 2019, reflecting the deteriorating security, violence and socio-

economic situations in parts of Venezuela and Central America. Citizens from these countries constituted the largest group seeking international protection in the US. The United States of America remained the largest destination for asylum-seekers in 2019 for the third consecutive year.

The Venezuela crisis led to a sharp increase in the number of asylum applications registered in Peru in 2018 (192,500), which continued into 2019 (259,800). Peru was the second largest recipient of asylum applications globally in 2019, with nearly all claims submitted by Venezuelans.

Other countries registering a substantial number of new asylum applications in 2019 were France (123,900), Spain (118,300), Brazil (82,500) and Greece (74,900).

## By country of origin

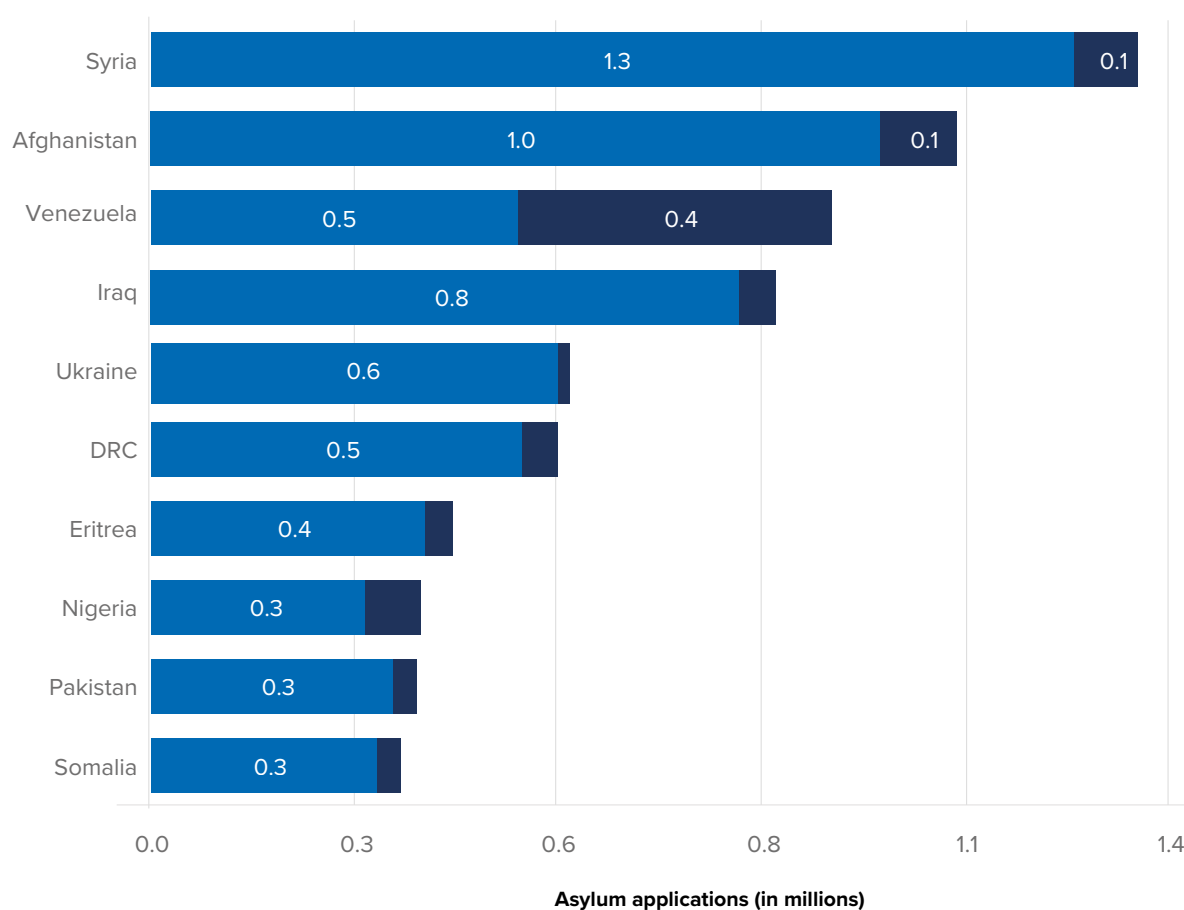
In the last decade, Syrians submitted the largest number of asylum applications, lodging nearly 1.4 million new claims all over the world, highlighting the global scale of this ongoing tragedy. Half of the claims were registered in 2015 and 2016.

Afghans accounted for the second highest number of applications – 1.1 million worldwide. As in the case of Syrian asylum-seekers, half were lodged in 2015 and 2016, mostly in Europe.

In recent years, Venezuela has become the largest source country of new asylum claims. An average of one thousand Venezuelans applied for refugee status annually in the early years of the last decade. This number rose in the past 2-3 years to exceed 341,000 in 2018 and 430,000 in 2019. Venezuelans are leaving their country due to several factors, including violence, persecution, and the political and economic crises.

Other major source countries of new asylum applications over the last decade include Iraq, Ukraine, the DRC and Eritrea.

Figure 18 | Major source countries of new asylum applications | 2010-2019\*

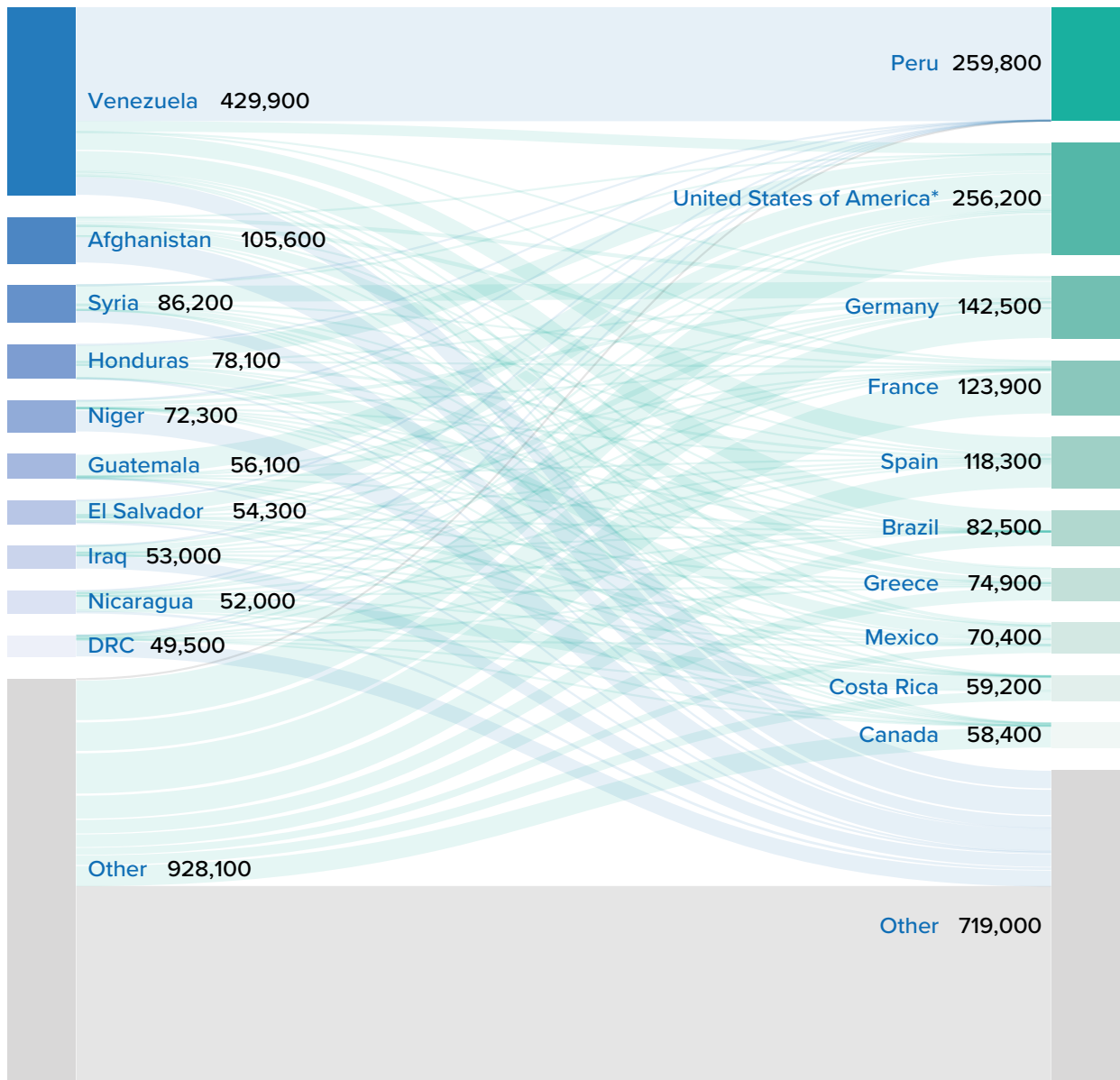


\* Based on reporting by individuals and cases. One asylum case may include more than one individual.

■ 2010-2018 ■ 2019



Figure 19 | Key flows of new asylum applications registered in 2019



\*Based on the number of new affirmative asylum cases (89,500 cases; Source: US Department of Homeland Security) and the number of defensive asylum applications (166,700 individuals) (Source: US Department of Justice).

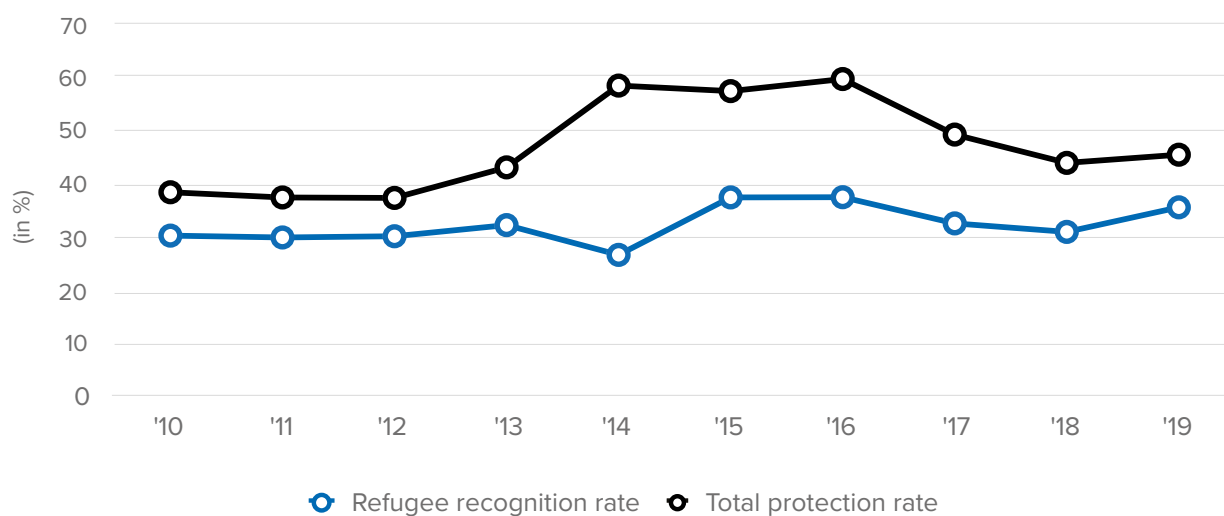
### Total protection rates

Worldwide, the Total Protection Rate (TPR) – or percentage of substantive decisions that resulted in any form of international protection – was 46 per cent, up from 44 per cent the previous year.<sup>54</sup> The TPR has fluctuated throughout the decade. It was highest between 2014 and 2016, stabilizing at

around 60 per cent, before dropping to pre-2014 levels of below 50 per cent.

Among the major source countries of asylum-seekers, the TPR varied substantially in 2019. For Syrians, Congolese (DRC), Eritreans, Somalis and Venezuelans, the TPR was close to or exceeded 80 per cent, confirming the high protection needs of these populations.

<sup>54</sup> UNHCR uses two rates to compute the proportion of refugee claims accepted. The Refugee Recognition Rate is the proportion of asylum-seekers accorded refugee status out of the total number of substantive decisions (Convention status, complementary protection and rejected cases). The Total Protection Rate is the proportion of asylum-seekers accorded refugee status or a complementary form of protection by the total number of substantive decisions. Non-substantive decisions are, to the extent possible, excluded from both calculations. For the purposes of global comparability, UNHCR uses only these two rates and does not report rates calculated by national authorities.

Figure 20 | **Total protection rates** | 2010 – 2019

## Responsibility for refugee status determination

Only States can ensure comprehensive refugee protection and robust and long-lasting solutions for refugees. Therefore, supporting the assumption of State responsibility for RSD remained a top priority for UNHCR during the last decade. Despite some successes, many States have yet to establish national RSD systems or have systems that are not fully accessible. In such situations, UNHCR may conduct RSD under its mandate, either in the absence of a national system or, more rarely, in parallel with one. In some countries, UNHCR conducts RSD jointly with the government.

In the last decade, the number of States and territories implementing national asylum procedures rose from 108 in 2010 to 116 in 2019. Some of the States that hosted the largest number of refugees implemented State asylum procedures during this period, including Kenya and, more recently, Turkey. This welcome assumption of responsibility by States is also evident in the proportion of the world's individual applications for refugee status received by UNHCR. In 2010, UNHCR received 11 per cent of the world's individual applications for refugee status and in 2013, 19 per cent. By 2019, the percentage fell to five per cent.

Although these trends are encouraging, the number of States in which UNHCR conducted RSD continued to remain stable (with some yearly variation). In 2019, UNHCR was registering new asylum-seekers in the same number of countries, 53, as it had in 2010. This could be explained in part by RSD applications made in small (often island) countries that rarely received asylum applications. But UNHCR also continued to conduct RSD in countries with national asylum systems characterized by persistent protection gaps.

There is reason to be optimistic that in the coming years more States will assume responsibility for RSD and/or improve their asylum systems as the global community works to implement the GCR. At the first Global Refugee Forum, over 55 States made pledges either to improve their own asylum systems or to support other national systems, including in some instances through the ACSG which was officially launched at the Forum. A large number of civil society organizations and other actors pledged to support this process, including through advocacy for using the ACSG mechanism.

## Increasing efficiency and fairness in RSD procedures

As the number of asylum applications made in the last decade continued to rise – due to new and ongoing displacement situations in Syria,

Table 3 | **New and appeal applications registered**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	Total
States	747,600	755,400	796,700	877,800	1,401,700	2,050,000	1,914,200	1,617,200	1,902,500	2,170,400	14,233,500
UNHCR	96,800	98,800	125,500	203,200	245,700	269,400	208,400	263,400	227,800	120,400	1,859,400
Jointly**	5,900	28,600	20,100	800	12,900	17,800	26,300	24,300	11,400	1,300	149,400
Total	850,300	882,800	942,300	1,081,800	1,660,300	2,337,200	2,148,900	1,904,900	2,141,700	2,292,100	16,242,300
UNHCR only	11%	11%	13%	19%	15%	12%	10%	14%	11%	5%	11%

\* Provisional figure

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

Venezuela, Afghanistan, Iraq and other places – ensuring efficient status determination processes became critical. The number of individual RSD applications (including appeal and reopened applications) rose from 850,300 in 2010 to 2.3 million in 2019. In 2019, close to 1.3 million substantive decisions were made globally. But despite investments by States and UNHCR in decision-making capacity, the end of 2019 saw more than 4.1 million cases pending (350,400 in UNHCR mandate RSD procedures, 1,900 in joint procedures and 3.8 million in government procedures).

The number of new applications made to UNHCR also increased throughout the decade, from 96,800 in 2010 to 227,800 in 2018, with UNHCR conducting the most RSD in Turkey. In 2019, the number dropped to 120,400 after UNHCR's phase-out from RSD in Turkey following the assumption of full responsibility by the Government of Turkey in September 2018. Over the past decade, UNHCR issued over 723,000 substantive (positive or negative) decisions globally and closed 602,900 administratively. In addition to Turkey, the other countries where UNHCR processed the highest number of RSD applications included Malaysia, Jordan, Egypt, India and Kenya (prior to the government assuming responsibility). Between 2010 and 2019, UNHCR and States operating joint procedures received 149,400 applications and issued 55,000 substantive decisions.

In response to such high numbers and in acknowledgement that, unlike recognition by a State, UNHCR's recognition of refugee status does not automatically give an individual access to protection or solutions, UNHCR emphasized two key elements in its 2016 RSD strategy, in addition

to supporting the assumption of responsibility by States: (1) focusing RSD interventions to situations in which they will have maximum protection impact (e.g. facilitating access to protection and solutions for the most vulnerable individuals or improve the protection space for entire populations) and (2) reducing the time spent on cases while maintaining the quality of decisions.

Due to this rationalization of when UNHCR conducts RSD under its mandate, the number of decisions made by UNHCR has varied over the last decade. Rather than increasing each year, it peaked in the years 2014-2017, in part because of the high number of Iraqi and Syrian cases processed for RSD for resettlement purposes in the Middle East during this period.

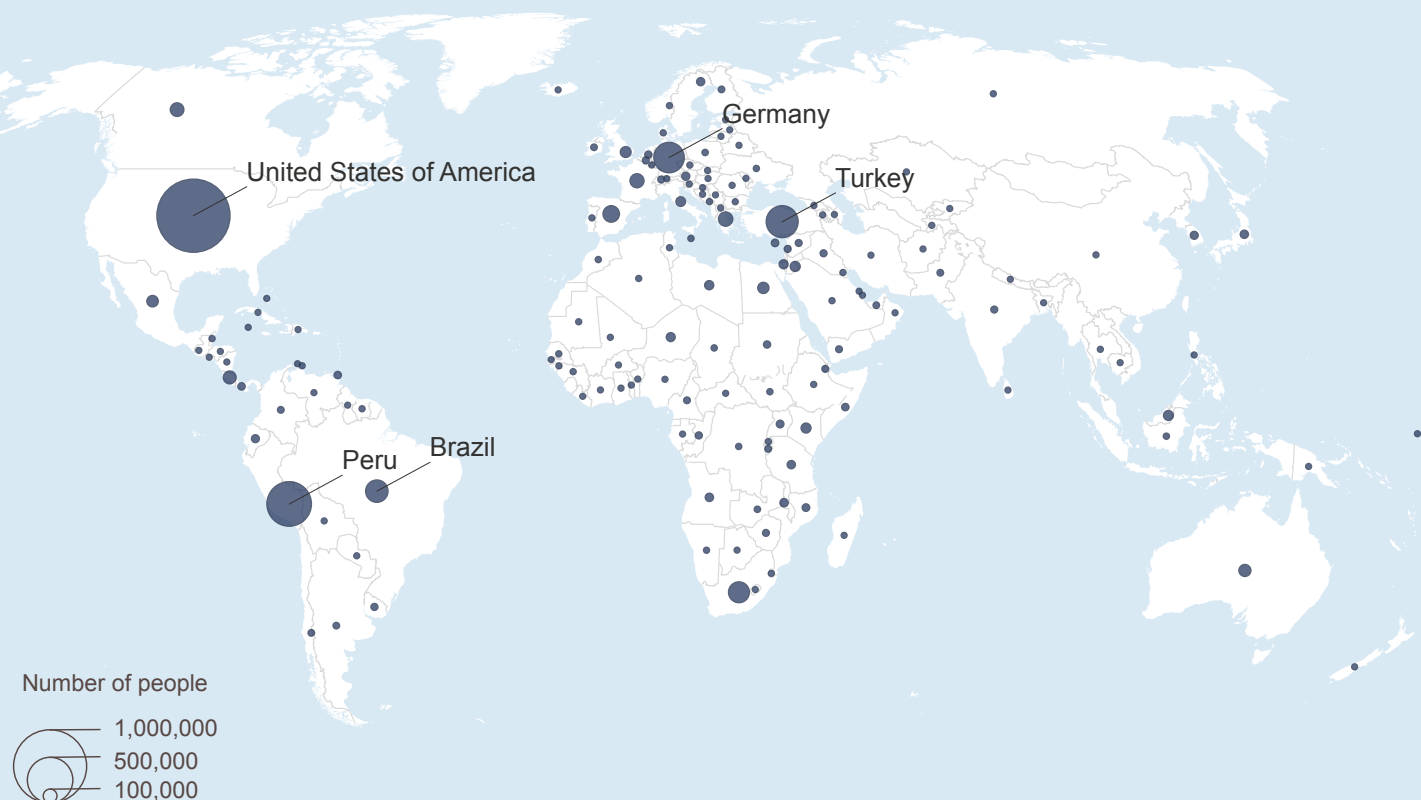
When conducting RSD under its mandate is necessary, UNHCR has increasingly used differentiated case processing modalities, including various types of simplified RSD, merged registration and RSD and, in a process unique to UNHCR, a combination of RSD and resettlement processing. In the past decade, UNHCR has systematized the use of these procedures, and issued publicly available documentation about its processes to ensure transparency and accountability.

Wrongful rejections could have dire consequences for applicants. Therefore, it is essential to have fair asylum procedures. In 2003, the first version of the Procedural Standards for RSD under UNHCR's mandate standardized due process requirements.<sup>55</sup> Since then, UNHCR has continued working to improve the fairness

<sup>55</sup> See: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/42d66dd84.html>



Map 4 | Asylum-seekers (with pending cases) | end-2019



**A country is named if it features among the five largest per population group.**

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

and quality of its procedures. In 2017, it began issuing updated chapters of the RSD Procedural Standards, including an important chapter on legal representation.<sup>56</sup> UNHCR plans to release a complete revised RSD Procedural Standards in 2020 and will implement it gradually. It has also encouraged and supported States to adopt differentiated case processing strategies where appropriate and to make their procedures fair and adaptable.

The number of refugee recognitions over the last decade through group procedures (7.4 million) and temporary protection group procedures (7.6 million), as well as the number of States now processing using simplified and/or accelerated procedures shows that many States are already implementing diversified modalities. Positive developments include:

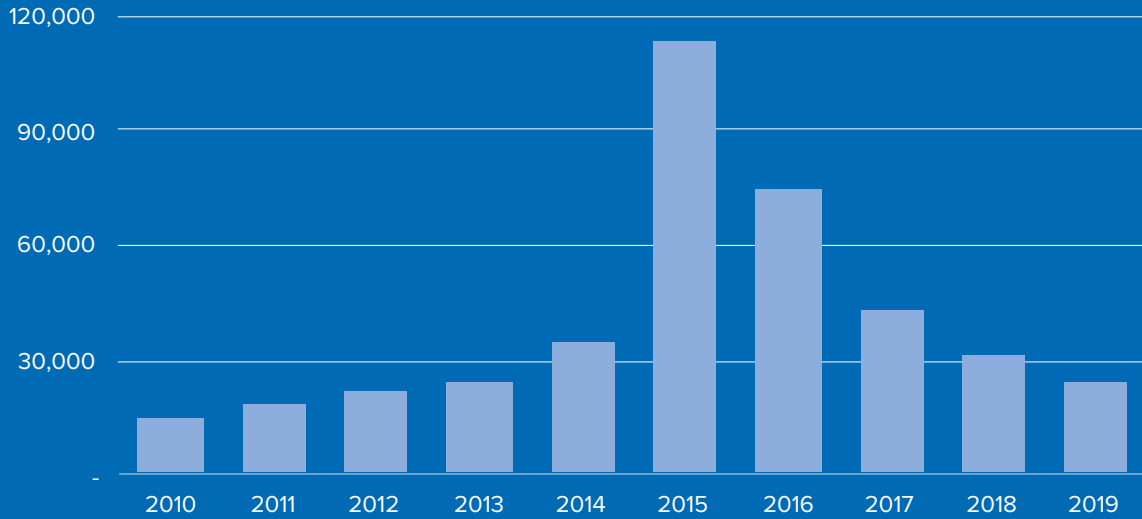
- Mexico applying simplified determined procedures for certain case profiles with high recognition rates
- Brazil recognizing thousands of Venezuelans as refugees on a prima facie basis after the application of the Cartagena Declaration
- Malawi declaring certain groups of Congolese (DRC) as refugees on a prima facie basis

These examples show there are still opportunities within the asylum system to increase efficiency and reduce the time that people spend waiting for a decision on their status. As these new processes are introduced, it will be important that States adhere to procedural safeguards and use fair, high-quality procedures as they implement their GCR pledges so that all asylum-seekers can access procedures and articulate their claims within a system that prioritizes international protection needs.

<sup>56</sup> See: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/56baf2c84.html>

## UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

Figure 21 | **Unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum** | 2010-2019



### ASYLUM APPLICATIONS

Between 2010 and 2019, around 400,000 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) lodged asylum applications in 117 countries or territories; about three per cent of the global number of new asylum applications. UASC applications peaked in the middle of the decade, when thousands of minors crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. The number has dropped in recent years, reaching 25,000 in 2019, based on provisional data.

Germany registered 87,000 or one fifth of the 400,000 UASC asylum applications. Sweden (60,600), Italy (30,000) and the United Kingdom (22,000) were other main destinations. These four countries together registered half of all UASC asylum claims worldwide, mainly by unaccompanied children from Afghanistan, Eritrea and Syria.

It is important to note that data on UASC seeking asylum is an underestimate because many countries registering asylum-seekers do not report on unaccompanied and separated children separately.

### REGISTERED REFUGEES

In 2017, UNHCR began to report on the number of unaccompanied and separated children in the refugee population from UNHCR refugee registers and in 2018 requested governments to do the same. In response, 53 countries reported a total of 111,000 unaccompanied and separated child refugees in 2018. This number increased to 153,300 in 2019. However, similar to UASC seeking asylum, many countries with large registered refugee populations do not report on unaccompanied and separated children in the population.

The largest number of registered UASC refugees was reported in Ethiopia (41,500), where UASC represent six per cent of the refugee population. In Uganda (40,000 UASC), Kenya (10,700 UASC) and Cameroon (9,000 UASC) the proportion of UASC ranged between two and three per cent of the refugee population.

Almost half of the 153,300 registered UASC refugees were South Sudanese. This finding shows how essential it is that data are collected to identify these children, protect and assist them.

**DENMARK.** *Elisha grew up in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the sound of gunshots - that's how he remembers it. At age 14, he was resettled with his father in Denmark, where he has found stability, time for contemplation, and the opportunity to pursue his dream of a career in music.*

© UNHCR/SASJA VAN VECHGEL





## CHAPTER 5

# Finding Solutions

Five million refugees found a solution through resettlement or voluntary repatriation in the last decade

Finding durable solutions that enable displaced people to rebuild their lives and live in safety and dignity is at the core of UNHCR's work. Planning for solutions from the outset of displacement is one of the primary objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

This chapter focuses primarily on durable solutions for refugees. Traditionally, durable solutions include voluntary repatriation, resettlement to a third country and local integration. However, a growing number of people of concern to UNHCR remain in precarious protection situations with little hope of a durable solution.

Over the last decade, the world recognized that governments, humanitarian actors and development partners must come together with refugees to find durable solutions for those in need. This recognition for comprehensive and situation-specific solutions is at the heart of the GCR and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The GCR seeks to strengthen solutions in two main ways:

1) to expand access to resettlement and other complementary pathways in third countries; 2) to foster conditions that enable refugees to return voluntarily to their home countries.

Despite these initiatives, solutions for refugees are in decline. Resettlement benefits only a fraction of the world's refugees. In 2019, only half a per cent of the world's refugees were resettled. Over the past 10 years, just over one million refugees were resettled, compared to 3.9 million refugees who returned to their country. Thus, for every refugee resettled since 2010, approximately 4 have repatriated. This is in stark contrast to one for every 12 during the prior decade when almost 10 million refugees repatriated and 810,400 refugees were resettled – a strong sign that as conflicts rage on without end, voluntary repatriation as a solution for refugees is diminishing over time.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>57</sup> By comparison, between 1990 and 1999 more than 15 million refugees voluntarily repatriated while more than 1.3 million were resettled.

**TUNISIA.** A six-year-old Syrian refugee takes part in an interactive theatre activity in Tunis. The workshops take place once a month with Tunisian and other refugee children. The games and theatre workshops help the children meet, get to know each other and accept diversity in their community.

Some 42 per cent of the 3,300 refugees and asylum-seekers currently hosted in Tunisia come from Syria.

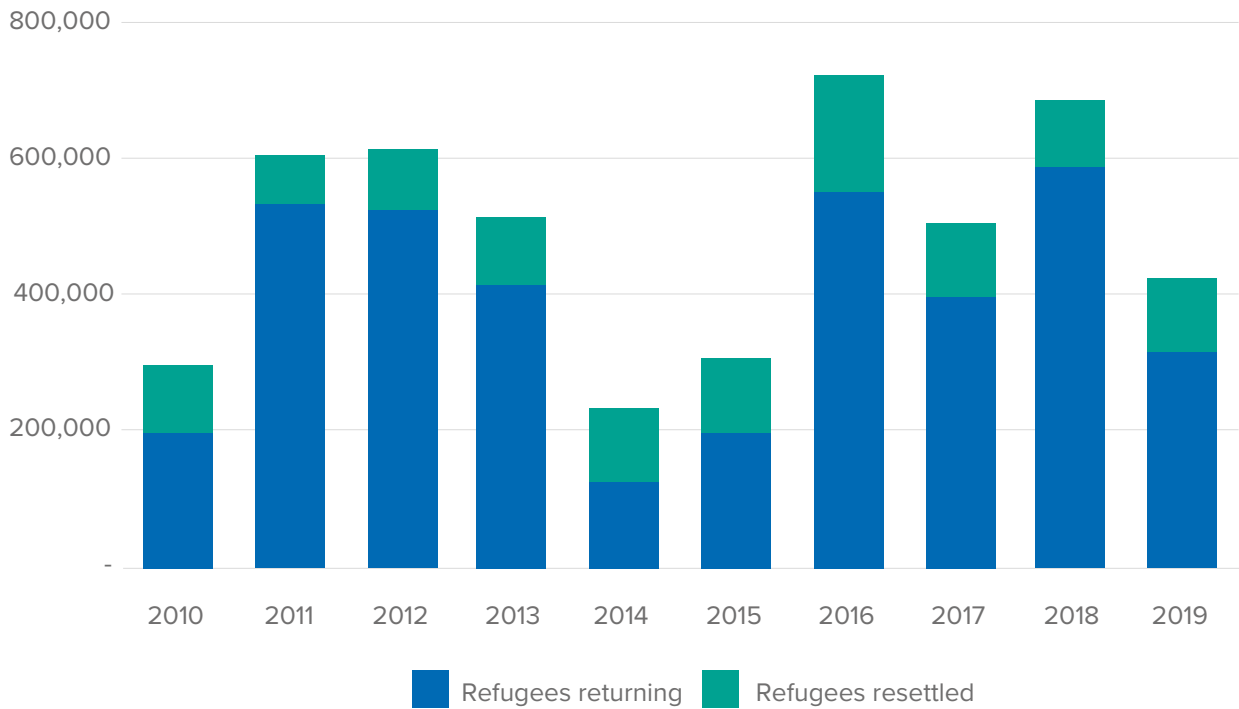
© UNHCR/JOHN WESSELS



For detailed information on UNHCR's work to secure solutions for refugees and other people of concern, see the chapter on *Building better futures in the 2019 Global Report*



Figure 22 | Resettled and returning refugees | 2010 – 2019



## Returns

Returning home in safety and dignity remains the preferred solution for the majority of the world’s refugees. Over the last decade, some 3.9 million refugees returned to their country of origin. Voluntary return was at its lowest in 2014, when only 126,800 people were able to go home. The peak came in 2018, when 593,800 were able to return. Nearly one quarter of returnees during the decade (875,800 or 23 per cent) were Afghan. Afghanistan today has a population of about 38 million people<sup>58</sup> and about one fifth are former refugees who have returned home in the last two decades. Nevertheless, only 8,400 Afghans returned in 2019, one of the lowest levels recorded in many years. Almost three-quarters of all refugee returns during the last decade were to one of the ten countries shown in **FIGURE 23**.

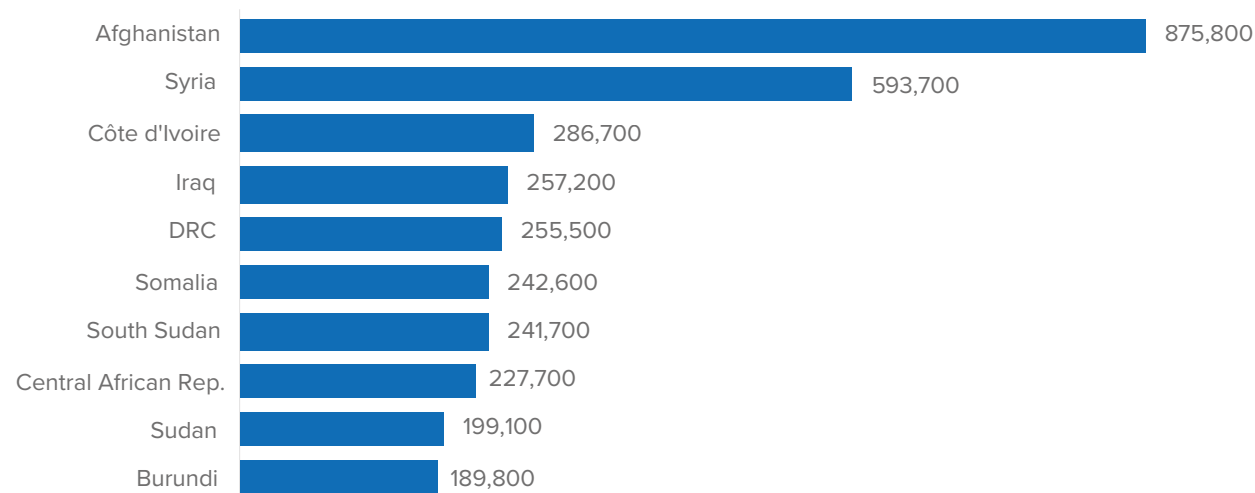
In 2019, 317,200 refugees returned to 34 countries, most commonly to South Sudan (99,800 or 31%), Syria (95,000 or 30%) and the Central African Republic (46,500 or 15%).

Close to 383,100 Syrians returned to their country between 2017 and 2019. UNHCR does not promote refugee returns to Syria. Returns have been spontaneous or organized by host countries or other humanitarian actors assisting returnees through ongoing programmes. Since 2017, UNHCR has conducted five return perception and intention surveys among Syrians, the latest of which was published in March 2019.<sup>59</sup> Conducted in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, the survey canvassed more than 13,000 Syrian refugees, out of a total of 1.9 million. From late 2017 to early 2019, the estimated percentage of Syrian refugees hoping to return increased from 51 to 75 per cent. Nevertheless, only 6 per cent of those surveyed intended to return during the following 12 months. Of the remainder, only 1 in 5 intended to move to a third country, highlighting that return remains the preferred solution for the vast majority of Syrians surveyed. Some 47,800 Syrians from these four countries (3 per cent of the refugees hosted) have been resettled to a third country with UNHCR’s assistance during the same period.

<sup>58</sup> Source: <https://population.un.org/wpp2019/Download/Standard/Population/>

<sup>59</sup> See <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68443>



Figure 23 | **Refugee returns** | 2010 – 2019

## Resettlement

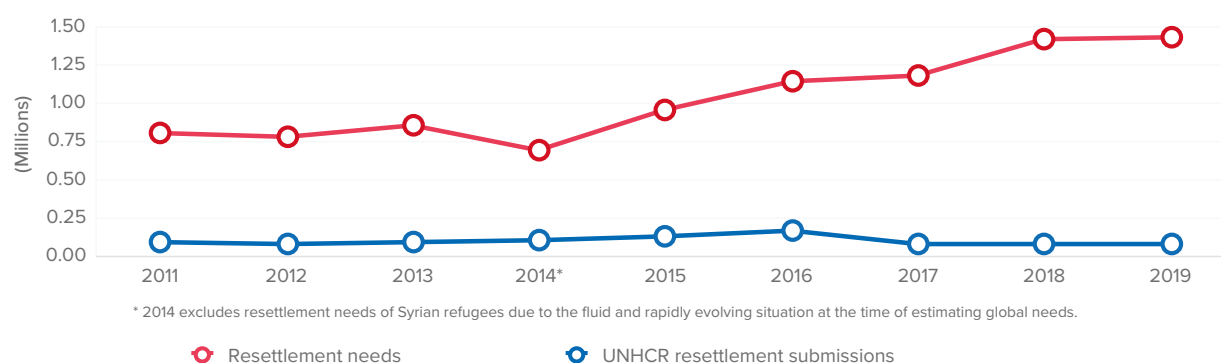
Resettlement is a critical tool for the protection of the most vulnerable refugees. It is also a tangible mechanism for responsibility-sharing and a demonstration of solidarity, allowing States to help share each other's burdens and reduce the impact of large refugee populations on host countries.

Over the last decade, over one million refugees were resettled by States with or without UNHCR's assistance. During this period, the number of States providing resettlement places increased from 24 in 2010 to a high of 35 in 2016 and 2017, only to drop again to 29 in both 2018 and 2019.

Over the last decade, the number of refugees in need of resettlement has increased dramatically. UNHCR estimates that more than 1.4 million refugees need to be resettled,<sup>60</sup> an 80 per cent

increase since 2011 (see [FIGURE 24](#)). At the end of this tumultuous decade, there was only one resettlement spot available for every 20 vulnerable refugees in need. While the number of refugees increased over time, the number of resettlement places offered by States remained well below 100,000 between 2011 and 2013. It increased gradually to a peak of 163,000 UNHCR resettlement submissions in 2016 to drop to almost half of that at about 81,000 in both 2018 and 2019.

Resettlement is used to assist refugees in countries that cannot provide them with appropriate protection and support. Of all cases submitted by UNHCR in 2019, 76 per cent were for survivors of torture and/or violence, people with legal and physical protection needs, and particularly vulnerable women and girls. Just over half (52%) of all resettlement submissions concerned children.

Figure 24 | **Gap between resettlement needs and UNHCR's annual submissions**

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/resettlement/5d1384047/projected-global-resettlement-needs-2020.html>



ETHIOPIA. A Yemeni refugee (centre-right) prepares samosas with her best friend, who is Ethiopian, at a cooking course at Nefas Silk Polytechnic College in Addis Ababa. The college is the first in Ethiopia to accommodate refugees and Ethiopians studying together in vocational subjects like cooking, woodwork and mechanics. In January 2019, Ethiopia passed historic new laws giving refugees the right to work permits, primary education, birth and marriage registration, and banking.

© UNHCR/OKSANA PARAFENIUK

According to official government statistics provided to UNHCR over the last ten years, 55 per cent of all resettled refugees were welcomed in the United States of America (575,600), 20 per cent to Canada (210,600) and 11 per cent to Australia (114,500). European countries have increased the number of resettlement places made available to refugees from an average of about 6,000 per year during the initial part of the decade to more than 30,000 in 2019. Overall, more than 144,000 refugees were admitted by European countries between 2010 and 2019.

In 2019, 107,800 refugees were resettled to 26 countries with or without UNHCR's assistance, including 30,100 to Canada. The United States of America admitted 27,500 and Australia 18,200.

Resettlement is primarily facilitated by UNHCR in most countries around the world. However, in Canada, almost 3 in 5 (58%) resettlement arrivals during the decade were conducted through private sponsorship resettlement schemes.

A similar community-led approach commenced in Ireland in 2019.<sup>61</sup>

Predictable, efficient and effective resettlement schemes do benefit host States. Several studies published over the last decade proved that resettled refugees contribute significantly to the economic and social fabric of communities. Research commissioned in 2019 by UNHCR in Canada<sup>62</sup> shows that refugees are creating jobs for themselves and other Canadians, with almost 1 in 7 refugees self-employed or business owners. Refugees are on average just over 11 years younger than those born in Canada, which means they are more likely to be of working-age, with many years to contribute. Notably, the research proved that 20 years after being resettled to Canada, refugees were contributing more in income tax than they received in public benefits and services.

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/stories/2019/3/5c7ea7cb4/irish-woman-sets-community-programme-help-refugees.html>

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.unhcr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Are-Refugees-Good-for-Canada-A-Look-at-Canadian-Refugee-Integration-November-2019.pdf>

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE KAREN RESETTLEMENT IN BENDIGO, AUSTRALIA

A series of reports by Deloitte Access Economics, including one published in August 2018 about Bendigo, Australia, highlights the benefits of resettlement to both the host and the resettlement community.<sup>63</sup>

Bendigo is a regional Australian city in Central Victoria with approximately 110,000 inhabitants where at least 800 Karen refugees settled between 2007 and 2018. Almost 21,000 Karen refugees have been resettled to Australia during the same time period.

In Bendigo, the local community identified that resettlement had “an unexpected and positive impact on the broader community and, as a result, contributing to an appreciation of the contribution new settlers can make in other ways”.

In addition to the social contribution, economic modelling undertaken by the report’s authors estimated that over a 10-year period, the total economic impact from the regional resettlement of the Karen population on the Bendigo economy was just more than 67 million Australian dollars (in net present value terms),

with an associated impact on employment of 177 full-time-equivalent jobs. In common with refugee populations globally, the Karen population currently comprises a disproportionately high share of children. The report predicts that, all things being equal, the Karen labour force will continue to grow over time, adding to the productive capacity of the region in years to come.

The research indicates that several conditions led to the success of resettlement in Bendigo, including strong leadership from both the host and the settling communities as well as the availability of opportunities for employment and affordable housing. In addition, the support provided in the transition from school to work or further training in Bendigo for Karen youth encourages their aspirations to study and to find ‘good’ jobs and provides opportunities for high levels of participation in the community, education and workplaces. Lastly, the report highlights the responsiveness of the services in the region and the natural advantages of relatively small regional cities such as Bendigo in terms of lifestyle and as a safe place to raise a family.

<sup>63</sup> <https://www2.deloitte.com/au/en/pages/economics/articles/economic-social-impact-karen-resettlement.html>

## Local integration

Millions of refugees around the world live with little hope of ever returning home. When resettlement or repatriation are not options, building a new life in the country of asylum offers a durable solution to their plight.

Local integration of refugees can include the provision of legal status and naturalization. It is a dynamic and two-way process. Refugees must be prepared to adapt to their new country, while host communities and public institutions who welcome refugees must strive to meet the needs of a diverse population. To effectively integrate refugees, institutions at national and local levels,

as well as local communities and civil society, should proactively foster social cohesion and ensure refugees can access the job market.

Globally, the integration of refugees in the countries’ labour markets remains challenging. For example, in Uganda, a 2018 survey by the World Bank estimated that 4 in 5 refugees were unemployed and refugees earn wages that are 35 to 45 per cent lower than the host population.<sup>64</sup> Refugees have a lower employment rate than compared to the native-born population and other migrants, making refugees one of the most vulnerable groups in the labour market.

<sup>64</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/32511>





YEMEN. A ten-year-old Somali refugee arrives on a bus at the port of Aden, ready to board the boat that will take him home. Yemen hosts the world's second largest Somali refugee population, some 253,000 people, and refugee movements from Somalia to Yemen have been taking place since the 1980s, triggered by violence, the civil war, fear of persecution, drought and a lack of livelihood opportunities. In 2019, more than 3,600 Somali refugees have returned home from Yemen.

© UNHCR/MARIE-JOËLLE JEAN-CHARLES

Data from a 2014 European Labour Force Survey<sup>65</sup> shows that approximately 50 per cent of refugees in Europe had jobs. More recent data for Germany show that while only some 40 per cent of the working-age refugee population were employed by the third quarter of 2019, the integration of refugees in the labour market is progressing faster than expected compared to previous arrivals of refugees,<sup>66</sup> according to the Institute for Labour Market and Occupational Research (IAB).

The *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics*<sup>67</sup> make several recommendations on appropriate indicators for measuring and quantifying local integration in a way that is comparable and consistent across different contexts. However, throughout the decade, the availability of data about refugees has remained very poor. Naturalization – the legal act or process by which a non-citizen in a country may acquire citizenship or nationality of that country – is therefore used as a proxy measure of local integration. However, even this proxy is limited by the uneven availability of data and poor coverage

as well as policy and legal changes over time. In particular, it can be difficult to distinguish between the naturalization of refugees and non-refugees. Therefore, the data are only indicative at best and provide an underestimate of the extent to which refugees are naturalized. In view of the current challenges with the availability of relevant statistics on naturalization, UNHCR continues to explore opportunities with governments to address these gaps.

During the last decade, based on available statistics, nearly 322,400 refugees from 185 countries naturalized in 65 countries. The number of countries reporting at least one naturalized refugee has decreased from 31 in 2010 to 25 in 2019. However, the number of naturalized refugees in absolute terms has increased by almost five times from 11,600 in 2010 to 55,000 in 2019. This is due both to increases in the number of naturalizations as well as better reporting. For example, 79,000 Syrians naturalized in Turkey between 2017 and 2018,<sup>68</sup> and in Canada reporting commenced in 2013 where the annual number of refugees who have naturalized has doubled from 14,800 in 2013 to 31,200 in 2019. Similarly, in the Netherlands reporting commenced recently and between 2017 and 2019, 26,800 refugees obtained Dutch nationality, 12,300 of them in 2019.

<sup>65</sup> How are refugees faring on the labour market in Europe?, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (European Commission), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2016: <https://op.europa.eu/s/n6zq>

<sup>66</sup> [https://www.focus.de/politik/deutschland/arbeitsmarktforscher-zufrieden-integration-von-fluechtlingen-geht-ein-jahr-schneller-als-gedacht\\_id\\_11000535.html](https://www.focus.de/politik/deutschland/arbeitsmarktforscher-zufrieden-integration-von-fluechtlingen-geht-ein-jahr-schneller-als-gedacht_id_11000535.html)

<sup>67</sup> See [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Principles\\_and\\_Recommendations/International-Migration/2018\\_1746\\_EN\\_08-E.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Principles_and_Recommendations/International-Migration/2018_1746_EN_08-E.pdf)

<sup>68</sup> No data available for 2019.

## HOW DO REFUGEES ACCESS THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR MARKET? \*

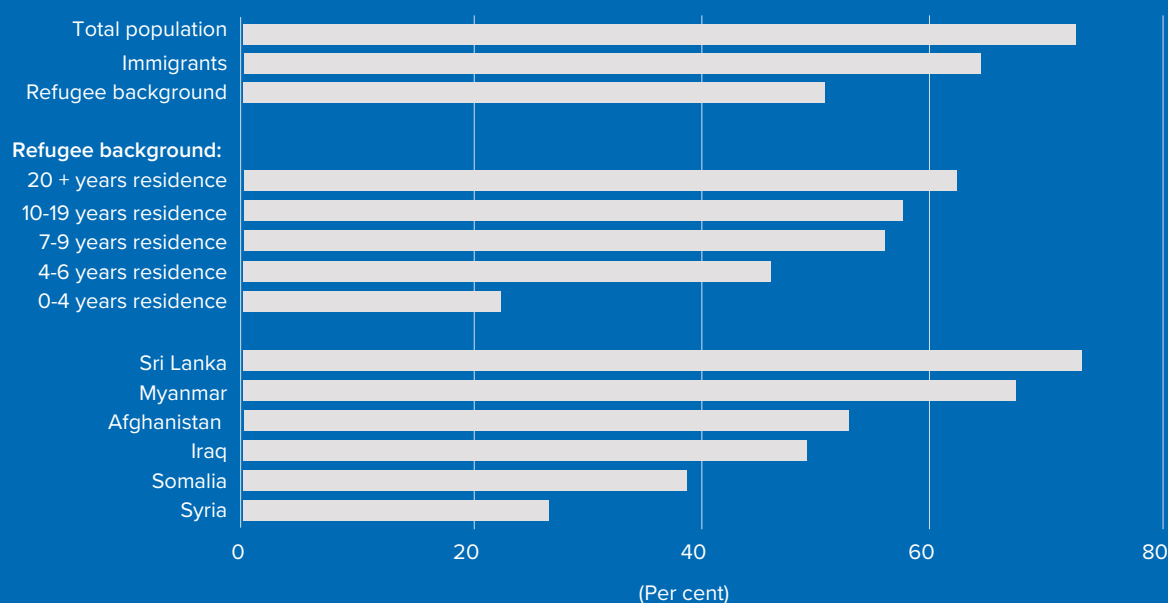
Trends in refugee employment in Europe are consistent with those observed in Norway. By the end of the fourth quarter 2018, 51 per cent of refugees in Norway were employed, compared to around 64 per cent among immigrants in general and 73 per cent in the population as a whole.

These overall figures do, however, conceal big differences. Employment rates vary by factors such as sex, age, education level, years of residence and language proficiency (as well as combinations of these).

It takes time for refugees to access the labour market, and as Figure 25 shows, employment is almost three times higher among those with the longest period of stay (20+ years) compared to the groups that have recently arrived (0-4 years).

Refugees who have been in Norway for a long period of time (e.g. from Sri Lanka and Myanmar) have employment rates almost at the same level as the general Norwegian population. Among those who have arrived relatively recently in Norway (e.g. Syrians), many are still enrolled in mandatory introductory programmes and are thus not yet available for the labour market.<sup>69</sup>

Figure 25 | **Employment rate by immigration background (15-66 years), 4th quarter 2018 (in %)**



<sup>69</sup> Throughout most of Europe, the Labour Force Survey (LFS), an interview-based survey, is used to measure the overall employment and unemployment rate. It is also used to measure how refugees and immigrants integrate into the European labour market. The LFS is, however, not an ideal tool to measure participation rates of smaller groups in the society as the sample size is often too small for detailed analysis. Immigrants, in particular, will also have a significant selective non-response. In Norway, in addition to the LFS, a combination of administrative registers is used to measure the employment and unemployment rates. Data from these registers open up for detailed analysis broken down by important variables such as sex, age, years of residence and country background. See <https://www.ssb.no/en/arbeid-og-lonn/statistikker/innvregsys>. For more information about Statistics Norway's definition of persons with a refugee background, see: <https://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/statistikker/flyktninger>.

\*Contributed by Statistics Norway. The views and opinions expressed are those of Statistics Norway and do not necessarily represent the views of UNHCR.

CHAPTER 6

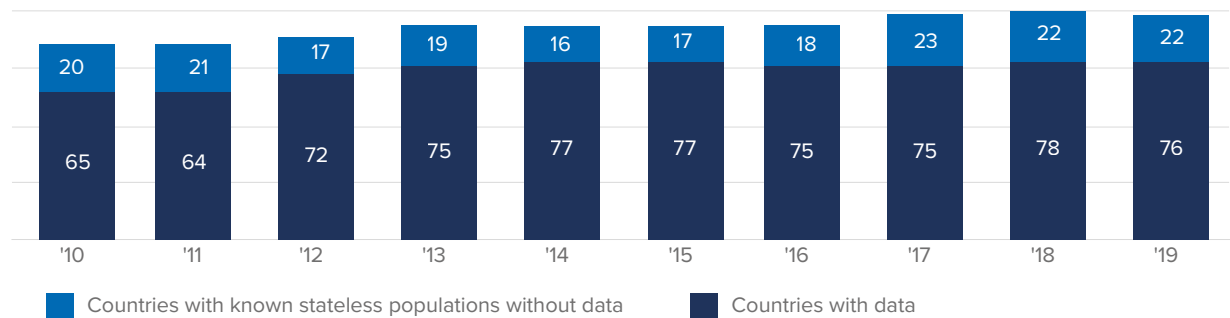
# Stateless People

754,500 stateless persons acquired nationality in the last decade

According to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, a stateless person is a “person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.” Millions of people across the world who do not possess a nationality are stateless and consequently are often denied basic rights. UNHCR reported on a global number of 4.2 million stateless persons including those of undetermined nationality in 76 countries at the end of 2019.<sup>70</sup> The true extent of

statelessness is estimated to be much higher, as fewer than half of all countries in the world submit any data and some of the most populous countries in the world with large suspected stateless populations do not report on statelessness at all. **FIGURE 26** displays the number of countries that reported stateless populations at the end of each year. Approximately half of all countries either report or are known to have stateless populations.

Figure 26 | Number of countries reporting on stateless populations



<sup>70</sup> Based on information provided by governments and other sources.





*BANGLADESH. Rohingya children participate in learning activities in a child-friendly space in Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh. In these safe spaces, children can express themselves and access the support they need to continue their emotional and cognitive development. Bangladesh is host to just under one million stateless Rohingya refugees who have fled violence and persecution in neighbouring Myanmar; 56 per cent of that number are children.*

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For detailed information on UNHCR's work in support of stateless persons, see the chapter on *Safeguarding fundamental rights* in the [2019 Global Report](#)

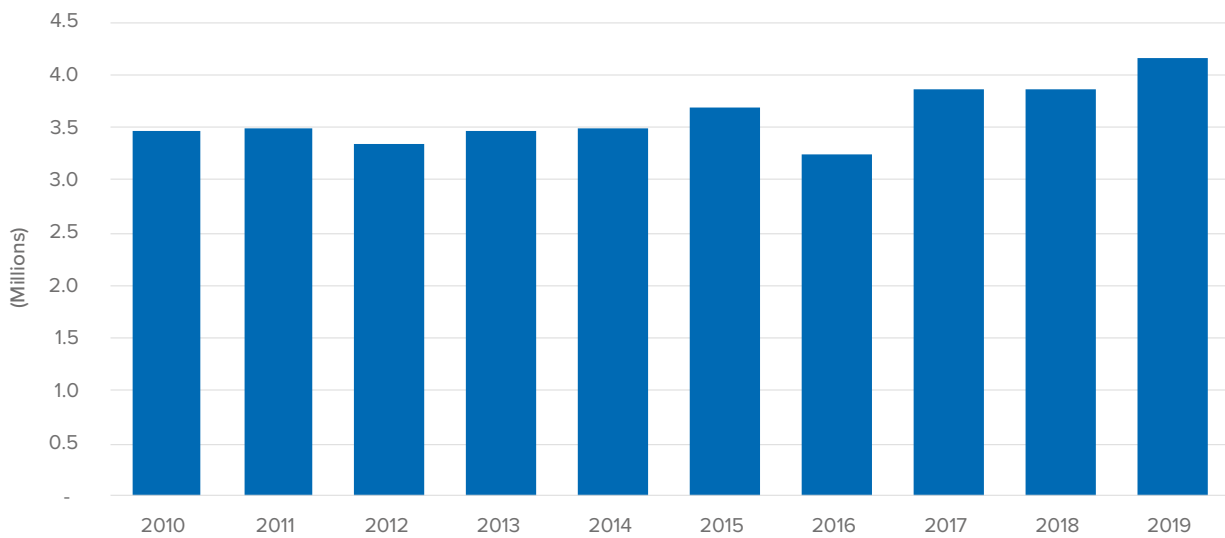


FIGURE 27 shows the trend in reported statelessness figures over the past decade. The global number remains between approximately 3.2 and 4.2 million stateless persons in any given year. These figures mask some notable increases and decreases between years due to countries that began or stopped reporting on statelessness each year, and because of changes in estimation and data collection methods. For instance, five countries that reported at the end of 2018 did not submit data for 2019, leaving 3,200 stateless persons unaccounted

for. On the other hand, newly reporting countries in 2019 submitted data on 18,300 stateless persons that had never been reported on before.

A 2019 study on statelessness in Côte d'Ivoire jointly undertaken by the Ivorian Government and UNHCR accounts for an increase of 263,400 stateless persons from 692,000 in 2018 to 955,400 in 2019. This increase reflects improved methodology used in the study compared to previous years rather than an actual increase in the number of stateless persons.

Figure 27 | **Reported global number of stateless persons** | 2010 – 2019

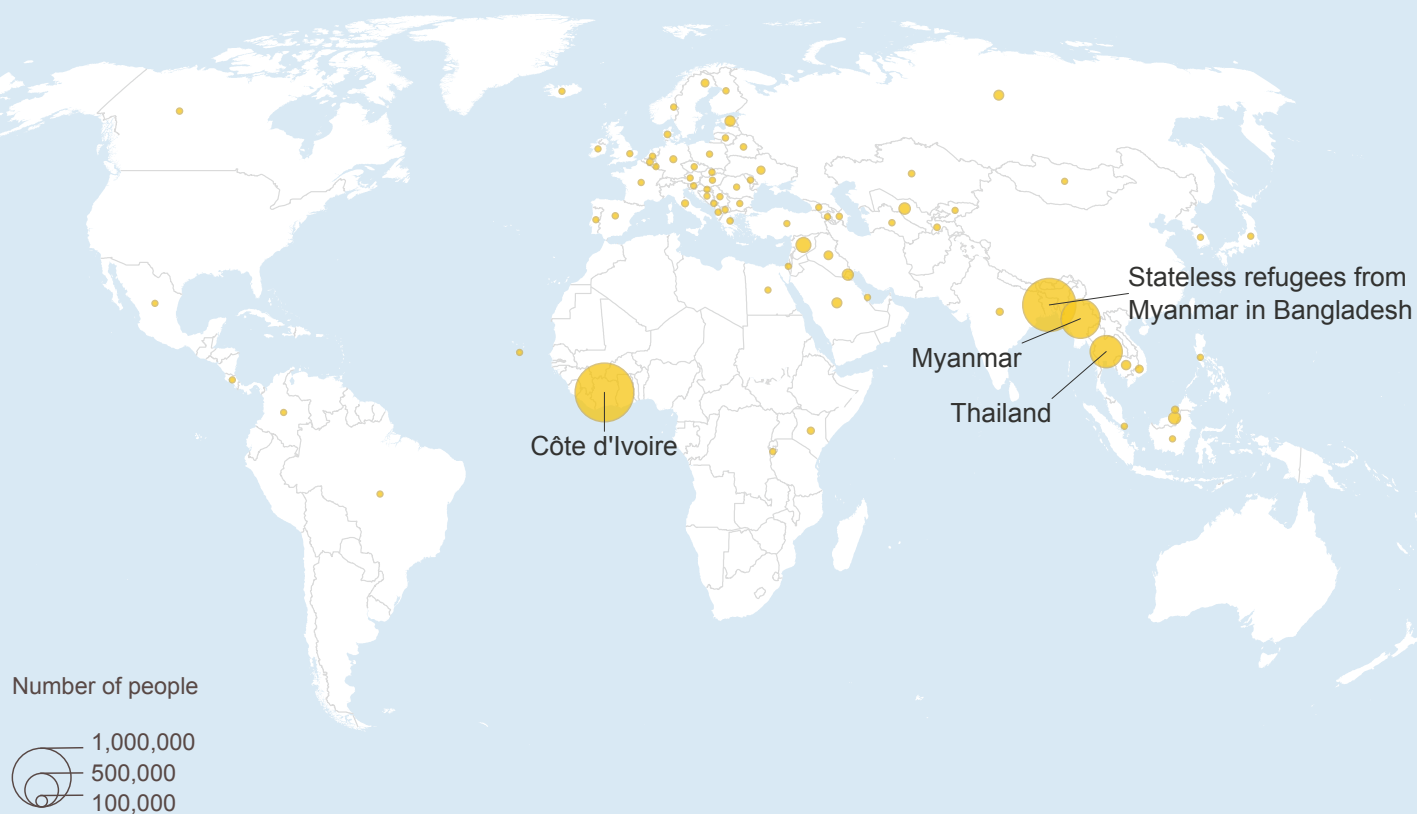


In line with the objectives of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness,<sup>71</sup> a reported 81,100 stateless people in 28 countries were able to acquire or confirm their nationality in 2019. This is the highest number of stateless persons finding a nationality solution in a single year since the start of the #IBelong campaign in 2014. Significant numbers of people had their nationality confirmed in Thailand, Tajikistan, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Sweden, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova and Malaysia. Furthermore, in 2019, Colombia granted nationality by birth to 28,500 children born in Colombia of Venezuelan parents displaced abroad.

Many of these increases are part of multi-year initiatives to end statelessness. FIGURE 28 shows that 754,500 stateless persons were reported to have acquired nationality from 2010 to 2019. From 2014 to 2019, particularly large numbers of persons had their nationality confirmed in Thailand, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Sweden. Kyrgyzstan ended all known cases of statelessness in 2019, having found solutions for more than 13,000 stateless persons in the last five years. Overall, 341,000 formerly stateless persons are known to have acquired nationality since the start of the #IBelong Campaign.

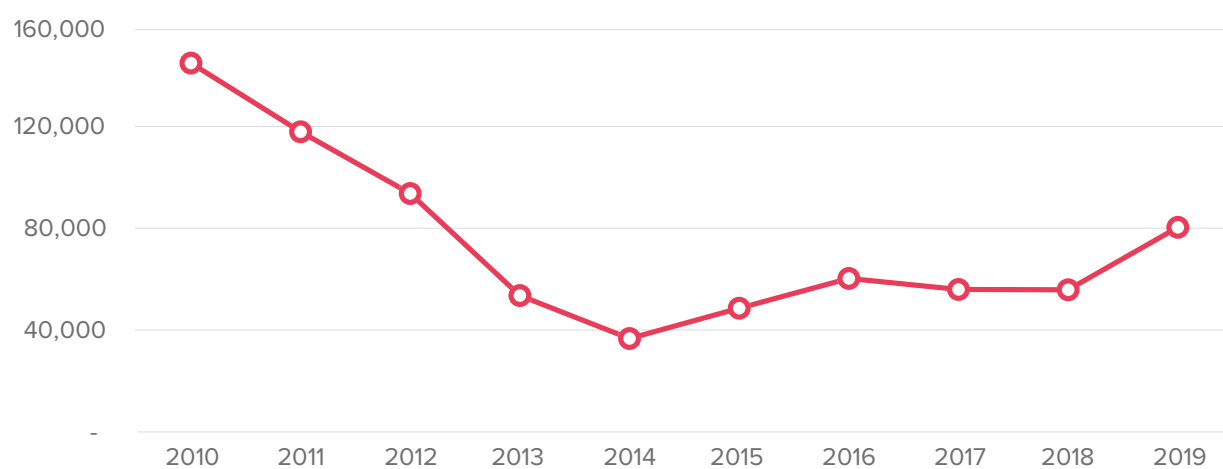
<sup>71</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/>

Map 5 | Statelessness | end-2019



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

Figure 28 | Number of formerly stateless persons who acquired nationality per year





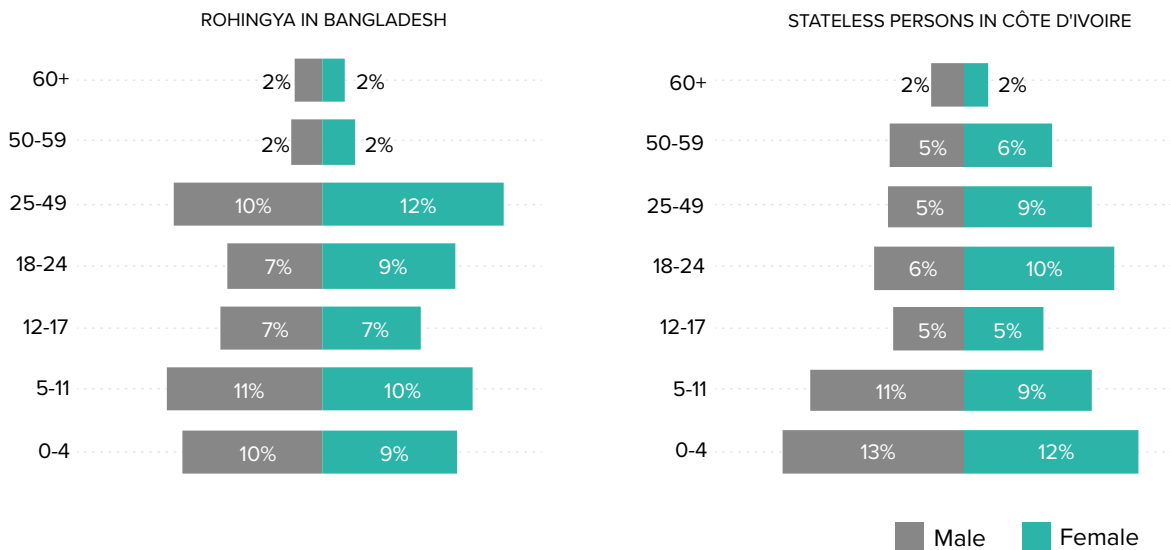
## Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of stateless populations

Data availability for stateless populations is scarce in most countries when it comes to disaggregation by demographic characteristics. In 2019, sex-disaggregated data was available for 28 of the 76 countries reporting on stateless populations, covering 73 per cent of the reported stateless population. According to available data, 51 per cent of the stateless population in 2019 were women, and 48 per cent were children. Demographically disaggregated data was most available in the West and Central Africa and the Asia-Pacific regions. Stateless Rohingya refugees hosted in Bangladesh make up the majority of the stateless population in the Asia-Pacific region, and there is solid demographic coverage available about them because they are individually registered as refugees in UNHCR’s case management system (proGres). This is not the case for Rohingya remaining in Myanmar for whom the availability of demographic data is very low.

The results from the study on statelessness in Côte d’Ivoire mentioned above allow for

age- and sex-disaggregation of data on close to one million stateless persons and are an important step in improving the evidence base on statelessness in the region. **FIGURE 29** shows the demographic profile of displaced stateless Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and of non-displaced stateless persons in Côte d’Ivoire. Fifty-six per cent of Rohingya in Bangladesh are children under the age of 18, considerably more than in the general population in Myanmar, their country of origin, where 31 per cent are underage. Women constitute 52 per cent of displaced stateless Rohingya in Bangladesh. While the stateless population in Côte d’Ivoire has slightly more women than men overall, with 53 per cent being female, this imbalance is very distinct for adult age groups from 18 to 59 as visible from the demographic profile. Qualitative evidence suggests that proportionally fewer girls are enrolled in school and registered at birth compared to boys. This lack of documentation can persist into adulthood and significantly impede access to citizenship for women. Children make up 54 per cent of stateless persons in Côte d’Ivoire, slightly higher than in the general population with 48 per cent.

Figure 29 | **Demographic profile of stateless Rohingya refugees displaced in Bangladesh and stateless persons in Côte d’Ivoire**





*IRAQ. Ghania (left) and her daughter, Iman, are Bidoon and recently acquired Iraqi nationality. As citizens they are now able to move around freely without fear of being caught without papers, access medical treatment and register their children for school. Southern Iraq is home to around 160,000 members of the Bidoon community, who arrived in large numbers from Kuwait following the 1991 Gulf War.*

© UNHCR/HOUSSAM HARIRI

Stateless persons often have limited recourse to basic rights and are not able to access a range of services such as education and medical care. They may not be able to legally work, own property, or travel domestically and overseas. A socio-economic study in Kenya conducted jointly by UNHCR and the World Bank in 2019 showed that the incidence of poverty is significantly higher among the Shona stateless community when compared to the Kenyan national average. In addition, the study showed significant differences in educational enrolment between stateless and Kenyan children: the gross enrolment rate at secondary level for stateless children was 50 per cent compared to 78 per cent for nationals. Stateless girls were even less likely to receive secondary education, with a secondary gross enrolment rate of only 37 per cent compared to 65 per cent for stateless boys. While these results are from one study alone and further research is required and planned, the study results are notable in terms of the specific inequalities in access to education as one basic service stateless persons and stateless girls in particular face.

Some displaced people are also stateless. While UNHCR has historically not reported on multiple statuses, in 2017 it was decided that it was important to report on the displaced stateless Rohingya population as having both refugee and stateless status. Therefore, this population is included in both the displaced and statelessness counts. In addition to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh who have been reported under UNHCR's statelessness figures since 2017, displaced Rohingya in India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are included in the number of stateless persons for the first time in 2019. This led to significant increases in statelessness figures in India (17,730 displaced stateless persons), Indonesia (580) and Malaysia. In Malaysia, the inclusion of displaced stateless persons led to an increase in the total number by almost 100,000 in 2019, consisting of Rohingya refugees and asylum-seekers displaced from Myanmar. Notwithstanding the increase in the overall reported figure, the Government of Malaysia has made significant progress in addressing the nationality situation of *in situ* stateless populations. In 2019 alone, 930 previous stateless persons were granted Malaysian nationality.





*BURKINA FASO. Ngolo Silué (left) sits with his family in the village of Olleo. Thanks to the support of Côte d'Ivoire Women's Legal Aid Association, the Silué family, all formerly undocumented and at risk of statelessness, have started the process of obtaining identity papers that not only prove their nationality but will help them apply for jobs, access state healthcare and get driver's licences.*

© UNHCR/MARK HENLEY

## Recognizing the problem: Better statistics on statelessness

In line with SDG 17<sup>72</sup> and Target 17.18,<sup>73</sup> increasing the availability of high-quality, reliable and disaggregated data is critical in any effort to impact development. Identifying stateless people is the first step towards addressing the difficulties they face, as well as enabling governments, UNHCR and others to prevent

and reduce statelessness. Recognition of statelessness and gathering data about the problem are key elements in UNHCR's Global Action Plan to End Statelessness (Global Action Plan), which accompanies the #IBelong Campaign. To improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations, UNHCR works with States to undertake targeted surveys and studies and to incorporate questions allowing for the identification of stateless persons in population and housing censuses. The Global Action Plan also calls for the strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics systems and UNHCR works with others to provide technical support to this end.

Many countries have made strong commitments to address and end statelessness. Over 350 pledges were made to address statelessness at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness, held in October 2019 to mark the midpoint of the

<sup>72</sup> SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

<sup>73</sup> Target 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.



#IBelong Campaign.<sup>74</sup> These include pledges to improve qualitative and quantitative data on stateless populations by 34 States. A total of 29 States submitted pledges to conduct quantitative or qualitative studies and nine States committed to include statelessness in upcoming census exercises (see map).

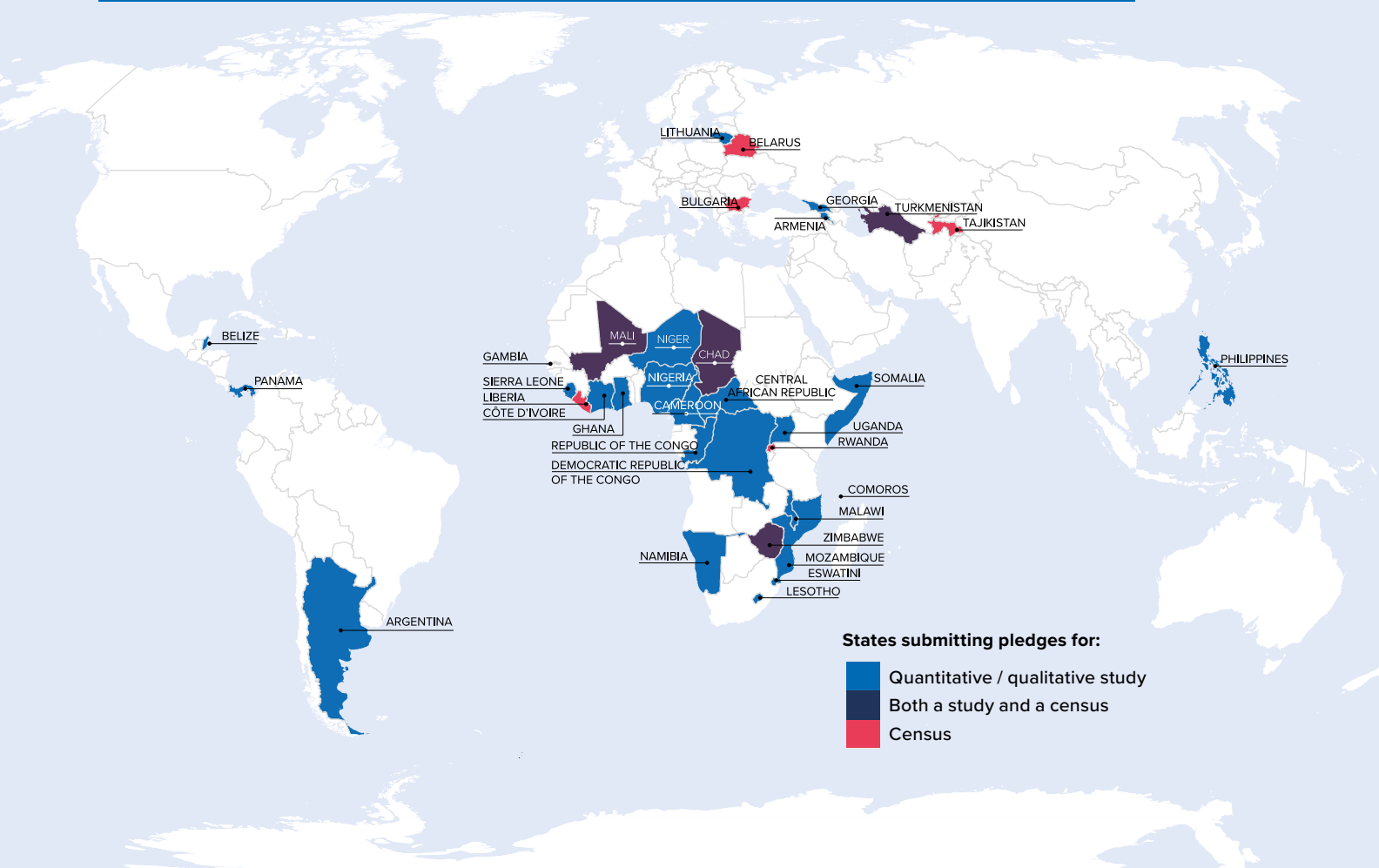
In 2019, an Expert Group on Statelessness Statistics made up of experts from national statistical offices and several UN agencies including UNHCR, UNFPA and UN Regional Commissions was established to work on developing and implementing common standards and definitions on statelessness statistics. The group aims to submit international recommendations on statelessness statistics

to the United Nations Statistical Commission by 2022. In parallel, an inter-agency group of international agencies and academic experts is developing statistical and demographic estimation methods to secure valid, reliable and comparable statistics on stateless populations. This work will be instrumental in developing a clearer global picture of statelessness over time. Improved data will in turn strengthen UNHCR's advocacy work and help realize the overarching Sustainable Development Goal of 'Leaving no one behind.' It will also support States' commitments to provide legal identity for all by 2030 as stipulated in SDG 16.9.<sup>75</sup>

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/results-of-the-high-level-segment-on-statelessness/>

<sup>75</sup> Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

Map 6 | Countries that submitted data pledges at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness



## CHAPTER 7

# Who Is Included In UNHCR Statistics?

**REFUGEES** include individuals recognized under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the refugee definition contained in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees as incorporated into national laws, those recognized in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, individuals granted complementary forms of protection, and those enjoying temporary protection. The refugee population also includes people in refugee-like situations.

**PEOPLE IN REFUGEE-LIKE SITUATION** refers to a category which 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 those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.

**ASYLUM-SEEKERS** (with pending cases) are individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not yet been determined. Those covered in this report refer to claimants whose individual applications were pending at the end of 2019, irrespective of when those claims may have been lodged.

**VENEZUELAN DISPLACED ABROAD** refers to persons of Venezuelan origin who are likely to be in need of international protection under the criteria contained in the Cartagena Declaration, but who have not applied for asylum in the country in which they are present. Regardless of status, Venezuelans displaced abroad require protection against forced returns, and access to basic services. UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration work together with this population by leading the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform, which is aimed

UGANDA. Dramani is studying Medical Laboratory Science at Clarke International University in Kampala, Uganda, on a DAFI Scholarship. "I was born here in Uganda. Our family tried to return to South Sudan in 2009 but we had to flee once again in 2016 due to the conflict there. I came back to Uganda with two of my siblings. The rest of our family are still there as internally displaced persons. When I was young, I had the dream of becoming a medical doctor. Eventually, I managed to push through and today, I am quite close to achieving my dream." In Uganda, all refugees have access to higher education as long as they meet the basic admission requirements. According to UNHCR's statistics, by the end of October 2019, less than 1 per cent of refugee youths between 18-35 years of age are accessing Tertiary Education.

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at strengthening the protection dimensions and consistent responses across the region in line with human rights standards.

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)** are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or 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 internationally recognized State border. For the purposes of UNHCR's statistics, this population includes only conflict-generated IDPs to whom the Office extends protection and/or assistance. The IDP population also includes people in an IDP-like situation.

**PEOPLE IN AN IDP-LIKE SITUATION** refers to a category which 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 those of IDPs but who, for practical or other reasons, could not be reported as such.

**RETURNED REFUGEES** are former refugees who have returned to their countries of origin, either spontaneously or in an organized fashion, but are yet to be fully integrated. Such returns would ideally take place only under conditions of safety and dignity. For the purposes of this report, only refugees who returned between January and December 2019 are included, although in practice, operations may assist returnees for longer periods.

**RETURNED IDPs** refers 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 2019. In practice, however, operations may assist IDP returnees for longer periods.

**INDIVIDUALS UNDER UNHCR'S STATELESSNESS MANDATE** are defined under the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons as those not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. In other words, they do not possess the nationality of any State. UNHCR statistics refer to people who fall under the organization's statelessness mandate as those who are stateless according to this international definition. Data from some countries may also include people with undetermined nationality. These are people who lack proof of possession of any nationality and at the same time have or are regarded as having important links to more than one State. UNHCR also works with populations at risk of statelessness, but persons at risk of statelessness are not reported on under the statistical category of individuals under UNHCR's statelessness mandate.

**OTHER GROUPS OR PERSONS OF CONCERN** refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of these groups above but to whom UNHCR has extended its protection and/or assistance services, based on humanitarian or other special grounds.



DRC. Binianga fled to Angola with her husband and three children during the violence that began in 2017 but has returned to start over. “I am happy to be back in my native country, whatever our situation now. The road was good on the Angolan side, but once we crossed the border it was difficult, especially with the children.” In 2017, the outbreak of violence in the Kasai region of DRC triggered the displacement of some 1.4 million people and the flight of over 35,000 refugees to Angola. In 2019, over 18,600 Congolese returned from Angola.

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## Measuring forced displacement and statelessness

Established in 2016 by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) is tasked with addressing challenges associated with the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics on refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs, including the lack of consistent terminology and difficulties in comparing statistics internationally. In 2018, the *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics*<sup>76</sup> (IRRS) were endorsed by the UNSC and constitute an internationally accepted framework for statistics on refugee and refugee-related populations. EGRIS also developed a refugee statistics compilers’ manual<sup>77</sup> with operational instructions established in compliance with the IRRS. In addition, the *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics*<sup>78</sup> were adopted by

the UNSC in March 2020. For the first time, a comprehensive statistical framework exists for refugees and internally displaced persons. The Expert Group on Statelessness Statistics and the Inter-agency Group on Statelessness Estimation were established in 2019 with a view to support countries in improving statelessness statistics and to submit international recommendations on statelessness statistics to the UNSC in 2022.

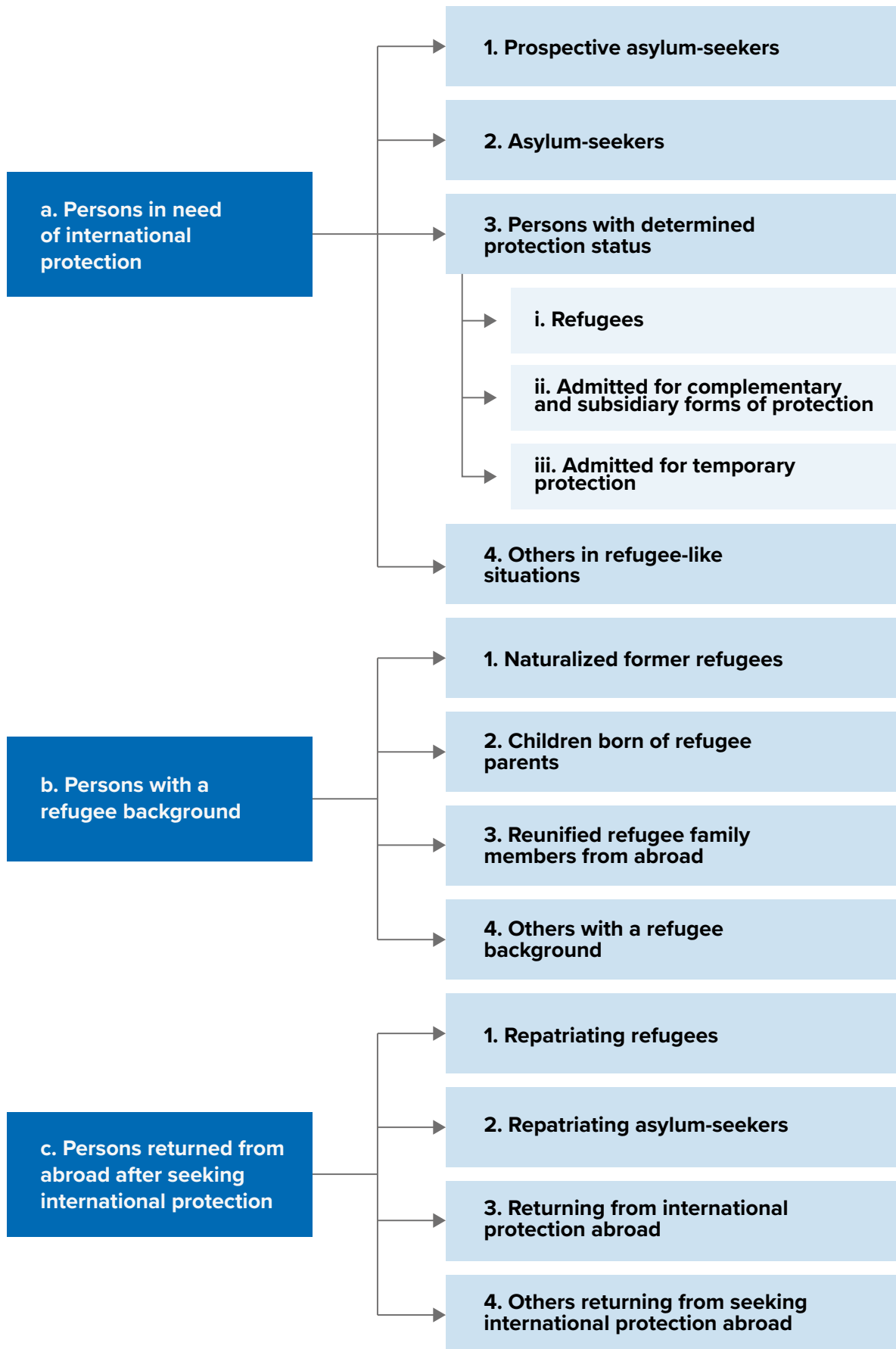
FIGURE 30 shows the population groups referred to as refugee and refugee-related based on the definitions and concepts contained in the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics. Persons in need of international protection comprises recognized refugees and persons with complementary, subsidiary and temporary forms of protection, and others in refugee-like situations. It can also include prospective asylum-seekers and asylum-seekers whose asylum claim is under consideration. It also includes children of refugees or asylum-seekers who may have been born in the country of asylum but did not acquire citizenship of that country and are therefore in need of international protection. These groups, normally excluding prospective asylum-seekers, are counted in UNHCR’s asylum-seeker and refugee statistics, and they are counted under the numbers of forcibly displaced persons.

<sup>76</sup> See [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Principles\\_and\\_Recommendations/International-Migration/2018\\_1746\\_EN\\_08-E.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Principles_and_Recommendations/International-Migration/2018_1746_EN_08-E.pdf)

<sup>77</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-item-3n-compilers-manual-E.pdf>

<sup>78</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-item-3n-international-recommendations-on-IDP-statistics-E.pdf>

Figure 30 | **Scope of the population of refugee and refugee-related populations**





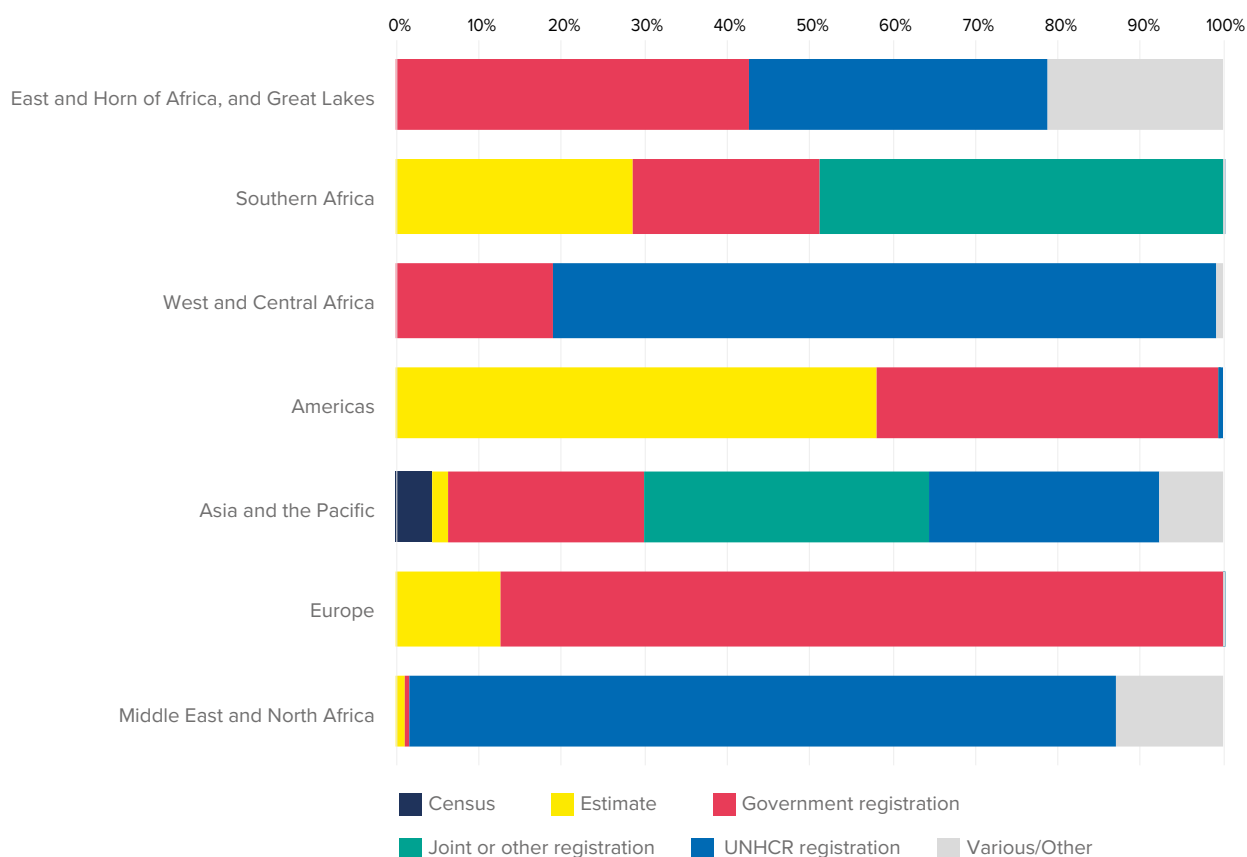
Persons with a refugee background includes naturalized former refugees, family members of refugees such as children born to refugees who acquired or are entitled to citizenship of the country of asylum, and reunified family members from abroad who are important groups but not considered as in need of international protection. They are, however, often of relevance to UNHCR. These groups are not counted among the figures on forcibly displaced persons.

Persons returned from abroad after seeking international protection, often called returnees, comprise repatriating refugees, repatriating asylum-seekers whose asylum application has been rejected, and other groups who sought or received forms of international protection and returned to their former country of habitual residence.

FIGURE 31 shows the percentage of refugees by data collection method used in each UNHCR region. UNHCR registration refers to refugees

who have been registered by the organization. Surveys, census data and other estimates are mostly obtained from governments and in few cases from NGOs. Government registration refers to data from administrative registers maintained by governments. The type of method used to obtain population data on refugees varies significantly across the regions. While registration data is used for the majority of refugees for which data was compiled in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, estimation methods using government data play a bigger role for refugee statistics in the Americas and the Southern Africa region. Combining UNHCR and government registration highlights the importance of establishing proper registration procedures not only for refugee statistics but more importantly for protecting and assisting refugees. This underscores the importance of ongoing coordination, cooperation and capacity building between UNHCR, national statistical offices and other relevant government agencies.

Figure 31 | **Data collection/compilation method for refugees, by UNHCR region** | end-2019



## Internally displaced persons

IDPs are people who have been forced to leave or abandon their homes, and have not crossed an internationally recognized border. People flee within their own countries to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural- and human-made disasters. UNHCR compiles data only on conflict-generated IDPs to whom the organization extends protection and/or assistance. As such, UNHCR statistics do not provide a complete overview of global internal displacement. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) maintains a database on IDPs displaced due to violence and conflict, as well as due to disasters, providing a more comprehensive picture of global internal displacement. For the purpose of analysing global forced displacement, figures quoted in this report match the numbers on IDPs displaced by conflict or violence as reported in IDMC's Global Report on Forced Displacement 2020.<sup>79</sup> Data on IDPs comes from a wide range of methods and data compilers from NGOs to government offices, with methods including among others displacement tracking, household surveys, censuses and profiling exercises.

## Stateless persons

UNHCR compiles figures on persons under its statelessness mandate for two population groups. The first are persons who meet the statelessness definition in the 1954 Convention because they are not considered as nationals of any State. The second group are persons with undetermined nationality, a population group for which UNHCR collects data in response to

Executive Committee Conclusion No. 106 from 2006.<sup>80</sup> While a formal definition of a person with undetermined nationality does not exist, UNHCR uses the working definition of a person who lacks proof of possession of any nationality and who at the same time has or is perceived as having important links to more than one State. Persons with undetermined nationality have in many cases a migratory history that leads to an unresolved nationality status. UNHCR previously also reported on de facto stateless populations but discontinued doing so in mid-2019 based on an assessment that de facto statelessness was often incorrectly used to refer to people who meet the statelessness definition in the 1954 Convention and who should therefore be reported as such. Over the past decade, these concepts and definitions have sometimes been applied inconsistently by UNHCR country operations for the annual statistical reporting process.<sup>81</sup> It is therefore challenging to compare statelessness figures across different countries or even to compare figures in the same country for different years.

To identify stateless persons and develop reliable methods for statelessness estimation, it is important to recognize the different causes of statelessness. Nationality laws that are inconsistent with international standards and state succession are responsible for a significant proportion of today's known global stateless population. Migration, nomadism and forced displacement are additional potential causes of statelessness. Data on stateless persons is collected and compiled using a wide variety of methods including demographic and statistical estimates derived from survey and census data, administrative registers and data from statelessness determination procedures.

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2020/>

<sup>80</sup> UNHCR Executive Committee 56th session, Conclusion on Identification, Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons No. 106 (LVII) – 2006, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/excom/exconc/453497302/conclusion-identification-prevention-reduction-statelessness-protection.html>

<sup>81</sup> See technical paper "UNHCR Statistical Reporting on Statelessness" for details. <https://www.unhcr.org/statistics/unhcrstats/5d9e182e7/unhcr-statistical-reporting-statelessness.html>





SUDAN. Returnees unable to return to their villages are stranded in an IDP camp.

*"I saw [returning home] as a new beginning, but when we arrived in Sudan I was informed by neighbours in my village that my land was occupied by other people," explains Rawday.*

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**TABLE 1 | Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, others of concern to UNHCR and Venezuelans displaced abroad, by country/territory of asylum | end-2019**

All data are provisional and subject to change.

Data is available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>

A dash ("-") indicates that the value is zero, not available or not applicable.

Country/territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</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								
Afghanistan	72,228	-	72,228	251	8,402	2,553,390	-	-	447,093	-	3,081,364
Albania <sup>11</sup>	128	-	128	3	-	-	-	3,687	155	-	3,973
Algeria <sup>12</sup>	98,604	-	98,604	1,666	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,270
Angola	25,802	-	25,802	30,192	-	-	-	-	62	-	56,056
Anguilla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11
Antigua and Barbuda	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Argentina	3,881	-	3,881	8,044	-	-	-	-	443	173,343	185,711
Armenia	3,412	14,573	17,985	173	-	-	-	961	-	-	19,119
Aruba	-	-	-	406	-	-	-	-	-	16,602	17,008
Australia <sup>13</sup>	76,764	-	76,764	77,365	-	-	-	-	-	-	154,129
Austria	135,955	-	135,955	26,725	-	-	-	1,132	-	-	163,812
Azerbaijan	1,108	-	1,108	180	-	652,326	-	3,585	-	-	657,199
Bahamas	12	-	12	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Bahrain	255	-	255	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	312
Bangladesh <sup>14</sup>	854,782	-	854,782	38	-	-	-	854,704	-	-	854,820
Barbados	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Belarus	2,734	-	2,734	143	-	-	-	6,466	-	-	9,343
Belgium	61,677	-	61,677	10,893	-	-	-	10,933	-	-	83,503
Belize	28	-	28	2,151	-	-	-	-	3,390	-	5,569
Benin	1,244	-	1,244	380	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,624
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	878	-	878	244	-	-	-	-	-	5,472	6,594
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5,248	-	5,248	726	-	96,421	-	75	53,725	-	156,195
Botswana	1,115	-	1,115	153	-	-	-	-	7	-	1,275
Brazil	32,860	-	32,860	207,309	-	-	-	7	-	123,507	363,683
British Virgin Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,863	-	-	20,863
Bulgaria	20,451	-	20,451	1,070	-	-	-	116	-	-	21,637
Burkina Faso	25,868	-	25,868	34	-	560,033	-	-	-	-	585,935
Burundi	78,473	-	78,473	9,003	21,181	33,256	-	974	1,904	-	144,791
Cabo Verde	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	-	-	115
Cambodia	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	57,444	-	-	57,471
Cameroon	406,260	-	406,260	9,948	1	950,263	347,923	-	20	-	1,714,415
Canada	101,760	-	101,760	97,012	-	-	-	3,790	-	-	202,562
Cayman Islands	36	-	36	13	-	-	-	-	-	52	101
Central African Rep.	7,175	-	7,175	311	46,523	669,906	90,672	-	-	-	814,587
Chad	442,672	-	442,672	3,759	308	170,278	-	-	122,359	-	739,376
Chile	2,053	-	2,053	8,545	-	-	-	-	2,073	452,712	465,383
China, Hong Kong SAR	130	-	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130
China, Macao SAR	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
China <sup>15</sup>	303,381	-	303,381	660	-	-	-	-	-	-	304,041
Colombia <sup>16</sup>	646	-	646	9,119	31	7,976,412	-	11	400,000	1,771,237	10,157,456

Country/territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</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								
Congo, Republic of	25,670	-	25,670	14,416	4	134,430	5,312	-	11,773	-	191,605
Costa Rica	6,217	-	6,217	87,190	-	-	-	231	69	20,828	114,535
Côte d'Ivoire <sup>17</sup>	2,021	-	2,021	169	3,252	-	-	955,399	69	-	960,910
Croatia	916	-	916	467	13	-	-	2,886	4,030	-	8,312
Cuba	237	-	237	33	-	-	-	-	3	-	273
Curaçao	47	-	47	348	-	-	-	-	-	16,190	16,585
Cyprus	12,325	-	12,325	18,843	-	-	-	-	4,000	-	35,168
Czechia	2,058	-	2,058	1,657	-	-	-	1,394	413	-	5,522
Dem. Rep. of the Congo <sup>18</sup>	523,734	-	523,734	3,197	23,861	5,014,253	2,134,349	-	-	-	7,699,394
Denmark	37,540	-	37,540	1,452	-	-	-	8,672	-	-	47,664
Djibouti	19,641	-	19,641	11,153	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,794
Dominican Rep. <sup>19</sup>	171	-	171	562	-	-	-	-	-	33,816	34,549
Ecuador	54,624	49,950	104,574	25,025	-	-	-	-	-	374,045	503,644
Egypt	258,401	-	258,401	66,335	-	-	-	4	-	-	324,740
El Salvador	52	-	52	33	-	71,500	-	-	6,800	-	78,385
Eritrea	199	-	199	-	434	-	-	-	17	-	650
Estonia <sup>20</sup>	334	-	334	39	-	-	-	75,599	-	-	75,972
Eswatini	945	-	945	976	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,921
Ethiopia	733,125	-	733,125	1,687	144	1,733,628	1,303,736	-	392	-	3,772,712
Fiji	13	-	13	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Finland	23,473	-	23,473	8,335	-	-	-	2,801	-	-	34,609
France	407,923	-	407,923	102,157	-	-	-	1,521	-	-	511,601
Gabon	459	-	459	78	-	-	-	-	-	-	537
Gambia	4,308	-	4,308	209	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,517
Georgia	1,360	-	1,360	1,126	-	286,216	-	559	593	-	289,854
Germany	1,146,685	-	1,146,685	309,262	-	-	-	14,947	-	-	1,470,894
Ghana	11,948	-	11,948	1,515	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,463
Greece	68,219	12,249	80,468	105,698	-	-	-	4,734	-	-	190,900
Grenada	3	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Guatemala	416	-	416	632	-	-	-	-	110,600	-	111,648
Guinea	4,965	-	4,965	1,991	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,956
Guinea-Bissau	1,852	-	1,852	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,888
Guyana	17	-	17	62	-	-	-	-	1	22,000	22,080
Haiti	2	-	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Honduras	76	-	76	110	-	247,090	-	-	6,000	-	253,276
Hungary	5,772	-	5,772	234	-	-	-	76	-	-	6,082
Iceland	916	-	916	407	-	-	-	48	-	-	1,371
India <sup>21</sup>	195,105	-	195,105	12,229	-	-	-	17,730	-	-	207,334
Indonesia <sup>22</sup>	10,295	-	10,295	3,362	-	-	-	582	-	-	13,657
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	979,435	-	979,435	33	4	-	-	-	-	-	979,472
Iraq <sup>23</sup>	273,992	-	273,992	12,938	101	1,414,632	431,130	47,253	16	-	2,180,062
Ireland	7,800	-	7,800	7,880	-	-	-	99	-	-	15,779
Israel	1,789	14,332	16,121	38,490	-	-	-	42	-	-	54,653
Italy	207,619	-	207,619	47,046	-	-	-	15,822	-	-	270,487
Jamaica	1	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	121	126
Japan <sup>24</sup>	1,465	-	1,465	29,123	-	-	-	687	-	-	31,275
Jordan <sup>25</sup>	693,684	-	693,684	51,305	-	-	-	-	2,127	-	747,116
Kazakhstan	524	-	524	218	-	-	-	8,386	-	-	9,128
Kenya	438,901	-	438,901	50,846	-	-	-	18,500	-	-	508,247

Country/territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</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								
Kuwait	692	-	692	1,073	-	-	-	92,020	-	-	93,785
Kyrgyzstan <sup>26</sup>	353	-	353	164	-	-	-	58	-	-	575
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Latvia <sup>27</sup>	672	-	672	52	-	-	-	216,851	-	-	217,575
Lebanon	916,156	-	916,156	12,123	-	-	-	-	7,885	-	936,164
Lesotho	147	-	147	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	226
Liberia	8,238	-	8,238	16	6	-	-	-	-	-	8,260
Libya	4,739	-	4,739	40,719	-	355,672	4,369	-	-	-	405,499
Liechtenstein	132	-	132	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	162
Lithuania	1,826	-	1,826	424	-	-	-	2,904	-	-	5,154
Luxembourg	2,572	-	2,572	1,785	-	-	-	83	-	-	4,440
Madagascar	116	-	116	133	-	-	-	-	-	-	249
Malawi	14,086	-	14,086	30,299	-	-	-	-	237	-	44,622
Malaysia <sup>28</sup>	127,940	1,155	129,095	50,649	-	-	-	108,332	55,000	-	243,784
Mali	26,670	-	26,670	1,008	5,249	207,751	35,101	-	-	-	275,779
Malta	8,911	-	8,911	3,690	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,601
Mauritania	58,909	26,000	84,909	1,549	-	-	-	-	-	-	86,458
Mauritius	20	-	20	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Mexico	28,533	-	28,533	69,470	-	-	-	13	140,710	52,982	291,708
Monaco	22	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Mongolia	6	-	6	4	-	-	-	17	10	-	37
Montenegro	662	-	662	489	-	-	-	142	12,275	-	13,568
Morocco	6,656	-	6,656	3,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,756
Mozambique	4,708	-	4,708	20,983	-	180,516	-	-	-	-	206,207
Myanmar <sup>29</sup>	-	-	-	-	879	312,018	1,641	600,000	-	-	773,652
Namibia	3,188	-	3,188	1,909	14	-	-	-	9	-	5,120
Nauru	763	-	763	416	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,179
Nepal <sup>30</sup>	19,574	-	19,574	60	-	-	-	-	534	-	20,168
Netherlands	94,430	-	94,430	15,622	-	-	-	1,951	-	-	112,003
New Zealand	2,747	-	2,747	579	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,326
Nicaragua	327	-	327	131	-	-	-	-	514	1	973
Niger	180,006	-	180,006	37,919	-	191,902	-	-	32,072	-	441,899
Nigeria	54,166	-	54,166	1,033	134	2,195,779	18,356	-	-	-	2,269,468
North Macedonia	208	145	353	80	-	-	-	567	-	-	1,000
Norway	53,888	-	53,888	1,538	-	-	-	2,272	-	-	57,698
Oman	307	-	307	256	-	-	-	-	-	-	563
Pakistan	1419,606	-	1,419,606	8,541	7	100,680	18	-	-	-	1,528,852
Panama	2,557	-	2,557	17,682	-	-	-	-	-	115,768	136,007
Papua New Guinea	9,707	-	9,707	133	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,840
Paraguay	1,016	-	1,016	694	-	-	-	-	-	3,588	5,298
Peru	2,879	-	2,879	487,078	-	-	-	-	-	377,864	867,821
Philippines <sup>31</sup>	690	-	690	333	-	178,897	115,106	383	129,734	-	425,143
Poland	12,673	-	12,673	4,791	-	-	-	1,328	-	-	18,792
Portugal	2,387	-	2,387	1,079	-	-	-	14	-	-	3,480
Qatar	203	-	203	100	-	-	-	1,200	-	-	1,503
Rep. of Korea	3,215	-	3,215	25,577	-	-	-	197	-	-	28,989
Rep. of Moldova	423	-	423	107	-	-	-	3,500	-	-	4,030
Romania	3,882	-	3,882	922	-	-	-	192	-	-	4,996
Russian Federation	42,433	-	42,433	1,462	5	-	-	68,209	-	-	112,109
Rwanda	145,057	-	145,057	495	2,149	-	-	-	5,324	-	153,025
Saint Kitts and Nevis	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4



Country/territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</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								
Saint Lucia	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	38
Samoa	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Saudi Arabia <sup>32</sup>	320	-	320	2,331	-	-	-	70,000	-	-	72,651
Senegal	14,469	-	14,469	1,804	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,273
Serbia and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)	26,433	-	26,433	282	39	214,696	165	1,951	5,833	-	249,399
Sierra Leone	443	-	443	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	443
Singapore	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1,303	1	-	1,306
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	6	-	6	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
Slovakia	977	-	977	10	-	-	-	1,523	-	-	2,510
Slovenia	751	-	751	329	-	-	-	4	-	-	1,084
Solomon Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	17,883	-	17,883	17,789	6,243	2,648,000	22,555	-	152	-	2,712,622
South Africa <sup>33</sup>	89,285	-	89,285	188,296	-	-	-	-	-	-	277,581
South Sudan	298,313	-	298,313	3,682	99,817	1,665,815	276,463	-	10,000	-	2,354,090
Spain	57,761	-	57,761	133,030	-	-	-	4,246	-	-	195,037
Sri Lanka	1,045	-	1,045	361	1,068	25,110	10,363	-	-	-	37,947
Sudan	1,055,489	-	1,055,489	15,545	2,191	1,885,782	-	-	3,694	-	2,962,701
Suriname	52	-	52	1,429	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,481
Sweden	253,794	-	253,794	28,075	-	-	-	30,305	-	-	312,174
Switzerland	110,168	-	110,168	11,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	121,368
Syrian Arab Rep. <sup>34</sup>	16,213	-	16,213	12,069	94,977	6,146,994	477,360	160,000	30,971	-	6,938,584
Tajikistan	3,791	-	3,791	1,413	-	-	-	7,151	-	-	12,355
Thailand <sup>35</sup>	50,067	47,504	97,571	847	-	-	-	475,009	119	-	573,425
Timor-Leste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Togo	11,968	-	11,968	696	30	-	-	-	-	-	12,694
Tonga	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Trinidad and Tobago	2,321	-	2,321	17,367	-	-	-	-	200	7,664	27,552
Tunisia	1,746	-	1,746	1,523	-	-	-	-	17	-	3,286
Turkey <sup>36</sup>	3,579,531	-	3,579,531	328,257	-	-	-	1	-	-	3,907,789
Turkmenistan <sup>37</sup>	22	-	22	-	-	-	-	3,688	-	-	3,710
Turks and Caicos Islands	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Uganda	1,359,464	-	1,359,464	21,658	3	-	-	-	2,304,506	-	3,685,631
Ukraine <sup>38</sup>	2,172	-	2,172	2,430	1	734,000	-	35,642	1,680,000	-	2,454,245
United Arab Emirates	1,247	-	1,247	7,270	-	-	-	-	136	-	8,653
United Kingdom	133,094	-	133,094	61,968	-	-	-	161	-	-	195,223
United Rep. of Tanzania	242,171	-	242,171	29,558	-	-	-	-	23,866	-	295,595
United States of America	341,711	-	341,711	847,601	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,189,312
Uruguay	516	-	516	13,750	-	-	-	-	2	14,362	28,630
Uzbekistan <sup>39</sup>	14	-	14	-	1	-	-	97,346	-	-	97,361
Vanuatu	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	8,945	58,810	67,755	49	-	-	-	-	494,503	-	562,307
Viet Nam	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	30,581	-	-	30,582
Yemen	268,511	-	268,511	10,682	3	3,625,716	69,174	-	14	-	3,974,100
Zambia	57,521	-	57,521	5,075	-	-	-	-	23,275	-	85,871
Zimbabwe <sup>40</sup>	8,959	-	8,959	11,533	132	270,000	-	-	959	-	291,583
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,221,181</b>	<b>224,718</b>	<b>20,445,899</b>	<b>4,149,853</b>	<b>317,207</b>	<b>43,503,362</b>	<b>5,343,793</b>	<b>4,161,979</b>	<b>6,140,688</b>	<b>3,582,203</b>	<b>86,531,669</b>

Country/territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</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								
<b>UNHCR Bureaus</b>											
- West and Central Africa	1,204,732	-	1,204,732	60,906	55,503	4,945,912	492,052	955,514	154,520	-	7,869,139
- East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes	4,388,716	-	4,388,716	161,416	132,162	7,966,481	1,602,754	19,474	2,349,855	-	16,620,858
- Southern Africa	755,296	-	755,296	307,248	24,011	5,599,199	2,139,661	-	36,322	-	8,861,737
Total Africa	6,348,744	-	6,348,744	529,570	211,676	18,511,592	4,234,467	974,988	2,540,697	-	33,351,734
Americas	592,892	108,760	701,652	1,902,133	31	8,295,002	-	4,052	1,165,309	3,582,203	15,650,382
Asia and the Pacific	4,133,666	48,659	4,182,325	212,396	10,361	3,170,095	127,128	2,284,461	632,492	-	9,505,943
Europe	6,543,455	26,967	6,570,422	1,242,168	58	1,983,659	165	527,959	1,761,024	-	12,085,455
Middle East and North Africa	2,602,424	40,332	2,642,756	263,586	95,081	11,543,014	982,033	370,519	41,166	-	15,938,155
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,221,181</b>	<b>224,718</b>	<b>20,445,899</b>	<b>4,149,853</b>	<b>317,207</b>	<b>43,503,362</b>	<b>5,343,793</b>	<b>4,161,979</b>	<b>6,140,688</b>	<b>3,582,203</b>	<b>86,531,669</b>
<b>UN major regions</b>											
Africa	6,777,799	26,000	6,803,799	644,462	211,676	18,867,264	4,238,836	974,992	2,540,714	-	34,281,743
Asia	9,814,777	77,564	9,892,341	631,166	105,442	15,295,979	1,104,792	2,660,082	678,233	-	29,254,720
Europe	2,945,719	12,394	2,958,113	893,589	58	1,045,117	165	522,853	1,756,431	-	7,176,326
Latin America	146,741	108,760	255,501	937,289	31	8,295,002	-	262	1,165,107	3,485,709	14,138,901
North America and the Caribbean	446,151	-	446,151	964,844	-	-	-	3,790	202	96,494	1,511,481
Oceania	89,994	-	89,994	78,503	-	-	-	-	1	-	168,498
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,221,181</b>	<b>224,718</b>	<b>20,445,899</b>	<b>4,149,853</b>	<b>317,207</b>	<b>43,503,362</b>	<b>5,343,793</b>	<b>4,161,979</b>	<b>6,140,688</b>	<b>3,582,203</b>	<b>86,531,669</b>

## NOTES

The data are generally provided by governments, based on their own definitions and methods of data collection.

- 1 Country or territory of asylum or residence.
- 2 Refugees include individuals recognized under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the refugee definition contained in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees as incorporated into national laws, those recognized in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, individuals granted complementary forms of protection, and those enjoying temporary protection. In the absence of Government figures, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population in many industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual asylum-seeker recognition.
- 3 This category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of people 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 Asylum-seekers (with pending cases) are individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not yet been determined. Those covered in this table refer to claimants whose individual applications were pending at the end of 2019, irrespective of when those claims may have been lodged.
- 5 Refugees who have returned to their place of origin during 2019. Source: country of origin and asylum.
- 6 IDPs are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or 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 internationally recognized State border. For the purposes of UNHCR's statistics, this population includes only conflict-generated IDPs to whom the Office extends protection and/or assistance.
- 7 IDPs of concern to UNHCR who have returned to their place of origin during 2019.

- 8 Refers to persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. This category refers to persons who fall under the agency's statelessness mandate because they are stateless according to this international definition, but data from some countries may also include persons with undetermined nationality. The figure reported includes stateless persons who are also refugees or asylum-seekers from Myanmar, IDPs in Myanmar, or others of concern to UNHCR. UNHCR's statistical reporting generally follows a methodology that reports on one legal status for each person of concern only. However, due to the extraordinary size of the displaced stateless population from Myanmar, UNHCR considers it important to reflect the dual status that this population group possesses, pending a review of UNHCR reporting on statelessness. See Annex Table 5 at <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/2019GTannextableSTA.xls> for detailed notes.
- 9 Refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of these groups above but to whom UNHCR has extended its protection and/or assistance services, based on humanitarian or other special grounds.
- 10 Venezuelans displaced abroad refers to persons of Venezuelan origin who are likely to be in need of international protection under the criteria contained in the Cartagena Declaration, but who have not applied for asylum in the country in which they are present. Regardless of status, Venezuelans displaced abroad require protection against forced returns, and access to basic services. UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration work together with this population by leading the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform, which is aimed at strengthening the protection dimensions and consistent responses across the region in line with human rights standards.
- 11 The statelessness figure refers to a census from 2011 and has been adjusted to reflect the number of persons with undetermined nationality who had their nationality confirmed in 2011-2019.
- 12 According to the Government of Algeria, there are an estimated 165,000 Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps. Statistical data relating to refugees are entirely for humanitarian purposes. The total number of persons in need of humanitarian assistance services is estimated to be far higher than this figure.
- 13 The methodology for estimating the number of refugees in Australia is under review and subject to adjustment in future reports. The asylum-seeker figure is based on the number of applications lodged for protection visas.

- 14 The figure reported includes 854,704 stateless persons of Rohingya ethnicity who are also counted as refugees from Myanmar, mainly from Rakhine State. UNHCR's statistical reporting generally follows a methodology that reports only one legal status for each person of concern. However, due to the size of the stateless Rohingya population displaced from Myanmar, UNHCR considers it important to reflect the dual status of this population group as both displaced and stateless. This approach has been used for Bangladesh since 2017.
- 15 The 303,100 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.
- 16 The figure of Others of concern has been provided by the Government of Colombia. With regard to the statelessness figures, in 2019, Colombia granted nationality by birth to 28,500 children with undetermined nationality born in Colombia to Venezuelan parents displaced abroad. As these children were both identified as persons with undetermined nationality and granted Colombian nationality in 2019, there was no impact on the figures reported.
- 17 The new statelessness figure is based on a 2019 mapping study jointly conducted by the Government and UNHCR.
- 18 The figure of IDP returns was released by the "Commissions de mouvements de population" and covers the period from April 2018 to September 2019.
- 19 UNHCR is currently working with the authorities and other actors to determine the size of the population that found an effective nationality solution under Law 169-14. Since the adoption of Law 169-14 in May 2014, important steps have been taken by the Dominican Republic to confirm Dominican nationality through the validation of birth certificates of individuals born in the country to two migrant parents before 2007. According to information shared by the Dominican delegation during the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness, approximately 48 per cent of the total Group A population of 61,049 persons had been authorized by the National Electoral Board (JCE) to request their nationality documentation. Additionally, as of December 2019, over 1,700 Group B persons (900 of which were children) had submitted applications for naturalization to the Ministry of Interior and of the Police (MIP). However, no naturalization decisions concerning this population have been issued to date.
- 20 Almost all people recorded as being stateless have permanent residence and enjoy more rights than foreseen in the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.
- 21 The total statelessness figure reported relates to 17,730 stateless persons of Rohingya ethnicity who are also counted as refugees or asylum-seekers from Myanmar, mainly from Rakhine State. UNHCR's statistical reporting generally follows a methodology that reports only one legal status for each person of concern. However, due to the size of the stateless Rohingya population displaced from Myanmar, UNHCR considers it important to reflect the dual status of this population group as both displaced and stateless. This approach is being used for India for the first time in 2019.
- 22 The total statelessness figure reported relates to 582 stateless persons of Rohingya ethnicity who are also counted as refugees or asylum-seekers from Myanmar, mainly from Rakhine State. UNHCR's statistical reporting generally follows a methodology that reports only one legal status for each person of concern. However, due to the size of the stateless Rohingya population displaced from Myanmar, UNHCR considers it important to reflect the dual status of this population group as both displaced and stateless. This approach is being used for Indonesia for the first time in 2019. There are also indications that a potentially sizable population of non-displaced stateless persons exists for whom no data is available.
- 23 Pending a more accurate study into statelessness in Iraq, the figure is an estimate based on various sources.
- 24 Figures are UNHCR estimates.
- 25 The refugee population in Jordan includes 34,300 Iraqis registered with UNHCR. The Government of Jordan estimated the number of Iraqis at 400,000 individuals at the end of March 2015. This includes refugees and other categories of Iraqis.
- 26 All 58 persons were in the final stages of naturalization or citizenship confirmation formalities.
- 27 With respect to persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate, this figure includes persons of concern covered by two separate Latvian laws. 169 persons fall under the Republic of Latvia's Law on Stateless Persons of 17 February 2004. 216,682 of the persons fall under Latvia's 25 April 1995 Law on the Status of those Former USSR Citizens who are not Citizens of Latvia or Any Other State ("Non-citizens"). In the specific context of Latvia, the "Non-citizens" enjoy the right to reside in Latvia ex lege and a set of rights and obligations generally beyond the rights prescribed by the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, including protection from removal, and as such the "Non-citizens" may currently be considered persons to whom the Convention does not apply in accordance with Article 1.2(ii).
- 28 The total stateless population in Malaysia includes 9,040 non-displaced stateless persons who may be entitled to Malaysian nationality under the law. This number of non-displaced stateless persons is based on a registration and community legal assistance programme undertaken in West Malaysia by a local NGO with technical support from UNHCR, and, among those registered, 930 persons acquired Malaysian nationality in 2019.
- 29 The estimated figure of persons of concern under the statelessness mandate relates to stateless persons of Rohingya ethnicity in Rakhine State and also includes stateless IDPs in Myanmar. The number of persons of undetermined nationality residing in other states or regions in Myanmar is not currently available. The number of stateless persons remaining in Rakhine State following violence in 2016 and 2017 and large scale departures to Bangladesh is based on detailed estimates for each village tract made by UNHCR, other UN agencies and NGOs in early 2018, which concluded that between 532,000 to 600,000 Rohingya remained in Rakhine State (including an estimated 140,886 of those Rohingya who have been internally displaced). For the purposes of this report, the higher range of this estimate has been used.
- 30 Various studies estimate that a large number of individuals lack citizenship certificates in Nepal. While these individuals are not all necessarily stateless, UNHCR has been working closely with the Government of Nepal and partners to address this situation.
- 31 The updated figure is based on improved information concerning persons of Indonesian descent who have acquired nationality.
- 32 UNHCR is verifying the number of stateless persons with the Government of Saudi Arabia.
- 33 The total number of refugees is 78,398 at the end of 2019. The numbers in Annex 1 and 2 refer to end-2018, as validated disaggregated country of origin data for 2019 was not available at time of publication.
- 34 According to some reports many stateless persons have been naturalized since 2011, but no official figures are yet confirmed.
- 35 The total statelessness figure includes 474,888 non-displaced stateless persons reported by the Royal Thai Government and registered with the national civil registration system as of December 2019. This figure includes 119 stateless persons of Rohingya ethnicity from Myanmar who are also counted as others of concern to UNHCR. UNHCR's statistical reporting generally follows a methodology that reports only one status for each person of concern. However, due to the size of the stateless Rohingya population displaced from Myanmar, UNHCR considers it important to reflect the dual status of this population group as others of concern to UNHCR and stateless. This approach is being used for Thailand for the first time in 2019.
- 36 Refugee figure is a Government estimate.
- 37 In the absence of official data, the figure reported refers to stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality identified by UNHCR partner organizations in Turkmenistan. The decrease in the reporting figure is due to naturalization in Turkmenistan and confirmation of nationality by a third country.
- 38 The IDP figure has been aligned to the inter-agency methodology as defined in the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Figure of others of concern relates to persons who have specific protection needs and live in non-government-controlled areas or within 20 km of the contact line in government-controlled areas.
- 39 The statelessness figure refers to stateless persons with permanent residence reported by the Government of Uzbekistan in December 2019 under the XII Report on compliance of Uzbekistan with CERD. Information on other categories of statelessness is unavailable.
- 40 A study is being pursued to provide a revised estimate of the statelessness figure.



**TABLE 2 | Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, others of concern to UNHCR and Venezuelans displaced abroad, by origin | end-2019**

All data are provisional and subject to change.

Data is available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>

A dash ("-") indicates that the value is zero, not available or not applicable.

Origin <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</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								
Afghanistan	2,721,475	7,383	2,728,858	251,042	8,402	2,553,390	-	-	450,675	-	5,992,367
Albania	15,034	-	15,034	19,007	-	-	-	-	1	-	34,042
Algeria	4,539	1	4,540	7,494	-	-	-	-	104	-	12,138
Andorra	3	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Angola	8,190	-	8,190	10,783	-	-	-	-	18,242	-	37,215
Antigua and Barbuda	119	-	119	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	182
Argentina	107	-	107	934	-	-	-	-	3	-	1,044
Armenia	10,967	-	10,967	11,107	-	-	-	-	4	-	22,078
Aruba	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Australia	15	3	18	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	76
Austria	20	-	20	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Azerbaijan	11,053	573	11,626	8,239	-	652,326	-	-	1	-	672,192
Bahamas	498	-	498	519	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,017
Bahrain	560	-	560	151	-	-	-	-	1	-	712
Bangladesh	22,871	24	22,895	34,535	-	-	-	-	503	-	57,933
Barbados	246	-	246	117	-	-	-	-	-	-	363
Belarus	3,434	-	3,434	4,029	-	-	-	-	2	-	7,465
Belgium	37	-	37	106	-	-	-	-	-	-	143
Belize	73	-	73	278	-	-	-	-	-	-	351
Benin	722	-	722	1,181	-	-	-	-	6	-	1,909
Bhutan	6,989	-	6,989	414	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,403
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	522	-	522	1,246	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,768
Bosnia and Herzegovina	16,559	-	16,559	1,484	-	96,421	-	-	48,907	-	163,371
Botswana	232	-	232	132	-	-	-	-	-	-	364
Brazil	1,402	-	1,402	12,054	-	-	-	-	1	-	13,457
Brunei Darussalam	5	-	5	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Bulgaria	567	-	567	351	-	-	-	-	4	-	922
Burkina Faso	11,742	-	11,742	4,967	-	560,033	-	-	2,190	-	578,932
Burundi	381,515	-	381,515	46,008	21,181	33,256	-	-	17,606	-	499,566
Cabo Verde	13	-	13	246	-	-	-	-	-	-	259
Cambodia	11,931	56	11,987	844	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,831
Cameroon	66,301	-	66,301	19,904	1	950,263	347,923	-	9	-	1,384,401
Canada	73	-	73	102	-	-	-	-	3	-	178
Cayman Islands	8	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Central African Rep.	610,215	-	610,215	15,955	46,523	669,906	90,672	-	1,571	-	1,434,842
Chad	11,202	-	11,202	5,354	308	170,278	-	-	122,368	-	309,510
Chile	493	-	493	1,249	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,742
China	212,885	-	212,885	104,169	-	-	-	-	-	-	317,054
China, Hong Kong SAR	8	-	8	228	-	-	-	-	-	-	236
China, Macao SAR	1	-	1	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Colombia <sup>11</sup>	80,694	108,760	189,454	75,550	31	7,976,412	-	-	400,001	-	8,641,448
Comoros	656	-	656	1,451	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,107
Congo, Republic of	13,479	-	13,479	3,128	4	134,430	5,312	-	38	-	156,391
Costa Rica	210	-	210	746	-	-	-	-	-	-	956
Côte d'Ivoire	39,375	-	39,375	19,716	3,252	-	-	-	34	-	62,377
Croatia	23,799	-	23,799	72	13	-	-	-	3,754	-	27,638
Cuba	6,638	-	6,638	55,942	-	-	-	-	1	-	62,581
Curaçao	35	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Cyprus	4	-	4	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Czechia	1,168	-	1,168	183	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,351

Origin <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</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								
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	762	-	762	124	-	-	-	-	-	-	886
Dem. Rep. of the Congo <sup>12</sup>	807,170	210	807,380	109,393	23,861	5,014,253	2,134,349	-	13,130	-	8,102,366
Denmark	8	-	8	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Djibouti	2,353	-	2,353	850	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,203
Dominica	51	-	51	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	135
Dominican Rep.	548	-	548	4,033	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,581
Ecuador	1,662	-	1,662	19,349	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,011
Egypt	27,519	-	27,519	16,371	-	-	-	-	351	-	44,241
El Salvador	41,850	-	41,850	136,292	-	71,500	-	-	33,192	-	282,834
Equatorial Guinea	165	-	165	185	-	-	-	-	-	-	350
Eritrea	493,119	12,015	505,134	71,083	434	-	-	-	134	-	576,785
Estonia	270	-	270	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	316
Eswatini	216	-	216	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
Ethiopia	95,688	-	95,688	84,000	144	1,733,628	1,303,736	-	3,877	-	3,221,073
Fiji	593	-	593	2,343	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,936
Finland	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
France	50	-	50	274	-	-	-	-	-	-	324
French Guiana	1	-	1	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Gabon	442	-	442	901	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,343
Gambia	17,827	-	17,827	9,174	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,001
Georgia	7,515	-	7,515	19,733	-	286,216	-	-	-	-	313,464
Germany	73	-	73	207	-	-	-	-	-	-	280
Ghana	18,444	-	18,444	8,716	-	-	-	-	3	-	27,163
Gibraltar	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Greece	97	-	97	141	-	-	-	-	-	-	238
Grenada	81	-	81	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	167
Guadeloupe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guam	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Guatemala	22,774	-	22,774	119,536	-	-	-	-	47,835	-	190,145
Guinea	26,855	-	26,855	30,371	-	-	-	-	3	-	57,229
Guinea-Bissau	2,094	-	2,094	2,661	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,755
Guyana	288	-	288	682	-	-	-	-	1	-	971
Haiti	26,746	-	26,746	65,699	-	-	-	-	-	-	92,445
Holy See (the)	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Honduras	26,374	-	26,374	122,486	-	247,090	-	-	72,837	-	468,787
Hungary	4,004	-	4,004	675	-	-	-	-	4	-	4,683
Iceland	6	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
India	11,989	4	11,993	61,310	-	-	-	-	299	-	73,602
Indonesia	11,086	976	12,062	4,336	-	-	-	-	4	-	16,402
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	129,675	-	129,675	86,084	4	-	-	-	407	-	216,170
Iraq <sup>13</sup>	343,850	628	344,478	302,720	101	1,414,632	431,130	-	31,760	-	2,524,821
Ireland	4	-	4	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	95
Israel	463	-	463	714	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,177
Italy	76	-	76	438	-	-	-	-	-	-	514
Jamaica	2,540	-	2,540	1,806	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,346
Japan	44	-	44	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	162
Jordan	2,397	2	2,399	4,740	-	-	-	-	1,955	-	9,094
Kazakhstan	2,770	-	2,770	6,994	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,764
Kenya	8,023	-	8,023	6,871	-	-	-	-	6	-	14,900
Kiribati	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kuwait	1,307	-	1,307	1,414	-	-	-	-	6	-	2,727
Kyrgyzstan	2,969	-	2,969	2,590	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,559
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	6,753	-	6,753	395	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,148
Latvia	148	-	148	104	-	-	-	-	-	-	252
Lebanon	5,819	1	5,820	8,055	-	-	-	-	5,027	-	18,902
Lesotho	13	-	13	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
Liberia	5,399	-	5,399	2,913	6	-	-	-	35	-	8,353
Libya	16,041	-	16,041	6,004	-	355,672	4,369	-	43	-	382,129
Liechtenstein	2	-	2	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Lithuania	68	-	68	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	159

Origin <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</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								
Luxembourg	4	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Madagascar	301	-	301	266	-	-	-	-	-	-	567
Malawi	609	-	609	560	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,169
Malaysia	1,155	-	1,155	21,265	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,420
Maldives	76	-	76	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	91
Mali	164,480	-	164,480	8,468	5,249	207,751	35,101	-	6	-	421,055
Malta	4	-	4	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Marshall Islands	7	-	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Martinique	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mauritania	37,427	-	37,427	8,585	-	-	-	-	1	-	46,013
Mauritius	183	-	183	308	-	-	-	-	-	-	491
Mexico	14,623	-	14,623	101,670	-	-	-	-	-	-	116,293
Monaco	3	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
Mongolia	2,372	-	2,372	4,067	-	-	-	-	10	-	6,449
Montenegro	662	-	662	608	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,270
Morocco	4,647	5	4,652	8,328	-	-	-	-	259	-	13,239
Mozambique	80	-	80	8,323	-	180,516	-	-	-	-	188,919
Myanmar	1,030,767	47,508	1,078,275	37,474	879	312,018	1,641	-	119	-	1,430,287
Namibia	464	-	464	768	14	-	-	-	-	-	1,246
Nauru	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Nepal	8,194	6	8,200	9,795	-	-	-	-	345	-	18,340
Netherlands	58	-	58	106	-	-	-	-	-	-	164
New Zealand	37	-	37	25	-	-	-	-	1	-	63
Nicaragua	4,377	-	4,377	66,869	-	-	-	-	224	-	71,470
Niger	3,077	-	3,077	1,706	-	191,902	-	-	29,882	-	226,567
Nigeria	295,591	-	295,591	106,028	134	2,195,779	18,356	-	8	-	2,615,896
Niue	19	-	19	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
North Macedonia	1,793	-	1,793	2,528	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,321
Norway	9	-	9	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Oman	46	-	46	58	-	-	-	-	974	-	1,078
Pakistan	137,183	12	137,195	55,979	7	100,680	18	-	2,872	-	296,751
Palau	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Palestinian <sup>14</sup>	96,340	-	96,340	11,530	-	-	-	-	1,105	-	108,975
Panama	54	-	54	240	-	-	-	-	-	-	294
Papua New Guinea	478	-	478	554	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,032
Paraguay	87	-	87	642	-	-	-	-	-	-	729
Peru	2,767	-	2,767	8,672	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,439
Philippines	544	19	563	4,750	-	178,897	115,106	-	55,031	-	354,347
Poland	965	-	965	1,030	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,995
Portugal	22	-	22	342	-	-	-	-	-	-	364
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Qatar	36	-	36	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	77
Rep. of Korea	184	-	184	649	-	-	-	-	-	-	833
Rep. of Moldova	2,431	1	2,432	5,664	-	-	-	-	2	-	8,098
Romania	1,354	-	1,354	3,928	-	-	-	-	1	-	5,283
Russian Federation	62,346	-	62,346	48,304	5	-	-	-	3	-	110,658
Rwanda	246,710	-	246,710	14,646	2,149	-	-	-	15,566	-	279,071
Saint Kitts and Nevis	56	-	56	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	75
Saint Lucia	844	-	844	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	919
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	976	-	976	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,052
Saint Martin (French part)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Samoa	1	-	1	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	86
San Marino	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1



Origin <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</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								
Sao Tome and Principe	27	-	27	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
Saudi Arabia	1,767	-	1,767	1,425	-	-	-	-	26	-	3,218
Senegal	17,216	-	17,216	14,429	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,645
Serbia and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)	31,112	145	31,257	7,463	39	214,696	165	-	1	-	253,621
Seychelles	15	-	15	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Sierra Leone	5,269	-	5,269	7,285	-	-	-	-	1	-	12,555
Singapore	42	-	42	85	-	-	-	-	1	-	128
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Slovakia	1,346	-	1,346	236	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,582
Slovenia	23	-	23	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Solomon Islands	27	-	27	229	-	-	-	-	-	-	256
Somalia	904,659	463	905,122	48,039	6,243	2,648,000	22,555	-	160	-	3,630,119
South Africa	453	-	453	2,865	-	-	-	-	6	-	3,324
South Sudan	2,234,793	41	2,234,834	5,636	99,817	1,665,815	276,463	-	10,001	-	4,292,566
Spain	54	-	54	295	-	-	-	-	-	-	349
Sri Lanka	110,355	-	110,355	16,053	1,068	25,110	10,363	-	9	-	162,958
Sudan	732,844	2,100	734,944	71,982	2,191	1,885,782	-	-	16	-	2,694,915
Suriname	16	-	16	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	91
Sweden	14	-	14	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
Switzerland	7	-	7	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Syrian Arab Rep.	6,599,253	17,741	6,616,994	118,445	94,977	6,146,994	477,360	-	7,613	-	13,462,383
Tajikistan	1,997	-	1,997	2,676	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,673
Thailand	468	24	492	3,491	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,983
Tibetan	12,713	-	12,713	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,713
Timor-Leste	17	1	18	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Togo	8,033	-	8,033	3,378	30	-	-	-	-	-	11,441
Tonga	33	-	33	418	-	-	-	-	-	-	451
Trinidad and Tobago	307	-	307	409	-	-	-	-	200	-	916
Tunisia	2,070	-	2,070	2,674	-	-	-	-	16	-	4,760
Turkey	83,270	-	83,270	46,943	-	-	-	-	58	-	130,271
Turkmenistan	481	-	481	590	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,071
Turks and Caicos Islands	16	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Tuvalu	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Uganda	7,487	-	7,487	7,065	3	-	-	-	2,304,515	-	2,319,070
Ukraine <sup>15</sup>	59,850	-	59,850	28,008	1	734,000	-	-	1,680,260	-	2,502,119
United Arab Emirates	162	-	162	191	-	-	-	-	-	-	353
United Kingdom	64	6	70	235	-	-	-	-	3	-	308
United Rep. of Tanzania	865	-	865	1,408	-	-	-	-	47	-	2,320
United States of America <sup>16</sup>	308	7	315	2,941	-	-	-	-	13	-	3,269
Uruguay	24	-	24	320	-	-	-	-	1	-	345
Uzbekistan	3,228	-	3,228	5,011	1	-	-	-	2	-	8,242
Vanuatu	1	-	1	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	82
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	93,291	-	93,291	794,502	-	-	-	-	494,504	3,582,203	4,964,500
Viet Nam <sup>17</sup>	316,435	3	316,438	8,111	-	-	-	-	68	-	324,617
Western Sahara <sup>18</sup>	90,909	26,000	116,909	960	-	-	-	-	3	-	117,872
Yemen	36,527	-	36,527	34,331	3	3,625,716	69,174	-	45	-	3,765,796
Zambia	277	-	277	243	-	-	-	-	6	-	526
Zimbabwe	10,616	-	10,616	3,375	132	270,000	-	-	122	-	284,245
Stateless	68,787	-	68,787	7,262	-	-	-	4,161,979	-	-	3,124,832
Various/unknown	183,435	-	183,435	310,706	-	-	-	-	259,642	-	753,783
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,221,181</b>	<b>224,718</b>	<b>20,445,899</b>	<b>4149,853</b>	<b>317,207</b>	<b>43,503,362</b>	<b>5,343,793</b>	<b>4,161,979</b>	<b>6,140,688</b>	<b>3,582,203</b>	<b>86,531,669</b>

Origin <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</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								
<b>UNHCR Bureaus</b>											
- West and Central Africa	1,304,489	-	1,304,489	263,567	55,503	4,945,912	492,052	-	156,116	-	7,217,639
- East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes	5,108,056	14,619	5,122,675	357,588	132,162	7,966,481	1,602,754	-	2,351,928	-	17,533,588
- Southern Africa	842,954	210	843,164	141,712	24,011	5,599,199	2,139,661	-	31,544	-	8,779,291
Total Africa	7,255,499	14,829	7,270,328	762,867	211,676	18,511,592	4,234,467	-	2,539,588	-	33,530,518
Americas	331,781	108,767	440,548	1,595,392	31	8,295,002	-	-	1,048,817	3,582,203	14,961,993
Asia and the Pacific	4,769,641	56,019	4,825,660	727,089	10,361	3,170,095	127,128	-	510,346	-	9,370,560
Europe	340,359	725	341,084	212,306	58	1,983,659	165	-	1,733,006	-	4,270,278
Middle East and North Africa	7,271,679	44,378	7,316,057	534,231	95,081	11,543,014	982,033	-	49,289	-	20,519,705
Various/Stateless	252,222	-	252,222	317,968	-	-	-	4,161,979	259,642	-	3,878,615
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,221,181</b>	<b>224,718</b>	<b>20,445,899</b>	<b>4,149,853</b>	<b>317,207</b>	<b>43,503,362</b>	<b>5,343,793</b>	<b>4,161,979</b>	<b>6,140,688</b>	<b>3,582,203</b>	<b>86,531,669</b>
<b>UN major regions</b>											
Africa	7,438,651	40,835	7,479,486	813,283	211,676	18,867,264	4,238,836	-	2,540,365	-	34,150,910
Asia	11,969,760	74,961	12,044,721	1,293,145	105,442	15,295,979	1,104,792	-	558,920	-	30,402,880
Europe	227,550	152	227,702	126,248	58	1,045,117	165	-	1,732,943	-	3,132,233
Latin America	298,022	108,760	406,782	1,518,577	31	8,295,002	-	-	1,048,599	3,582,203	14,851,194
North America and the Caribbean	33,759	7	33,766	76,815	-	-	-	-	218	-	110,799
Oceania	1,217	3	1,220	3,817	-	-	-	-	1	-	5,038
Various/Stateless	252,222	-	252,222	317,968	-	-	-	4,161,979	259,642	-	3,878,615
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,221,181</b>	<b>224,718</b>	<b>20,445,899</b>	<b>4,149,853</b>	<b>317,207</b>	<b>43,503,362</b>	<b>5,343,793</b>	<b>4,161,979</b>	<b>6,140,688</b>	<b>3,582,203</b>	<b>86,531,669</b>

## NOTES

The data are generally provided by governments, based on their own definitions and methods of data collection.

- Country or territory of origin.
- Refugees include individuals recognized under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the refugee definition contained in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees as incorporated into national laws, those recognized in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, individuals granted complementary forms of protection, and those enjoying temporary protection. In the absence of Government figures, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population in many industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual asylum-seeker recognition.
- This category 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 those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.
- Asylum-seekers (with pending cases) are individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not yet been determined. Those covered in this table refer to claimants whose individual applications were pending at the end of 2019, irrespective of when those claims may have been lodged.
- Refugees who have returned to their place of origin during 2019. Source: country of origin and asylum.
- IDPs are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or 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 internationally recognized State border. For the purposes of UNHCR's statistics, this population includes only conflict-generated IDPs to whom the Office extends protection and/or assistance.
- IDPs of concern to UNHCR who have returned to their place of origin during 2019.
- Refers to persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. This category refers to persons who fall under the agency's statelessness mandate because they are stateless according to this international definition, but data from some countries may also include persons with undetermined nationality. The figure reported includes stateless persons who are also refugees or asylum-seekers from Myanmar, IDPs in Myanmar, or others of concern to UNHCR. UNHCR's statistical reporting generally follows a

methodology that reports on one legal status for each person of concern only. However, due to the extraordinary size of the displaced stateless population from Myanmar, UNHCR considers it important to reflect the dual status that this population group possesses, pending a review of UNHCR reporting on statelessness. See Annex Table 5 at <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/2019GTannextableSTA.xls> for detailed notes.

- Refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of these groups above but to whom UNHCR has extended its protection and/or assistance services, based on humanitarian or other special grounds.
- Venezuelans displaced abroad refers to persons of Venezuelan origin who are likely to be in need of international protection under the criteria contained in the Cartagena Declaration, but who have not applied for asylum in the country in which they are present. Regardless of status, Venezuelans displaced abroad require protection against forced returns, and access to basic services. UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration work together with this population by leading the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform, which is aimed at strengthening the protection dimensions and consistent responses across the region in line with human rights standards.
- The figure of Others of concern has been provided by the Government of Colombia.
- The figure of IDP returns was released by the "Commissions de mouvements de population" and covers the period from April 2018 to September 2019.
- The refugee population in Jordan includes 34,300 Iraqis registered with UNHCR. The Government of Jordan estimated the number of Iraqis at 400,000 individuals at the end of March 2015. This includes refugees and other categories of Iraqis.
- Refers to Palestinian refugees under the UNHCR mandate only.
- The IDP figure has been aligned to the inter-agency methodology as defined in the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Figure of others of concern relates to persons who have specific protection needs and live in non-government-controlled areas or within 20 km of the contact line in government-controlled areas.
- A limited number of countries record refugee and asylum statistics by country of birth rather than country of origin. This affects the number of refugees reported as originating from the United States of America.
- The 303,100 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.
- According to the Government of Algeria, there are an estimated 165,000 Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps. Statistical data relating to refugees are entirely for humanitarian purposes. The total number of persons in need of humanitarian assistance services is estimated to be far higher than this figure.



*BURKINA FASO. A Malian refugee girl in Goudoubo camp in Burkina Faso. There are currently more than 25,400 Malian refugees seeking safety in Burkina Faso, a country which is experiencing massive and rapid forced displacement.”*

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At the end of 2019, the total population of concern to UNHCR stood at 86.5 million people. This included people who have been forcibly displaced (refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and Venezuelans displaced abroad); those who have found a durable solution (returnees) within the previous year; stateless individuals, most of whom have never been forcibly displaced; and other groups of concern to whom UNHCR has extended its protection or provided assistance on a humanitarian basis. Therefore, this categorization is different from the 79.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide – a figure that includes refugees and other displaced people not covered by UNHCR’s mandate and excludes other categories such as returnees and non-displaced stateless people. A detailed breakdown of UNHCR’s population of concern by category and country is provided in Annex Table 1.

**Annex tables 3 through 21 can be downloaded from the UNHCR website at:**

<https://www.unhcr.org/statistics/2019GTannex.zip>

**Annex table 5:**

<https://www.unhcr.org/statistics/2019GTannextableSTA.xlsx>



# GLOBAL TRENDS

## FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN 2019

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**FRONT COVER:**

*SYRIA. A Syrian returnee in East Aleppo has decided to re-open the doors of his restaurant to receive visitors. His restaurant is located right opposite Aleppo's citadel.*

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This document along with further information on global displacement is available on UNHCR's statistics website:  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>

