



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

# GLOBAL TRENDS

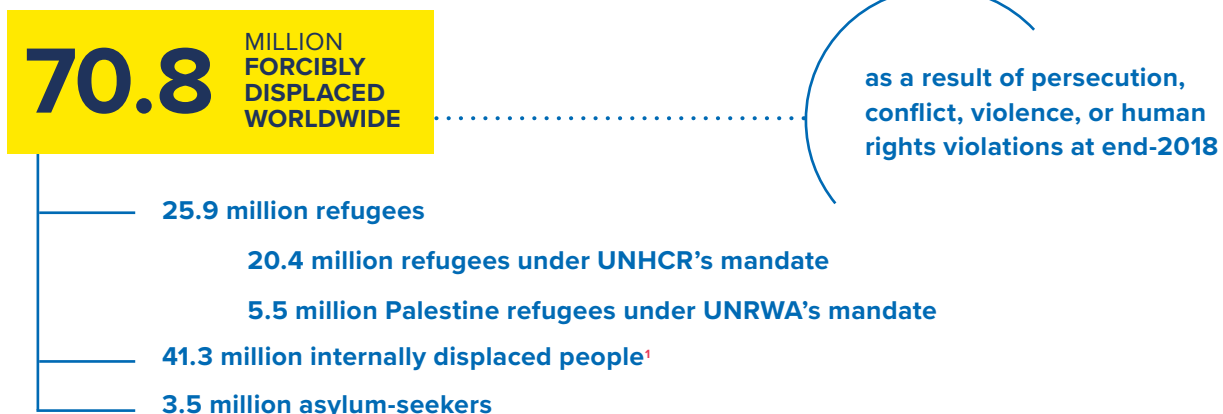
FORCED  
DISPLACEMENT  
IN 2018





# Trends at a Glance

The global population of forcibly displaced increased by 2.3 million people in 2018. By the end of the year, 70.8 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. As a result, the world's forcibly displaced population remained yet again at a record high.



**13.6** MILLION NEWLY DISPLACED

An estimated 13.6 million people were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution in 2018. This included 10.8 million individuals displaced<sup>2</sup> within the borders of their own country and 2.8 million new refugees and new asylum-seekers.

**16%**

Countries in developed regions hosted 16 per cent of refugees, while one third of the global refugee population (6.7 million people) were in the Least Developed Countries.

**37,000** NEW DISPLACEMENTS EVERY DAY

The number of new displacements was equivalent to an average of 37,000 people being forced to flee their homes every day in 2018.

**3.5** MILLION ASYLUM-SEEKERS

By the end of 2018, about 3.5 million people were awaiting a decision on their application for asylum.

**4** IN **5**

Nearly 4 out of every 5 refugees lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

<sup>1</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre of the Norwegian Refugee Council.  
<sup>2</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>3</sup> The number of new individual asylum applications for Turkey does not include Syrian nationals who receive protection under the Temporary Protection Regulation and relates to applications submitted to UNCHR until 10 September 2018, when the government assumed full responsibility for registration and refugee status determination.  
<sup>4</sup> This number includes both refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela worldwide as of February 2019. See: [www.unhcr.org/5c6fb2d04](http://www.unhcr.org/5c6fb2d04)  
<sup>5</sup> These figures refer only to refugees under UNHCR's mandate. In addition, Lebanon hosted 475,100 and Jordan 2,242,600 Palestine refugees under the mandate of UNRWA.

**2.9** MILLION DISPLACED PEOPLE RETURNED

During 2018, 2.9 million displaced people returned to their areas or countries of origin, including 2.3 million IDPs and nearly 600,000 refugees. Returns have not kept pace with the rate of new displacements.

**67%**

Altogether, more than two thirds (67 per cent) of all refugees worldwide came from just five countries:

<b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>	6.7 million
<b>Afghanistan</b>	2.7 million
<b>South Sudan</b>	2.3 million
<b>Myanmar</b>	1.1 million
<b>Somalia</b>	0.9 million

**1.7** MILLION NEW CLAIMS

Asylum-seekers submitted 1.7 million new claims. With 254,300 such claims, the United States of America was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications, followed by Peru (192,500) Germany (161,900), France (114,500) and Turkey (83,800).<sup>3</sup>

**3.7** MILLION PEOPLE

For the fourth consecutive year, Turkey hosted the largest number of refugees worldwide, with 3.7 million people. The main countries of asylum for refugees were:

<b>Turkey</b>	3.7 million
<b>Pakistan</b>	1.4 million
<b>Uganda</b>	1.2 million
<b>Sudan</b>	1.1 million
<b>Germany</b>	1.1 million

**81,300** REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT

In 2018, UNHCR submitted 81,300 refugees to States for resettlement. According to government statistics, 25 countries admitted 92,400 refugees for resettlement during the year, with or without UNHCR's assistance.

**138,600** UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

Some 27,600 unaccompanied and separated children sought asylum on an individual basis and a total of 111,000 unaccompanied and separated child refugees were reported in 2018. Both numbers are considered significant underestimates.

**1/2** CHILDREN

Children below 18 years of age constituted about half of the refugee population in 2018, up from 41 per cent in 2009 but similar to the previous few years

**Venezuela**  
 Venezuelan refugees and asylum-seekers grew in number. The broader movement of Venezuelans across the region and beyond increasingly took on the characteristics of a refugee situation, with some 3.4 million outside the country by the end of 2018.<sup>4</sup>

**Lebanon**  
 Lebanon continued to host the largest number of refugees relative to its national population, where 1 in 6 people was a refugee. Jordan (1 in 14) and Turkey (1 in 22) ranked second and third, respectively.<sup>5</sup>

## CHAPTER 1

# Introduction

BRAZIL. A Venezuelan girl in silhouette is captured by photo as the sun sets on refugee shelters around her. The photo was taken at the National Geographic Photo Camp, an initiative which teaches youths from refugee and at-risk communities how to use photography to tell their stories.  
© UNHCR/GENANGELY PINERO



“What we are seeing in these figures is further confirmation of a longer-term rising trend in the number of people needing safety from war, conflict and persecution.”

Filippo Grandi  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

## The world now has a population of 70.8 million forcibly displaced people

Over the past decade, the global population of forcibly displaced people grew substantially from 43.3 million in 2009 to 70.8 million in 2018, reaching a record high [Figure 1].<sup>6</sup> Most of this increase was between 2012 and 2015, driven mainly by the Syrian conflict. But conflicts in other areas also contributed to this rise, including in the Middle East such as in Iraq and Yemen, parts of sub-Saharan Africa such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and South Sudan, as well as the massive flow of Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh at the end of 2017.

Of particular note in 2018, was the increase in the number of displaced people due to internal displacement in Ethiopia and new asylum claims from

people fleeing the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The proportion of the world's population who were displaced also continued to rise as the increase in the world's forcibly displaced population outstripped global population growth. In 2017 this figure was 1 out of every 110 people but in 2018 it stood at 1 out of every 108 people.<sup>7</sup> A decade ago, by comparison, this stood at about 1 in 160 people [Figure 2]. Overall, the refugee population under UNHCR's mandate has nearly doubled since 2012.

<sup>6</sup> These included 25.9 million refugees: 20.4 million under UNHCR's mandate and 5.5 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The global figure also included 41.3 million internally displaced persons (source: IDMC) and 3.5 million individuals whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated by the end of the reporting period.

<sup>7</sup> National population data are from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, "World population prospects: The 2017 revision", New York, 2017. For the purpose of this analysis, the 2018 medium fertility variant population projections have been used. See: [esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/)

Figure 1 | Global forced displacement | 2009-2018

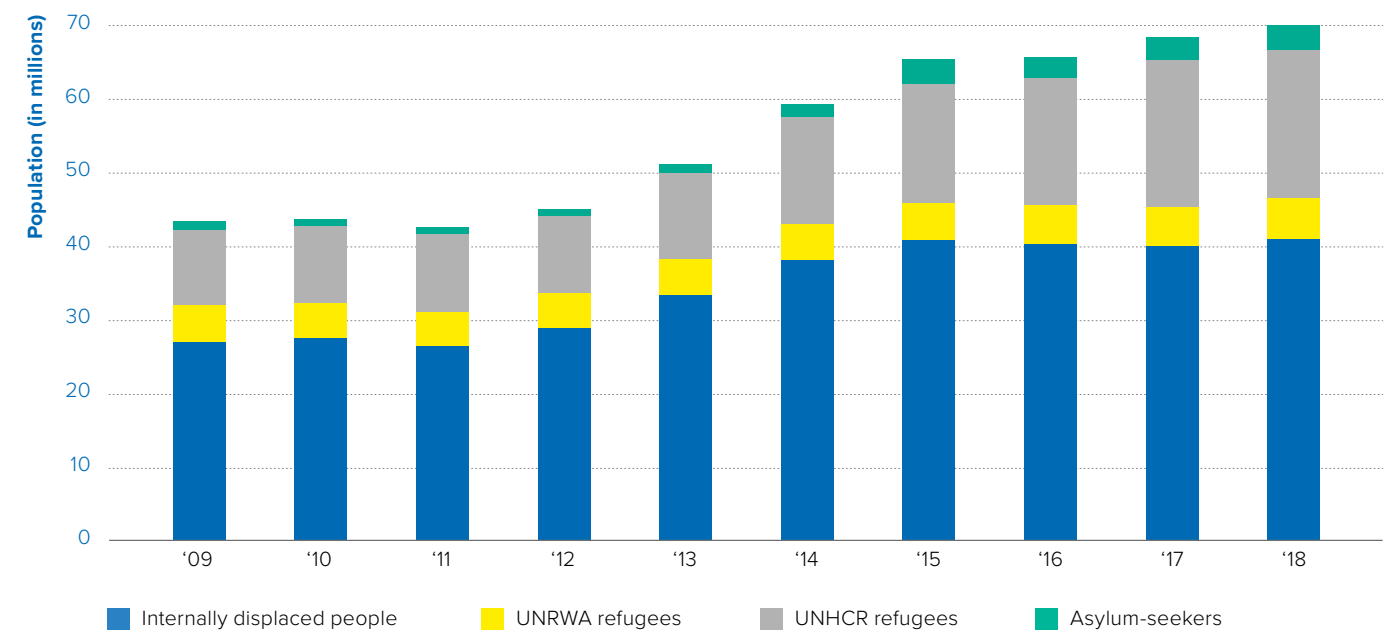
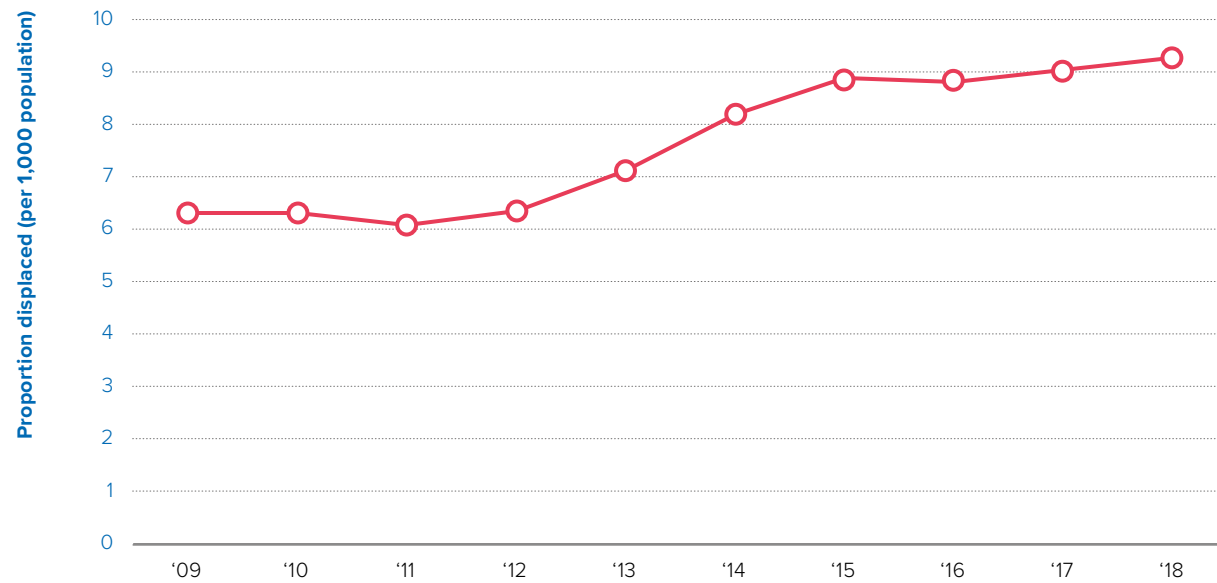


Figure 2 | Proportion displaced out of the world population | 2009-2018



Large numbers of people were on the move in 2018. During the year, 13.6 million people were newly displaced, including 2.8 million who sought protection abroad (as new asylum-seekers or newly registered refugees)<sup>8</sup> and 10.8 million who were forced to flee but remained in their own countries.<sup>9</sup> These 13.6 million new displacements equated to an average rate of 37,000 people being newly displaced every day of 2018 [Figure 3]. Still, many others returned to their countries or areas of origin to try to rebuild their lives, including 2.3 million internally displaced people and nearly 600,000 refugees.

At 1,560,800, Ethiopians made up the largest newly displaced population during the year, 98 per cent of them within their country. This increase more than doubled the existing internally displaced population in the country.

Syrians were the next largest newly displaced population, with 889,400 people during 2018. Of these, 632,700 were newly displaced (or newly registered) outside the country,<sup>10</sup> while the remainder were internally displaced. Nigeria also had a high number of newly displaced people with 661,800, of which an estimated 581,800 were displaced within the country's borders.

Among those newly displaced across borders (or newly registered), the vast majority remained close

to home. Over half a million new refugee registrations and asylum applications originated from the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) in 2018, the majority in Turkey [Figure 4], representing both newly arriving individuals and those already in the country for a period of time prior to the time of registration. Venezuelans accounted for the second largest flow of new international displacements in 2018, with 341,800 new asylum applications (see page 24 for more details on the Venezuela situation). South Sudanese accounted for the next largest refugee and asylum-seeker flow, mainly to Sudan and Uganda, followed by such flows from the DRC, also mainly to Uganda.

At the end of 2018, Syrians continued to be the largest forcibly displaced population, with 13.0 million people living in displacement, including 6,654,000 refugees, 6,184,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) and 140,000 asylum-seekers. Colombians were the second largest group, with 8.0 million forcibly displaced, most of them (98 per cent) inside their country at the end of 2018.<sup>11</sup> A total of 5.4 million Congolese from DRC

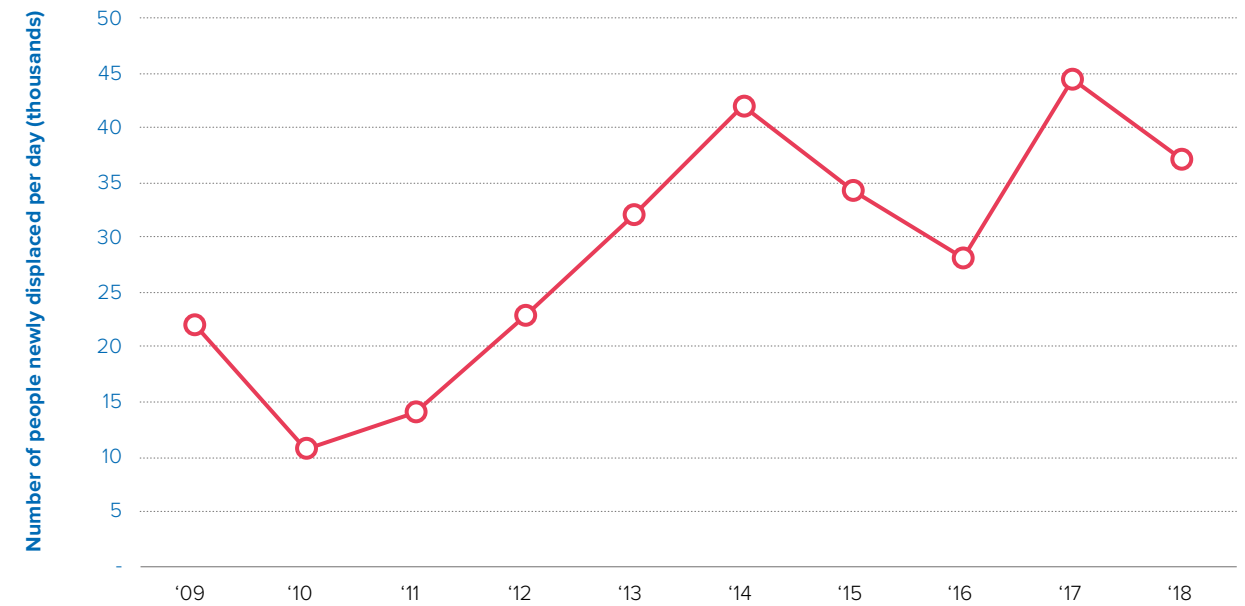
<sup>8</sup> Consisting of 1.7 million new individual claims for asylum and 1.1 million new refugees recognized on a *prima facie* or group basis. Some of these people may have arrived prior to 2018.

<sup>9</sup> Based on a global estimate from IDMC. Country estimates refer to those reported by UNHCR offices.

<sup>10</sup> Many newly registered Syrian refugees in Turkey arrived prior to 2018.

<sup>11</sup> The large number of registered IDPs in Colombia comes from the total cumulative figure recorded in the Government's Victims Registry, which commenced in 1985.

Figure 3 | Average rate of new displacement (per day) | 2009-2018



were also forcibly displaced, of whom 4,517,000 were IDPs and 854,000 were refugees or asylum-seekers. Other large displaced populations at the end of 2018 – those with over 2.0 million people displaced, either internally or as refugees or asylum-seekers – were from Afghanistan (5.1 million), South Sudan (4.2 million), Somalia (3.7 million), Ethiopia (2.8 million), Sudan (2.7 million), Nigeria (2.5 million), Iraq (2.4 million) and Yemen (2.2 million).

The situation in Cameroon was complex as it was both a source country and host country of refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, it was confronted with multiple internal displacements in 2018. In total, there were 45,100 Cameroonian refugees globally at the end of 2018; they were mainly hosted by Nigeria (32,800), compared with less than 100 in that country at the beginning of the year. This is in addition to 668,500 IDPs, mainly within the South, North West and the Extreme North regions of Cameroon. At the same time, Cameroon hosted 380,300 refugees, mainly from the Central African Republic (CAR) (275,700) and Nigeria (102,300).

Without the protection of family, unaccompanied and separated children are often at risk of exploitation and abuse. A key issue is the lack of information and data regarding this population. The number of such children reported as having

applied for asylum during 2018 was 27,600 during the year. At the end of 2018, 111,000 unaccompanied and separated children were reported among the refugee population.<sup>12</sup> These figures are underestimates due to the limited number of countries reporting data.

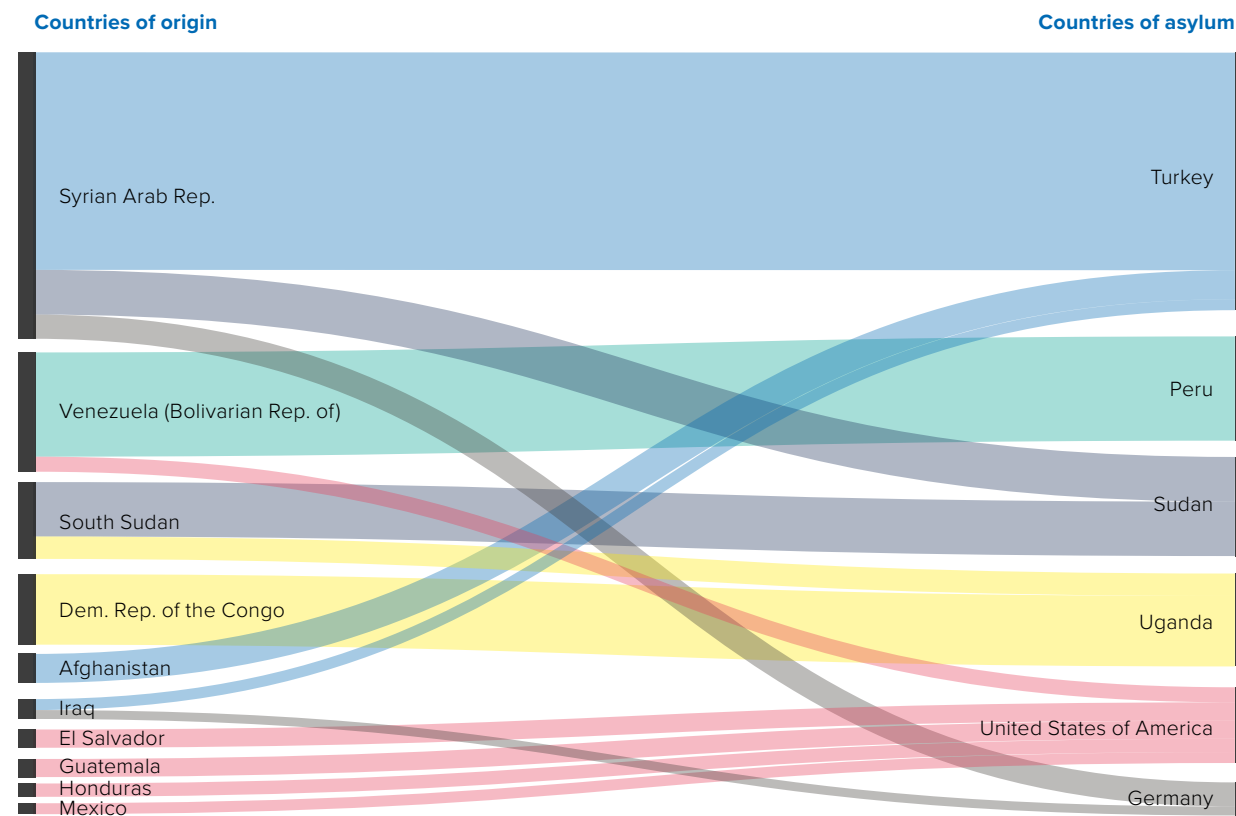
Returns continued to account for a small proportion of the displaced population and did not offset new displacements. Some 593,800 refugees returned to their countries of origin in 2018 compared with 667,400 in 2017, less than 3 per cent of the refugee population. In addition, 2.3 million IDPs returned in 2018, compared with 4.2 million in 2017. In some cases, refugees and IDPs went back to situations where conditions did not permit safe and sustainable returns. Resettlement provided a solution for close to 92,400 refugees.

In 2018, the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) presented the results of its work at the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission. Established in 2016 by the Commission, EGRIS is tasked with addressing challenges associated with the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics on refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs, including the

<sup>12</sup> Presented for the first time in 2017 statistics and, while this number is also an underestimate, it represents an improvement in the statistical reporting on children.



Figure 4 | Key flows of newly registered refugees and new asylum-seekers in 2018



lack of consistent terminology and difficulties in comparing statistics internationally.

The Commission:

- endorsed the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics;
- endorsed the Technical Report on Statistics of IDPs and supported the proposal to upgrade this work to develop formal recommendations; and
- reaffirmed the mandate to develop a compiler's manual on refugee and IDP statistics to provide hands-on guidance for the recommendations.

In addition to the 40 countries that took part in the EGRIS and those that had also contributed through the global consultations in 2017, several country representatives took the floor at the Statistical Commission to welcome this work. Certain elements of the work received particular support such as focusing on the importance of coordination and the central role of national statistical offices, as well as including the potential of different data sources and methodologies within the recommendations.<sup>13</sup> ■

**NOTE:**

This Global Trends report analyses statistical trends and changes in global displacement from January to December 2018 in populations for whom UNHCR has been entrusted with a responsibility by the international community, including refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, stateless people and conflict-affected internally displaced people.<sup>14</sup> The data presented are based on information received as of 18 May 2019 unless otherwise indicated.

The figures in this report are based on data reported by governments, non-governmental organizations, and UNHCR. The numbers are rounded to the closest hundred or thousand. As some adjustments may appear later in the year in the Population Statistics online database,<sup>15</sup> the 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 2018. ■

<sup>13</sup> For more information: [www.unhcr.org/blogs/experts-finally-agree-on-standards-for-refugee-statistics/](http://www.unhcr.org/blogs/experts-finally-agree-on-standards-for-refugee-statistics/)

<sup>14</sup> See p. 63 for a definition of each population group.

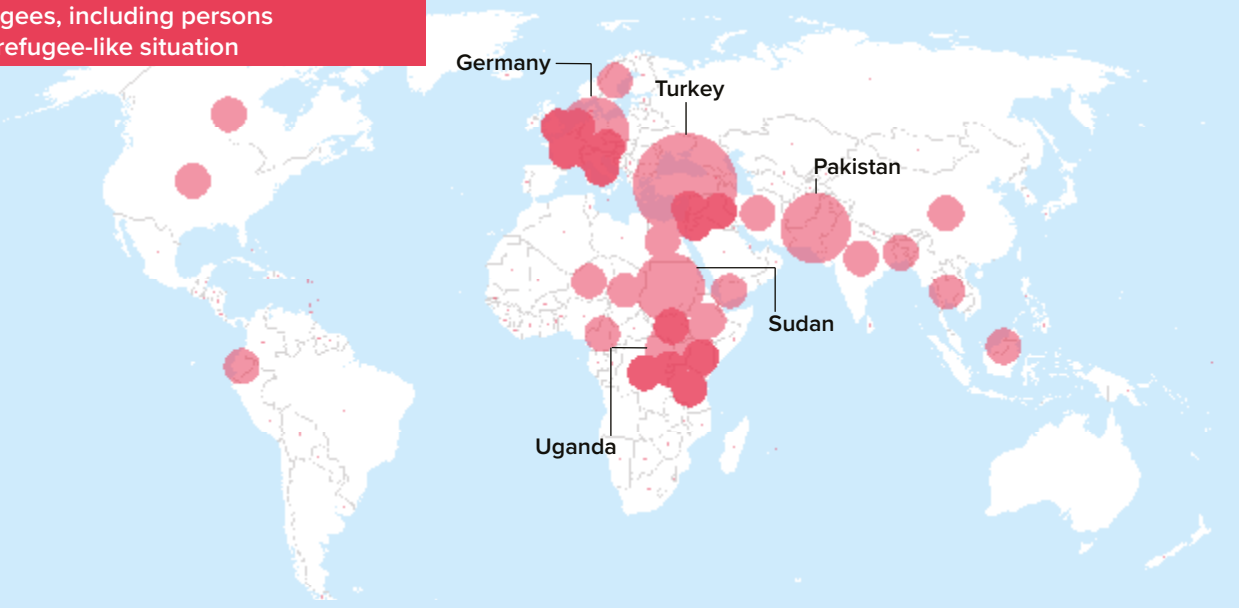
<sup>15</sup> <http://popstats.unhcr.org>



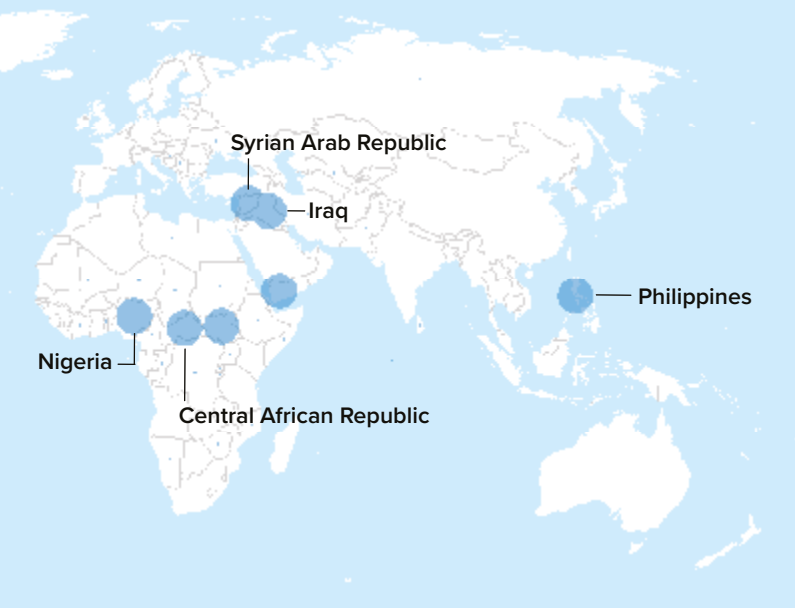
ETHIOPIA. Inter-communal violence in southern and western Ethiopia displaced up to a million people inside their country. These internally displaced Ethiopians are among an estimated 11,000 people in Gedeo who have been left destitute and forced to sleep on the ground. UNHCR is providing emergency aid and has sent in emergency response teams to support the local authorities in establishing sites for the displaced.  
© UNHCR/ANNA HELLEGE



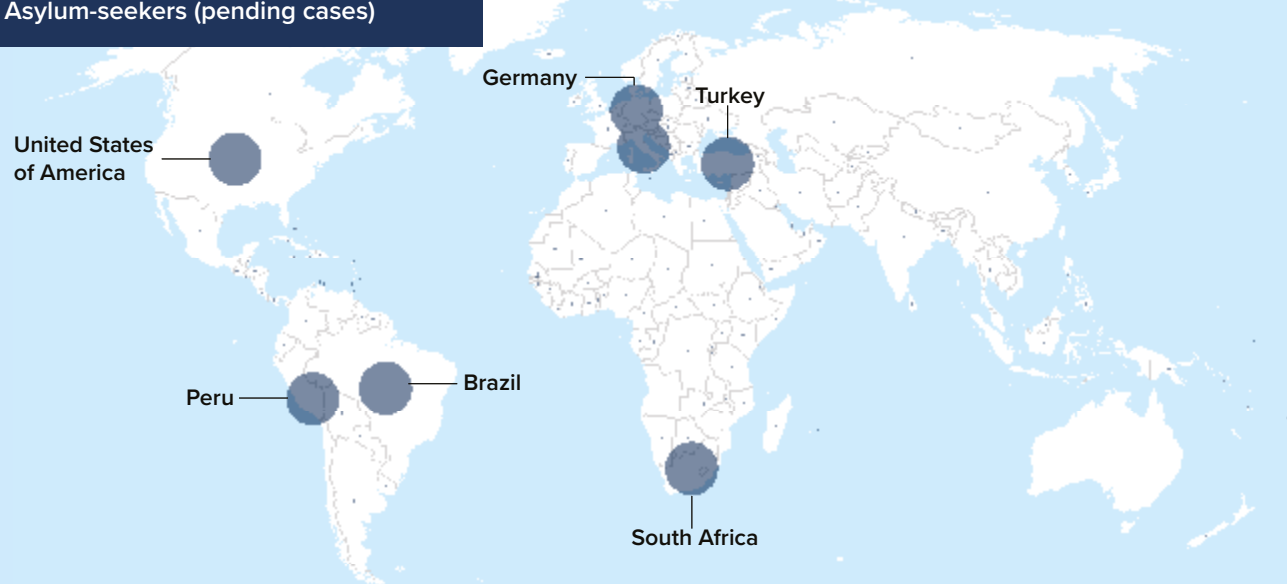
Refugees, including persons in a refugee-like situation



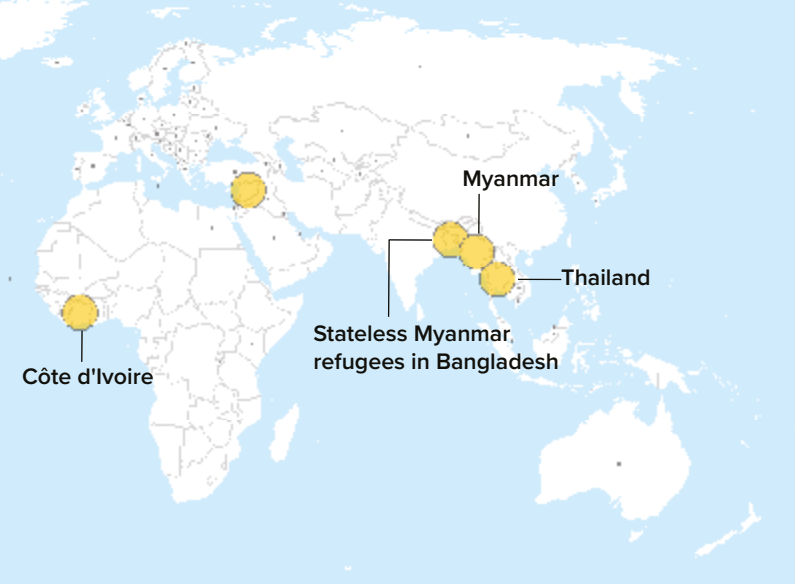
Returned refugees, returned IDPs



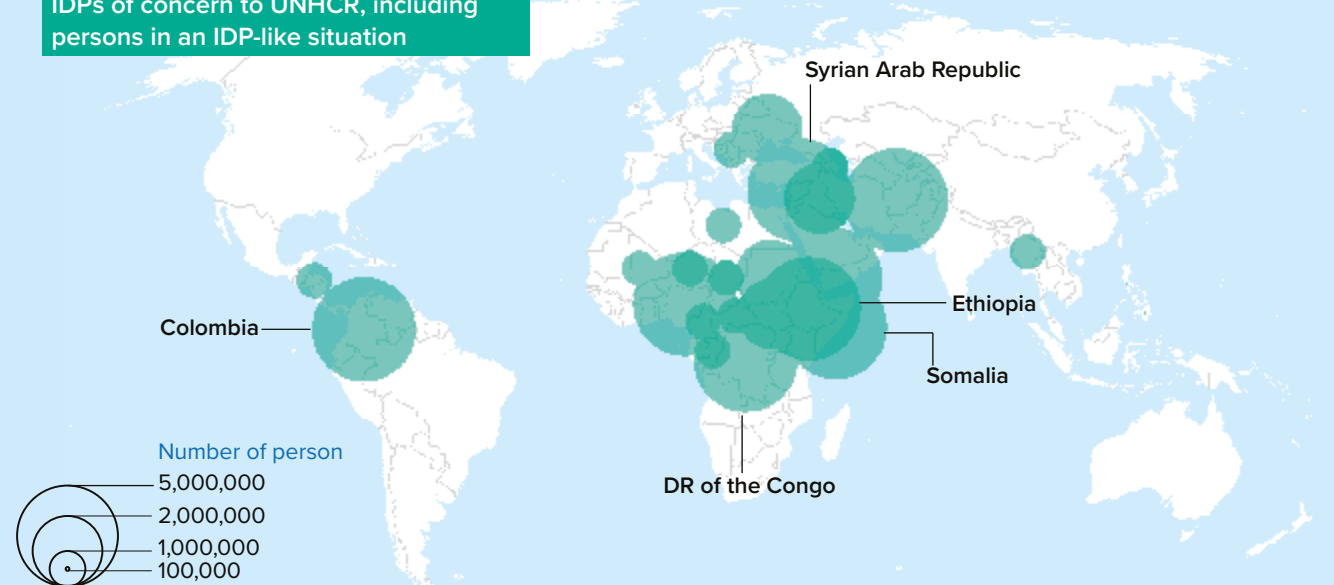
Asylum-seekers (pending cases)



Stateless people



IDPs of concern to UNHCR, including persons in an IDP-like situation



Others of concern to UNHCR



A country is listed if it features among the top-5 per population group. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations



IRAQ. Syrian refugee Ronia Metwali lives with her five daughters in Domiz refugee camp, northern Iraq. Ronia's husband died two years ago, leaving her to raise her children alone.

© UNHCR/ANDREW MCCONNELL



## CHAPTER 2

# Refugees

The number of refugees under UNHCR's care is almost double that of 2012 and two thirds come from 5 countries

The global refugee population stood at 25.9 million at the end of 2018, including 5.5 million Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate, and is now at the highest level ever recorded. The focus of this report is the 20.4 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate<sup>16</sup> and, unless otherwise stated, all references to refugees in this document refer to this population.

The refugee population under UNHCR's mandate has nearly doubled since 2012 when it stood at 10.5 million. Over the course of 2018, this population increased by about 417,100 or 2 per cent. While this represents the seventh year in a row that the refugee population has increased, it is the smallest rise since 2013. The many new arrivals and registrations of refugees were partially offset by returns and adjustments following verification exercises, with the result being a small increase in the overall population size.

While there was only a small increase of 1 per cent in the refugee population in sub-Saharan Africa, this disguised wide sub-regional variations such as a small decrease in Central Africa and the Great Lakes and an increase of 13.7 per cent in West Africa [Table 1]. The new registrations of Syrian refugees in Turkey meant that the proportion of all refugees under UNHCR's mandate hosted in Turkey alone increased to 18 per cent while the rest of Europe hosted an additional 14 per cent. The situation in Asia and the Pacific remained relatively stable in 2018 after the large flows seen in 2017, and there was a small decrease in the refugee population in the Middle East and North Africa. There was also a small decline in the registered refugee population in the Americas, caused mainly by the departure of Colombian refugees from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

<sup>16</sup> This figure includes some 243,000 individuals in refugee-like situations, with about 58,800 in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 48,900 in Thailand and 50,000 in Ecuador.



Table 1 | Refugee populations by UNHCR regions | 2018

UNHCR regions	Refugees (including persons in a refugee-like situation)		Change		% of total, end-2018
	Start-2018	End-2018	Absolute	%	
- Central Africa and Great Lakes	1,475,700	1,449,400	-26,300	-1.8	7
- East and Horn of Africa	4,307,800	4,348,800	41,000	1.0	21
- Southern Africa	197,700	211,000	13,300	6.7	1
- West Africa	286,900	326,300	39,400	13.7	2
<b>Total Africa*</b>	<b>6,268,200</b>	<b>6,335,400</b>	<b>67,200</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>31</b>
Americas	646,100	643,300	-2,800	-0.4	3
Asia and Pacific	4,209,700	4,214,600	4,900	0.1	21
Europe	6,114,200	6,474,600	360,300	5.9	32
thereof: Turkey	3,480,300	3,681,700	201,400	5.8	18
Middle East and North Africa	2,705,400	2,692,700	-12,700	-0.5	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,943,600</b>	<b>20,360,600</b>	<b>417,000</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Excluding North Africa.

## By origin

Altogether, refugees from the top 10 countries of origin accounted for 82 per cent of refugees (16.6 million) in 2018, similar to 2017. As in 2017, over two thirds of the world's refugees come from just five countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia.

As has been the case since 2014, the main country of origin for refugees in 2018 was Syria, with 6.7 million at the end of the year, an increase over the 6.3 million from a year earlier.<sup>17</sup> While these refugees were hosted by 127 countries on six continents, the vast majority (85 per cent) remained in countries in the region. Turkey continued to host the largest population of Syrian refugees, increasing throughout 2018 through both new registrations and births to reach 3,622,400 by the end of the year.

Countries in the Middle East and North Africa with significant numbers of Syrian refugees included Lebanon (944,200), Jordan (676,300), Iraq (252,500) and Egypt (132,900). Outside the region, countries with large Syrian refugee populations included Germany (532,100), Sweden (109,300), Sudan (93,500), Austria (49,200), the Netherlands (32,100), Greece (23,900), Denmark (19,700), Bulgaria (17,200), Switzerland (16,600), France (15,800), Armenia (14,700), Norway (13,900) and Spain (13,800).

Refugees from Afghanistan were the second largest group by country of origin, in what has remained a

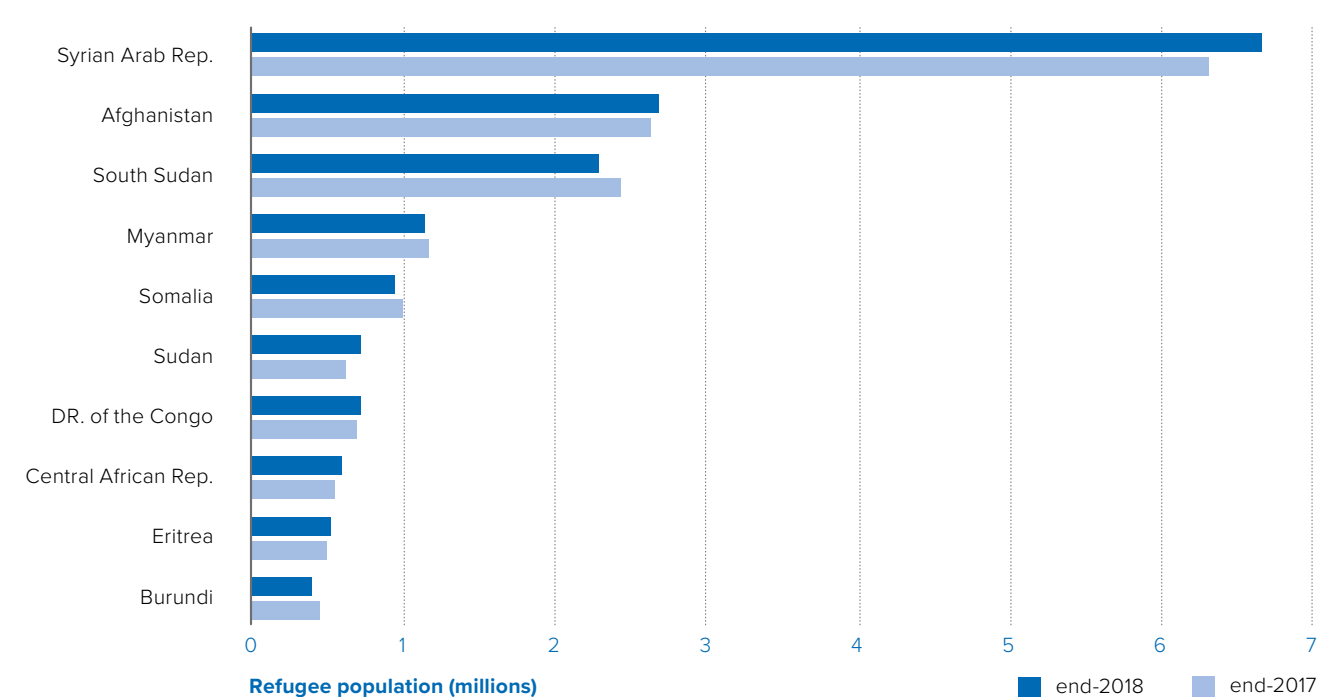
significant population since the 1980s. At the end of 2018, there were 2.7 million Afghan refugees, compared with 2.6 million a year earlier, mainly due to births during the year. Pakistan continued to host the largest Afghan refugee population with 1,403,500 people at the end of 2018. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported hosting 951,100 Afghan refugees.<sup>18</sup> In Germany, the number grew to 126,000 by the end of 2018, with other Afghan refugee populations hosted in Austria (33,100), Sweden (28,200), France (18,500), Italy (16,900), Switzerland (12,300) and Australia (11,900). In 2018, over 88 per cent of Afghan refugees were hosted by neighbouring Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

While the South Sudanese refugee population declined in 2018 from 2.4 million to 2.3 million people, it remained the third most common country of origin. Much of this decline was accounted for by the adjustment of the figures in Uganda following verification (which reduced the population by 300,000); overall in 2018, there were 179,200 new refugee registrations. Following the reduction in the number of refugees hosted in Uganda to 788,800 at the end of 2018, Sudan became the country hosting the largest population of South Sudanese with 852,100 people. This was followed by Ethiopia (422,100), Kenya (115,200) and DRC (95,700).

<sup>17</sup> Much of this increase was due to newly registered refugees, many of whom had arrived prior to 2018.

<sup>18</sup> The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran registers all refugees in the country. With the exception of refugees in settlements, UNHCR has most recently received only the aggregate number of refugees from the Government in May 2015.

Figure 5 | Major source countries of refugees | end-2017 to end-2018



Altogether, neighbouring countries hosted nearly all refugees from South Sudan.

Refugees originating from Myanmar represented the fourth largest population group by country of origin. By the end of 2018, this population stood at 1.1 million, about the same as in 2017. Most refugees from Myanmar were hosted by Bangladesh (906,600) at the end of the year, a slight decline from the end of 2017 (932,200) due to improvements in registration methods. Other countries with sizable populations of refugees from Myanmar were Malaysia (114,200), Thailand (97,600) and India (18,800). Most of the refugee population from Myanmar was hosted in Bangladesh and nearly the entirety of refugees from Myanmar were hosted by countries in the region.

The number of Somali refugees worldwide continued to decline slowly, mainly as a result of verification exercises in and returns from Kenya and – to a lesser extent – from Yemen. At the end of 2017, there were 986,400 Somali refugees, a number that decreased to 949,700 by the end of 2018. As a result of the decline in Kenya, Ethiopia became the largest host of Somali refugees with 257,200 at the end of 2018. This was followed by Kenya (252,500), Yemen (249,000), South Africa (27,100), Germany (23,600), Sweden (21,000), Uganda (18,800), the Netherlands

(14,000), Italy (13,400) and Djibouti (12,700). Over 80 per cent of Somali refugees have remained in countries close to Somalia.

The number of registered refugees originating from Sudan reached 724,800 by the end of 2018, up from 694,600 the previous year. Chad continued to host the largest Sudanese refugee population with 336,700, while 269,900 Sudanese refugees were living in South Sudan. Other countries hosting a significant Sudanese refugee population at end-2018 included Ethiopia (44,000), Egypt (19,500) and France (14,700). Neighbouring countries hosted some 93 per cent of Sudanese refugees in 2018.

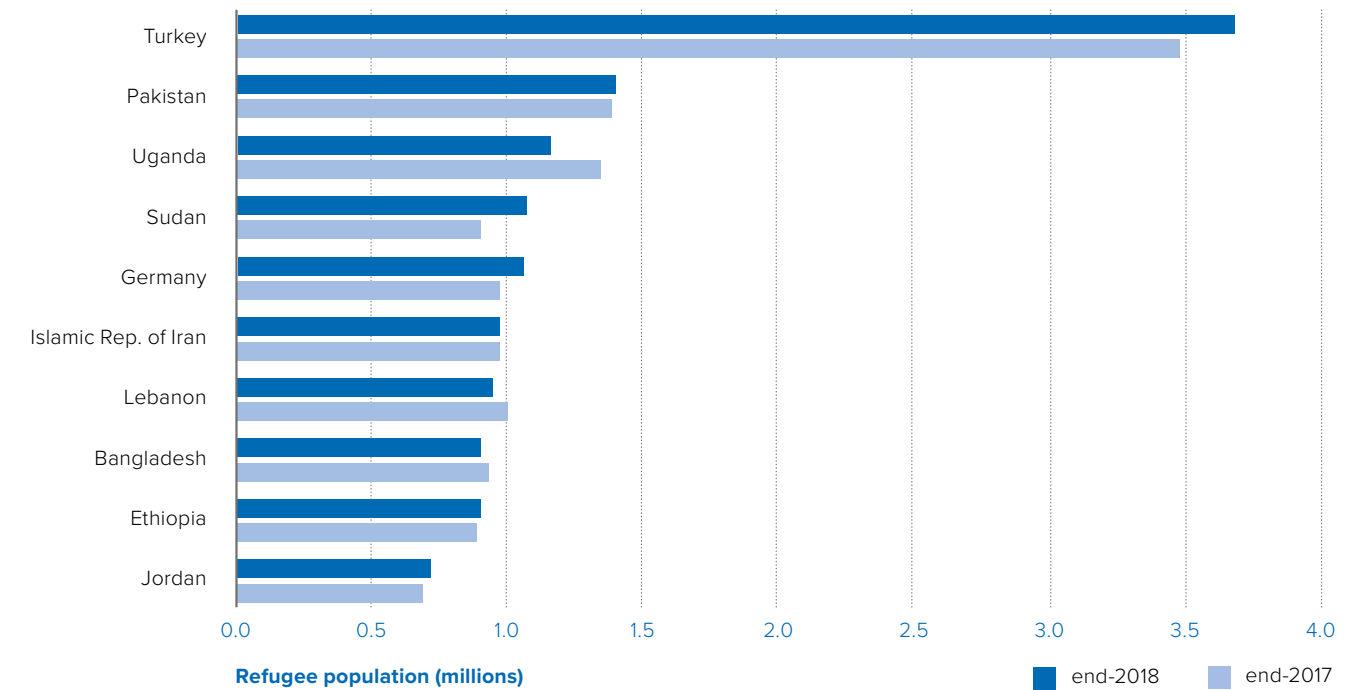
At the year's end, DRC was the seventh largest country of origin of refugees, with 720,300 refugees. The majority from DRC (85 per cent) were hosted by neighbouring countries including Uganda with a population of 303,100, Rwanda (77,000), Burundi (70,900), the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) (56,600), Zambia (41,500), Angola (37,100), South Sudan (15,600) and the Republic of the Congo (Congo) (11,300). Substantial refugee populations were also hosted by South Africa (26,300), Kenya (24,600) and France (16,500). Nearly all refugees from DRC (94 per cent) remained in sub-Saharan African countries.





**NIGERIA.** Thousands of Cameroonians seek safety across the border, including this elderly Cameroonian refugee in south-eastern Nigeria.  
© UNHCR/SIMI VIJAY

Figure 6 | Major host countries of refugees | end-2017 to end-2018



As in 2017, CAR remained the country of origin of the eighth largest refugee population. Violence continued to force people to flee, with refugee numbers increasing from 545,500 to 590,900 during 2018. Virtually all CAR refugees found asylum in neighbouring countries. Cameroon hosted about half with 274,700 at the end of 2018, followed by DRC (172,000), Chad (102,100), Congo (24,700) and Sudan (7,000).

Eritrea remained the ninth largest country of origin with 507,300 refugees at the end of 2018, an increase from end-2017 when this population stood at 486,200. Most Eritrean refugees (57 per cent) were hosted by Ethiopia (174,000) and Sudan (114,500), but many also found protection farther away, such as in Germany (55,300), Switzerland (34,100), Sweden (27,700), Norway (15,200), the Netherlands (14,900), Israel (14,500) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) (13,000).

The number of refugees from Burundi, the tenth largest refugee-producing country, decreased during 2018 from 439,300 at the start of the year to 387,900 at the end. The decrease was mainly due to returns (45,500) and as a result of verification exercises that often reflect spontaneous departures. Nearly all of these refugees (98 per cent) were located in

countries in the region, with Tanzania hosting 221,400 Burundian refugees, followed by Rwanda (68,300), DRC (43,000), Uganda (32,500), Kenya (4,900) and Zambia (4,500).

Other major countries or territories of origin for refugees in 2018 were Iraq (372,300), Viet Nam (334,500),<sup>19</sup> Nigeria (276,900), Rwanda (247,500), China (212,100), Mali (158,300), Colombia (138,600), Pakistan (132,300), the Islamic Republic of Iran (130,000) and Sri Lanka (114,000).

### By country of asylum

Developing regions continued to shoulder a disproportionately large responsibility for hosting refugees. The Least Developed Countries,<sup>20</sup> such as Bangladesh, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Yemen, hosted 6.7 million refugees, 33 per cent of the global total, while being home to 13 per cent of the world population and accounting for a combined

<sup>19</sup> Nearly all Vietnamese refugees are hosted by China and are considered to be well integrated into Chinese society.  
<sup>20</sup> See: [unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/) for a list of Least Developed Countries.



1.25 per cent of the global gross domestic product.<sup>21</sup> These nations already face severe structural barriers to sustainable development, and usually have the least resources to respond to the needs of people seeking refuge.<sup>22</sup> Altogether, nine of the top ten refugee-hosting countries were in developing regions (according to the United Nations Statistics Division classification) and 84 per cent of refugees lived in these countries.<sup>23</sup>

As has been the case since 2014, Turkey was the country hosting the largest refugee population, with 3.7 million at the end of 2018, up from 3.5 million in December 2017 [Figure 6]. The vast majority of refugees in Turkey were from Syria with 3,622,400 making up more than 98 per cent of the entire refugee population. In 2018 there were 397,600 newly registered Syrian refugees and 113,100 newborns in Turkey. In addition, there were 39,100 refugees from Iraq, as well as smaller numbers from the Islamic Republic of Iran (8,700) and Afghanistan (6,600).<sup>24</sup>

At the end of 2018, Pakistan hosted the second largest refugee population with 1.4 million refugees. This population is similar in size to that reported at the end of 2017 with the addition of newborns balanced out by reductions mainly due to returns. The refugee population in Pakistan continued to be almost exclusively from Afghanistan.<sup>25</sup>

Uganda continued to host a large refugee population, numbering 1,165,700 at the end of 2018, a decline from the 1,350,500 reported at the end of 2017. While Uganda continued to receive new refugee arrivals throughout the year, this decline was mainly due to a verification exercise undertaken between March and October 2018. Uganda was host to refugee populations from several countries, the largest being from South Sudan (with 788,800 at the end of 2018), followed by DRC (303,100). There were also sizeable populations of refugees from Burundi (32,500), Somalia (18,800) and Rwanda (14,000).

The refugee population in Sudan increased by about 19 per cent over the course of 2018 to just

over 1 million, with Sudan becoming the country with the fourth largest refugee population. Most refugees were from South Sudan (852,100), followed by Eritrea (114,500), Syria (93,500), CAR (7,000) and Ethiopia (6,000).

During 2018, the refugee population in Germany continued to increase, numbering 1,063,800 at the end of the year. More than half were from Syria (532,100), while other countries of origin included Iraq (136,500), Afghanistan (126,000), Eritrea (55,300), the Islamic Republic of Iran (41,200), Turkey (24,000), Somalia (23,600), Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)) (9,200), the Russian Federation (8,100), Pakistan (7,500) and Nigeria (6,400).

The registered refugee population in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the sixth largest refugee-hosting country, remained unchanged at 979,400 at the end of 2018.<sup>26</sup> The vast majority were from Afghanistan (951,100), with a smaller number from Iraq (28,300).

The refugee population in Lebanon also declined slightly, mainly due to data reconciliation, deregistration, and departures for resettlement. However, Lebanon still hosted nearly 1 million refugees at the end of 2018 (949,700), compared with 998,900 at the end of 2017. Most refugees in Lebanon were from Syria (944,200), with an additional 4,500 from Iraq.

<sup>21</sup> International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2019. 2018 estimates for current prices nominal GDP. [imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2019/01/weodata/index.aspx](http://imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2019/01/weodata/index.aspx)

<sup>22</sup> See: [unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/) for a list of Least Developed Countries.

<sup>23</sup> See: [unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/) for a list of countries included under each region.

<sup>24</sup> The numbers reported on nationalities other than Syrian relate to numbers from UNHCR as of 10 September 2018. As of this date, UNHCR Turkey phased out its role in registering foreigners wishing to apply for international protection and the Government of Turkey moved to a fully decentralized procedure for all individuals seeking international protection. The numbers of new arrivals and births among Syrians were reported by the Government of Turkey.

<sup>25</sup> Pakistan hosted large numbers of undocumented Afghans.

<sup>26</sup> The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran registers all refugees in the country. With the exception of refugees in settlements, UNHCR has most recently received only the aggregate number of refugees from the Government in May 2015.



**SOUTH Sudan.** Refugees from Sudan gather to collect water from a water point in the Doro refugee camp in Bunj, South Sudan. While the local host community population stands at around 53,000, the area around Bunj is now home to 144,000 refugees from Sudan's Blue Nile State.

© UNHCR/WILL SWANSON





BANGLADESH. Mohammad, 31, and his daughter Kismat, 3 are among almost 700,000 Rohingya refugees who fled Myanmar in 2017, seeking safety in neighbouring Bangladesh. Four generations of their family are living in the camps near Cox's Bazaar. The living conditions in the camps are difficult, but the Rohingya feel safe.  
© UNHCR/ROGER ARNOLD

Bangladesh continued to host a large refugee population at the end of 2018, almost entirely comprising refugees from Myanmar, many of whom arrived during 2017. The number stood at 906,600 at the end of the year, a decline from 932,200 the previous year, mostly due to statistical adjustments following family count exercises. Still, there were 16,300 new registrations during the year.

The refugee population in Ethiopia – the ninth largest refugee host country – increased during 2018, reaching 903,200. Nearly half of the population came from South Sudan, bringing the total number of South Sudanese refugees in the country to 422,100. There were 257,200 refugees from Somalia, while significant numbers from Eritrea (174,000) and Sudan (44,000) remained in Ethiopia at the end of 2018.

Jordan experienced a slight increase in its refugee population, providing protection to 715,300 people by the end of 2018, up from 691,000 in 2017 and making it the tenth largest refugee-hosting country in the world. The vast majority of these refugees were from Syria (676,300), while 34,600 were from Iraq.

Other countries hosting significant refugee populations of more than 200,000 people at the end of 2018 included DRC (529,100), Chad (451,200), Kenya (421,200), Cameroon (380,300), France (368,400), China (321,800), the United States of America (313,200), South Sudan (291,800), Iraq (283,000), Tanzania (278,300), Yemen (264,400), Sweden (248,200) and Egypt (246,700).

## New refugees

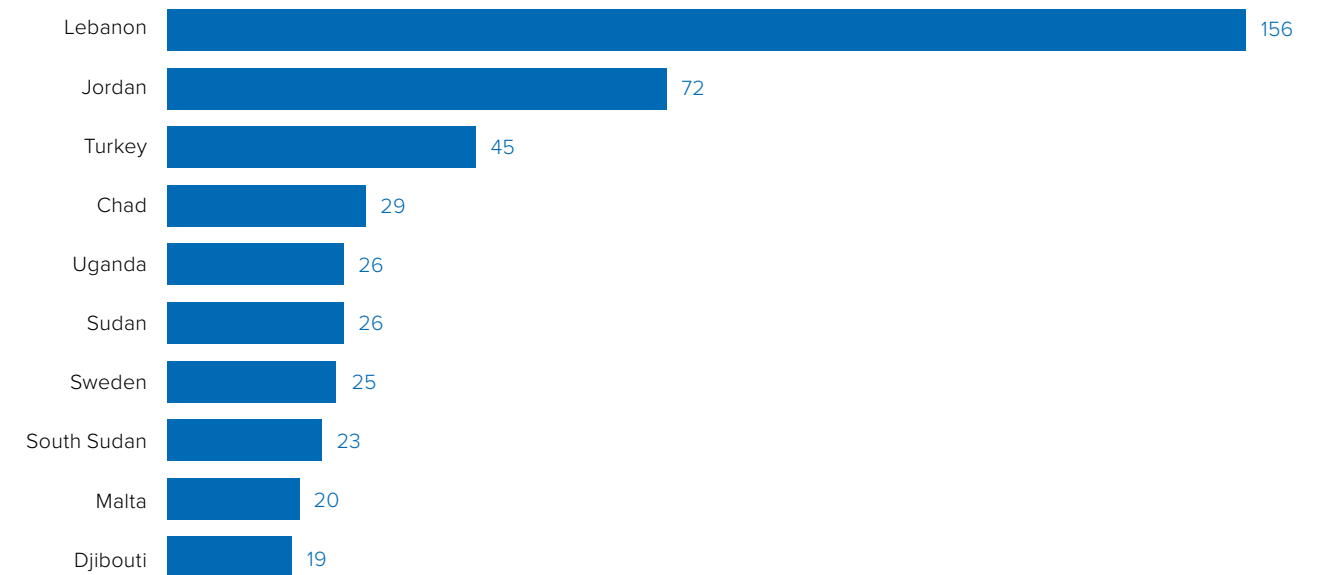
During 2018, 1.1 million people were reported as new refugees, down from the 2.7 million reported in 2017. This figure comprised 599,300 refugees who were recognized on a group or prima facie basis, as well as the 461,200 who were granted some form of temporary protection.

Syrians were the largest group of new refugees registered on a group or prima facie basis, accounting for more than half of new registrations with 526,500 new refugees. Most of these were in Turkey, where 397,600 were registered in 2018 (although many would have arrived earlier), followed by 81,700 in Sudan, 15,600 in Iraq, 13,300 in Jordan, 11,800 in Greece and 5,300 in Egypt.

The conflict in South Sudan continued to displace many, with 179,200 new refugees registered in 2018. Still, this was a lower rate of displacement than was seen in the previous year when over 1 million new refugees were recorded. More than half of these new South Sudanese refugee movements (99,400) were to Sudan, but there were also large numbers of South Sudanese in Uganda (40,700), Ethiopia (25,400), Kenya (7,300) and DRC (5,900).

Refugees from DRC constituted the third largest group of new refugees with 123,400 people forcibly displaced across its borders in 2018. Nearly all of these new refugees fled to Uganda (119,900), while

Figure 7 | Number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants | end-2018



smaller numbers of new refugees were registered in Rwanda (2,600) and South Sudan (800).

Other countries of origin of new refugees included CAR (53,100, mainly to Chad and Cameroon), Nigeria (41,000, mainly to Cameroon), Cameroon (32,600, all to Nigeria), Sudan (19,700, mainly to South Sudan), Myanmar (16,300, all to Bangladesh), Eritrea (14,900, mostly to Ethiopia), Afghanistan (10,500, mostly to Greece) and Burundi (10,100, mostly to Rwanda and DRC).

Turkey was the country of asylum that registered the most new refugees in 2018 with 397,600 Syrians registered under the Government's Temporary Protection Regulation.<sup>27</sup> This was followed by Sudan which reported new refugees from South Sudan (99,400), Syria (81,700), CAR (4,700) and Yemen (700). Uganda also registered 160,600 new refugees in 2018, mainly from DRC (119,900) and South Sudan (40,700). In addition, Cameroon reported 52,800 new refugees, from Nigeria (31,800) and CAR (20,900); Ethiopia reported 42,100 new refugees, mainly from South Sudan (25,400), Eritrea (14,600), Sudan (1,200) and Somalia (800); and Nigeria reported 32,600 new arrivals, all from Cameroon.

## Comparing host country situations

Comparing the size of a refugee population with that of a host country can help measure the impact of

hosting that population. Figure 7 shows that Lebanon, while hosting the seventh largest refugee population relative to national population with 156 refugees per 1,000 national population.<sup>28</sup> Similarly Jordan hosted the tenth largest refugee population but the second largest relative to national population with 72 refugees per 1,000. These figures relate only to the refugee population under UNHCR's mandate, and Lebanon and Jordan respectively hosted an additional 1.4 million and 2.2 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

Turkey hosted the third largest refugee population relative to its national population with 45 refugees per 1,000. Half of the ten countries with the highest refugee population relative to national population were in sub-Saharan Africa.

In high-income countries, there were, on average, 2.7 refugees per 1,000 national population, but this figure is more than doubled in middle- and low-income countries, with 5.8 refugees per 1,000.<sup>29</sup> ■

<sup>27</sup> Many of the newly registered refugees were present in Turkey prior to 2018.

<sup>28</sup> National population data are from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, "World population prospects: The 2017 revision", New York, 2017. For the purpose of this analysis, the 2018 medium fertility variant population projections have been used. See: [esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/)

<sup>29</sup> Income groupings are from the World Bank: [databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/CLASS.xls](http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/CLASS.xls)

## PROTRACTED REFUGEE SITUATIONS

Traditionally, UNHCR defines a protracted refugee situation as one in which 25,000 or more refugees from the same nationality have been in exile for five consecutive years or more in a given host country.<sup>30</sup> This criterion clearly has limitations, as the refugee population in each situation changes due to new arrivals and returns that are not captured under this definition. For example, the situation of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh is classified as a protracted situation because the refugee population has exceeded 25,000 every year since 2006 although the vast majority of the current refugee population from Myanmar arrived there in 2017. Thus, out of the 906,600 refugees from Myanmar present in Bangladesh at the end of 2018, about two thirds have been in the country for less than five years. The same applies to the Burundian refugees in Tanzania, the majority of whom arrived in or after 2015. Furthermore, smaller refugee situations might not be included even if the displacement is prolonged, especially if refugees from one nationality are in various countries of asylum.

The characteristics of a protracted situation will be the result of multiple factors. These include conditions in the refugees' country of origin, policy responses of and socioeconomic conditions in the host countries, availability of durable solutions and level of engagement by the international community, with some situations receiving far more attention and support than others. Protracted situations may include both camp-based and urban refugee populations.

Based on the existing definition, 15.9 million refugees were in protracted situations at the end of 2018. This represented 78 per cent of all refugees, compared with 66 per cent the previous year [Figure 8]. Of this number, 5.8 million were in a situation lasting 20 years or more, dominated especially by the 2.4 million Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan where the displacement situation has lasted for 40 years. As indicated above, this does not mean that individuals have necessarily been displaced for 40 years as there may have been departures, new arrivals, births and deaths. In addition, there were 10.1 million refugees in protracted situations of less than 20 years, more than half represented by the displacement situation of Syrians in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

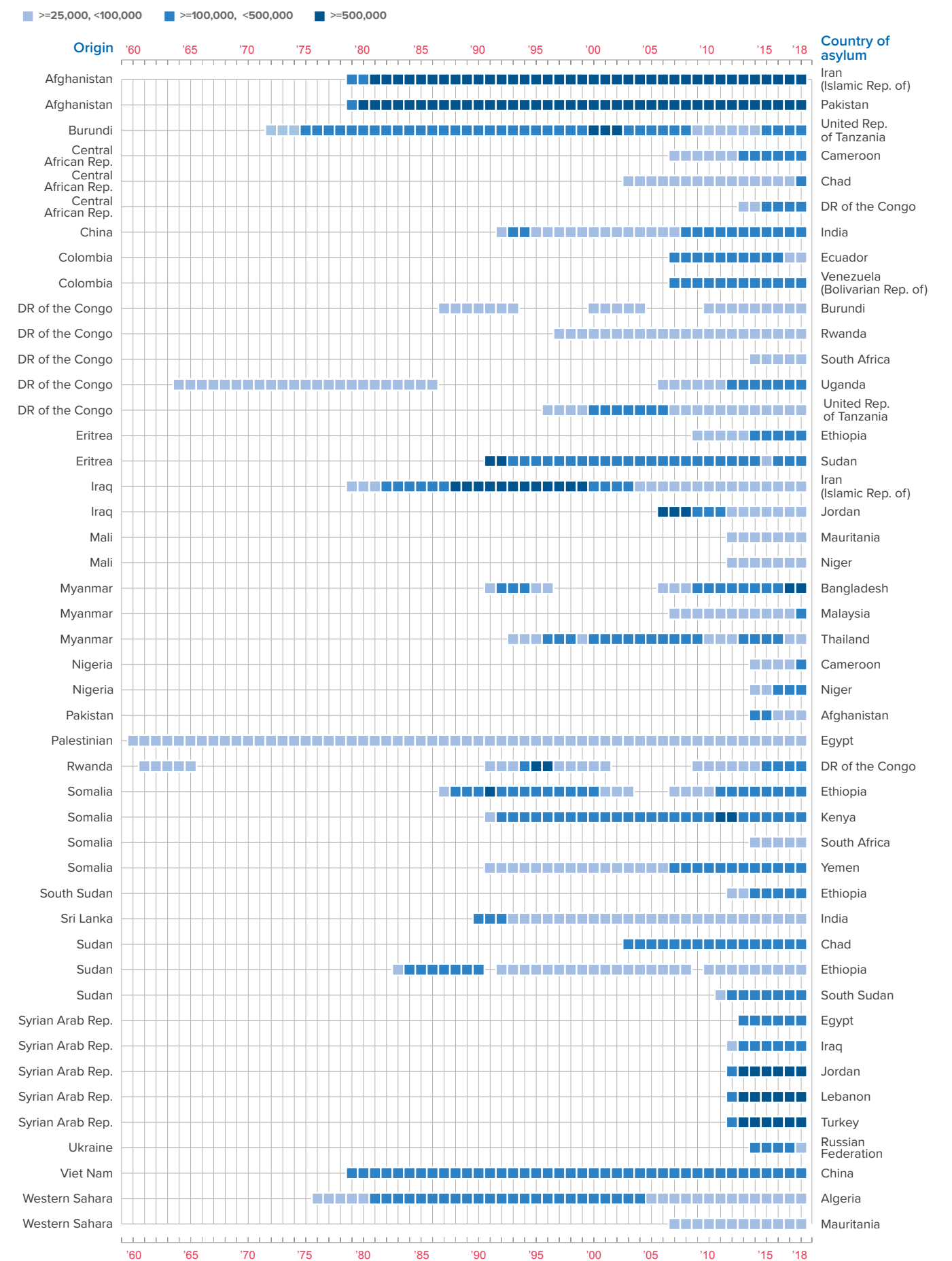
In 2018, nine additional situations become protracted, where the displacement of more than 25,000 refugees extended beyond five years. These included South Sudanese refugees in Kenya, Sudan and Uganda; Nigerians in Cameroon and Niger; refugees from DRC and Somalia in South Africa; Pakistani refugees in Afghanistan; and Ukrainian refugees in the Russian Federation. Unfortunately, no protracted situations were resolved during 2018. ■

<sup>30</sup> Only refugees under UNHCR's mandate are considered in this analysis, which includes Palestine refugees in Egypt but not Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, State of Palestine or Syria who are under UNRWA's mandate.



SUDAN. Eritrean refugee Sherifa, 35, participates in UNHCR's campaign against human trafficking at Shagarab refugee camp in Sudan. Sherifa, whose husband went missing, holds up a sign saying: "I need freedom and peace".  
© UNHCR/HUSSEIN ERI

Figure 8 | Protracted refugee situations characterized by size | end-2018





ECUADOR. César and Yoheglith fled Venezuela with their three kids in October 2018. Living in Ibarra, Ecuador, they all sleep in one room. It's cramped and cold at night, but they feel safe now and are integrating into work and school.  
© UNHCR/SANTIAGO ESCOBAR-JARAMILLO



## CASE STUDY: THE VENEZUELA SITUATION

People are leaving Venezuela for many reasons: violence, insecurity, fear of being targeted for their political opinions (whether real or perceived), shortages of food and medicine, lack of access to social services, and being unable to support themselves and their families.

By the end of 2018, more than 3 million Venezuelans had left their homes, travelling mainly towards Latin America and the Caribbean. It is the biggest exodus in the region's recent history and one of the biggest displacement crises in the world.

More than 460,000 Venezuelans have sought asylum, including about 350,000 in 2018 alone [Figure 9]. But asylum procedures in the region are overwhelmed, and to date only 21,000 Venezuelans have been recognized as refugees.

In addition, Latin American countries have granted an estimated 1 million residence permits and other forms of legal stay to Venezuelans by the end of 2018, which allow them access to some basic services. In most countries, however, a considerable number of Venezuelans might be in an irregular situation, which exposed them to exploitation and abuse. With an unabated average of up to 5,000 people leaving Venezuela every day, it is estimated that 5 million people could leave the country by the end of 2019. Thousands cross daily into Colombia, while others head towards Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Peru. Still others take dangerous boat journeys to Caribbean islands.

Various interconnected factors are causing Venezuelans to leave, but given the deteriorating political, socioeconomic and human rights conditions, it is clear that international protection considerations, according to the refugee criteria



Map 2 | Venezuelans of concern to UNHCR in Latin America and the Caribbean | end-2018

“We didn’t feel safe anymore. We were scared to be in the house and we couldn’t leave the children alone. They threatened to kill my brother.”

– Angelica, a Venezuelan asylum-seeker in Panama, fled her country when armed groups tried to forcibly recruit her 12 year old son.

“

*“When my nine-month-old daughter died because of the lack of medicines, doctors or treatment, I decided to take my family out of Venezuela before another one of my children died. Diseases were getting stronger than us. I told myself, either we leave or we die.”*

– Eulirio Baes, a 33-year-old indigenous Warao from Delta Amacuro in Venezuela. He abandoned the Warao’s ancestral lands and took his entire family to Brazil after three relatives died.

in the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol and the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, are applicable to the majority of Venezuelans.

In a recent statement, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights indicated that “Countries in the region have been confronted with the massive arrival of people who often have urgent humanitarian and human rights protection needs.”<sup>31</sup>

Host countries have shown commendable solidarity towards Venezuelans arriving on their territory, giving them protection and assistance. Through the Quito process, they have cooperated to harmonize their protection responses for Venezuelan nationals and facilitate their legal, social and economic inclusion.

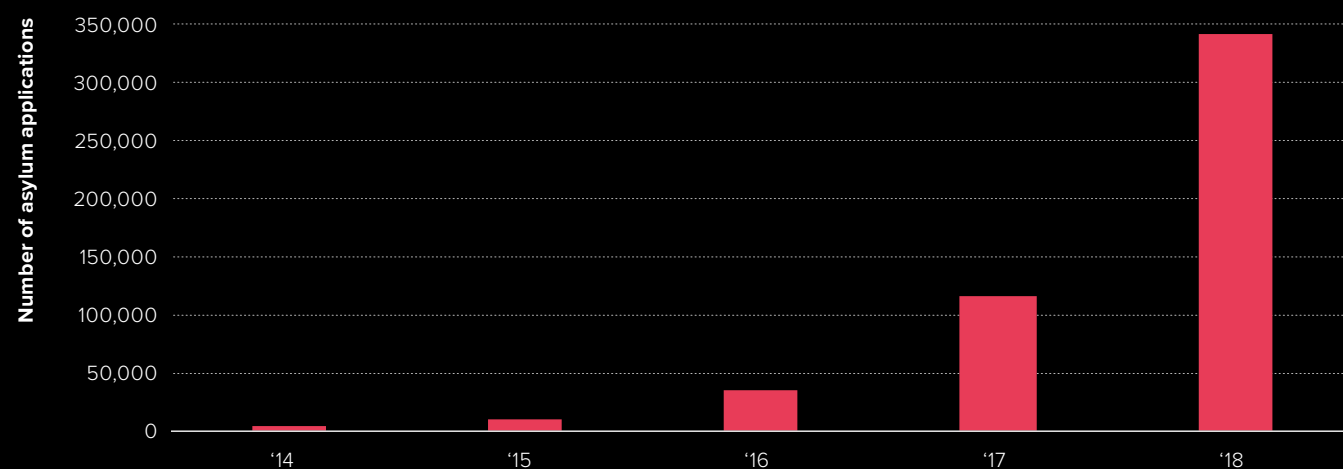
But faced with intermittent border restrictions, Venezuelans fleeing to neighbouring countries are also increasingly relying on irregular and dangerous routes to cross borders. People taking such routes are exposed to risks such as sexual exploitation, abuse and kidnapping, including in areas where illegal armed groups and guerrillas operate.

As the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants continues to rise, so do their needs and those of the communities hosting them. Given the magnitude of the outflow of Venezuelans, only a coordinated and comprehensive approach by governments, humanitarian and development actors, supported by a well-funded international response, will enable the region to cope with the full scale of the crisis.

With the objective of ensuring a coherent and coordinated operational response, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) established the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform in September 2018. The two organizations also appointed a UNCHR-IOM Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants and designed a Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan involving 95 partners and for the benefit of 2.2 million individuals.

<sup>31</sup> Oral update on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, 20 March 2019. See: [www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24374](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24374)

Figure 9 | New asylum applications by Venezuelans | 2014-2018



## CHAPTER 3

# Solutions

Lasting solutions require collective commitment so millions of displaced people can rebuild their lives

Finding durable solutions to displacement is a core part of UNHCR’s work. These are intended to enable millions of displaced people around the world to rebuild their lives in dignity and safety.

Resolving situations of forcible displacement requires collective commitment to address the protection needs of refugees and other displaced people through a range of options and opportunities. Traditionally, these have included voluntary repatriation, resettlement to a third country and local integration. Historically, many displacement situations have been resolved through these solutions, such as following the high levels of displacement from the Balkans and the Great Lakes region of Africa during the 1990s, but in recent decades such solutions have proved more elusive. The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework was developed partly to help address the need to

strengthen solutions including expanding access to resettlement in third countries and other complementary pathways, as well as fostering conditions that enable refugees to return voluntarily to their home countries.<sup>32</sup>

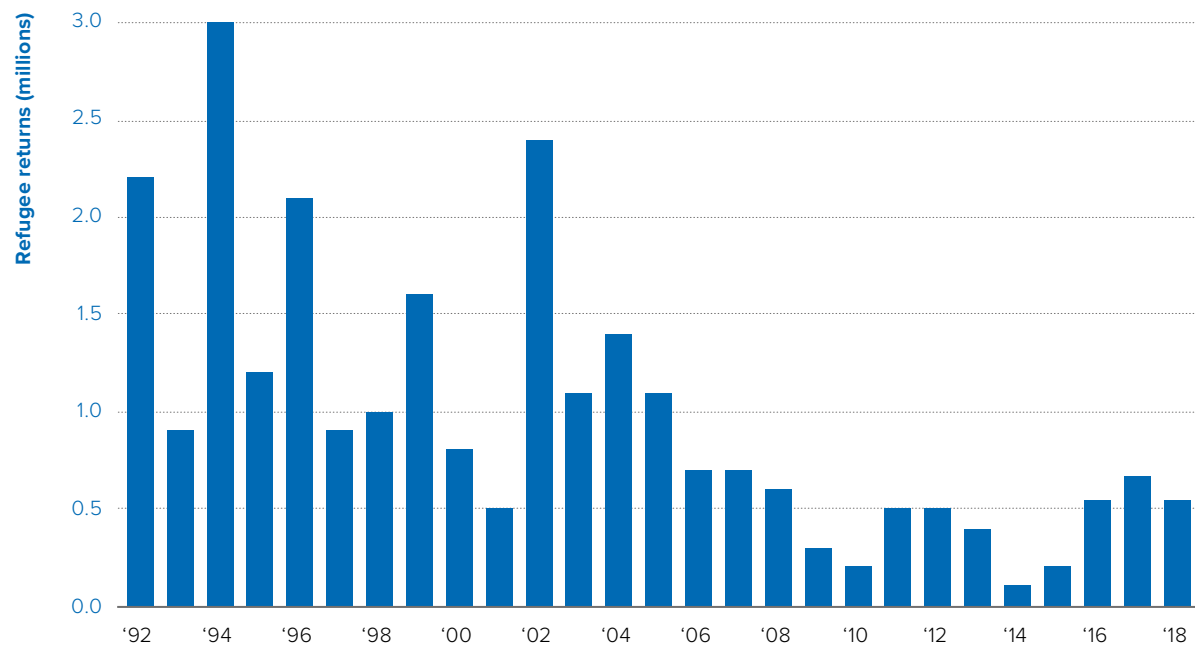
UNHCR is responsible for leading international coordination of protection for IDPs under the cluster system, including ensuring that IDPs can access a safe, voluntary, and dignified solution to displacement.<sup>33</sup> The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s framework on durable solutions outline how these can be attained so that IDPs no longer

<sup>32</sup> See: [www.unhcr.org/comprehensive-refugee-response-framework-crrf.html](http://www.unhcr.org/comprehensive-refugee-response-framework-crrf.html)

<sup>33</sup> See: [siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/Resources/244362-1265299949041/6766328-1265299960363/SG-Decision-Memo-Durable-Solutions.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/Resources/244362-1265299949041/6766328-1265299960363/SG-Decision-Memo-Durable-Solutions.pdf)



Figure 10 | Refugee returns | 1992-2018



have specific assistance or protection needs linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.

Solutions to displacement for refugees and IDPs should be addressed jointly. For the purposes of statistical reporting, however, the return of IDPs to their locality of origin is discussed in Chapter 4, and the remainder of this chapter will focus on durable solutions for refugees.

## Returns

During 2018, the number of refugees who returned to their countries of origin stood at 593,800. This constitutes a decline compared with 667,400 in 2017, especially given that the refugee population has continued to increase. Thus, this figure represents a further decline as a proportion of the global refugee population [Figures 10 and 11].

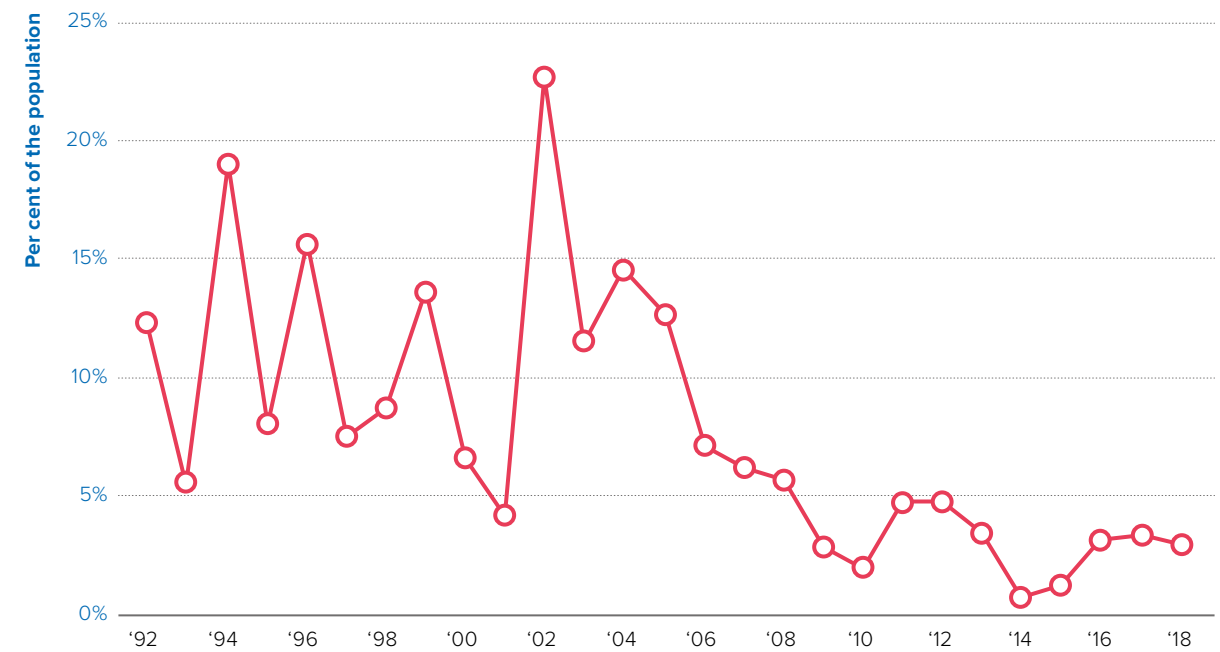
Voluntary repatriation remains the durable solution of choice for the largest number of refugees and requires appropriate measures to ensure that any choice is voluntary, free from coercion, and based on objective information with conditions allowing safe and dignified returns. Over the years, UNHCR

worked with States to facilitate numerous voluntary repatriation programmes that enabled millions of refugees to return home, assisted with small-scale and individual repatriations, and contributed to the reintegration of returnees to ensure that their return was a sustainable solution.

In 2018, UNHCR observed a number of self-organized returns, sometimes under pressure, to areas where circumstances were partially improving but where peace and security were not fully established. Such challenging situations often are not conducive to a safe and dignified repatriation. For returns to be sustainable, it is critical that they do not take place precipitously or prematurely in the absence of conditions for sustainable reintegration. Although UNHCR does not promote returns to countries of origin in such circumstances, the Office nevertheless recognizes the right of all individuals to return voluntarily to their country of origin and monitors the progress of returns while also advocating for improved conditions.

Refugees returned to 37 countries of origin from 62 former countries of asylum during 2018, as reported by UNHCR offices and after reconciliation of departure and arrival figures. It should be noted that countries of origin reported only arrivals of returning refugees with no distinction between those who

Figure 11 | Refugee returns as a proportion of the overall refugee population | 1992-2018



returned through organized voluntary repatriation, through self-organized returns or in conditions not conducive for sustainable return in safety and dignity. Thus the reported statistics refer to returns of all types and not necessarily to voluntary repatriation, and the data have not necessarily been verified by UNHCR in all cases.

Returns to Syria constituted the largest such number in 2018, with 210,900 refugees returning, mostly reported from Turkey (177,300).<sup>34</sup> Much smaller numbers were reported from Lebanon (14,500), Iraq (10,800), Jordan (8,100) and Egypt (300). UNHCR's position vis-à-vis returns to Syria throughout 2018 and up to present has been that there are not sufficient guarantees or conditions in place to facilitate large-scale repatriation in safety and dignity. Significant risks remain for civilians across the country and premature return could have a negative impact on refugees and, if significant in scale, could further destabilize the region.

UNHCR neither promoted nor facilitated refugee returns to Syria in 2018. However, many self-organized returns or returns organized by host countries or other actors occurred and returnees were assisted through ongoing humanitarian programmes.<sup>35</sup> A Return Perception and Intentions Survey conducted among Syrian refugees in 2018

found that 76 per cent of Syrian refugees hoped to return to Syria one day, a significant increase from the 51 per cent reported in 2017. Although most surveyed refugees aspired to go home, only a few saw return as a near-term possibility within a 12-month period. Indeed, 85 per cent of respondents stated they did not have intentions to return to Syria in the next 12 months, while 11 per cent were undecided, and 4 per cent intended to return.<sup>36</sup>

The second largest number of refugee returns in 2018 was reported by South Sudan, with 136,200. The largest number returned from Uganda (83,600), followed by Ethiopia (40,200), Sudan (5,200), Kenya (4,600), CAR (2,100) and DRC (400). As in the case of Syria, UNHCR did not facilitate or promote refugee returns to South Sudan in 2018. For those refugees who returned in circumstances that were challenging or not conducive to a safe and dignified return, UNHCR sought to monitor and assist the situations of returned refugees and IDPs within the country.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>34</sup> While the Government of Turkey reported the total number of return departures of Syrians from Turkey, UNHCR verified 22,410 returns in 2018 from Turkey. See: [data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria\\_durable\\_solutions](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions)

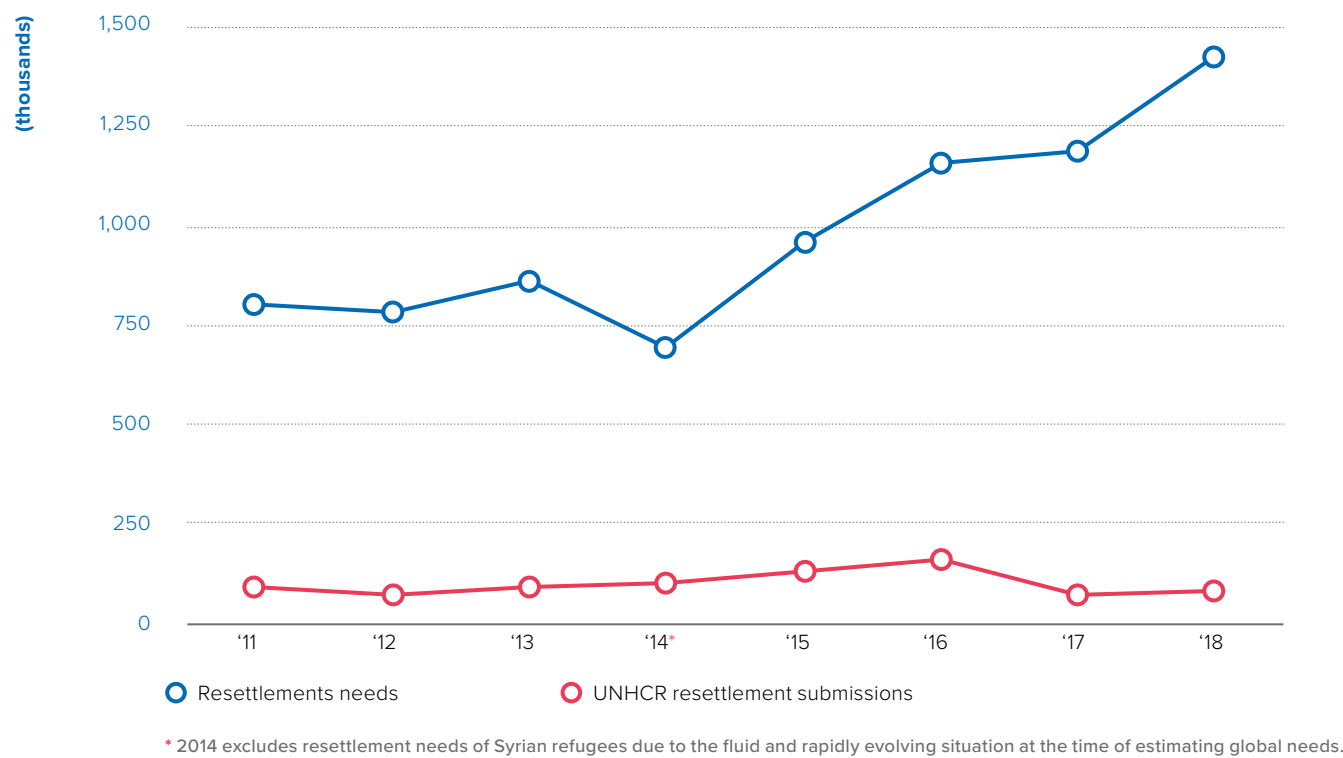
<sup>35</sup> See: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/63223>

<sup>36</sup> See: [data2.unhcr.org/fr/documents/download/66198](https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/documents/download/66198)

<sup>37</sup> See: [reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20South%20SudanSpontaneous%20Returnees%2031%20January%202019.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20South%20SudanSpontaneous%20Returnees%2031%20January%202019.pdf)



Figure 12 | Gap between resettlement needs and UNHCR's annual submissions | 2011-2018



During 2018, some 87,500<sup>38</sup> refugees returned to Somalia, the vast majority from Kenya (82,800) and with smaller numbers from Yemen (3,400) and Djibouti (800). Burundi reported the return of 45,500 refugees, 98 per cent of whom came back from Tanzania. There were 35,200 returnees to CAR, mostly from Cameroon (17,100), Chad (10,100), DRC (4,300) and Congo (3,500). Other countries with significant numbers of returnees were Colombia (23,900), Afghanistan (16,200), Mozambique (8,800), Mali (6,700), DRC (6,600) and Chad (6,400).

In terms of return movements by country of asylum, Turkey reported the largest number of departures, all to Syria (177,300). There were 83,600 refugees who repatriated from Uganda, nearly all of whom returned to South Sudan. Other countries reporting large numbers of departures were Tanzania (44,800, all to Burundi), Ethiopia (40,200 to South Sudan), Venezuela (23,900, all to Colombia), Cameroon (17,100, nearly all to CAR), Lebanon (14,500, all to Syria), Pakistan (14,000, nearly all to Afghanistan), Chad (11,800, with 10,000 to CAR and smaller numbers to Sudan), Iraq (10,800, all to Syria) and Sudan (10,100, mainly to Chad and South Sudan).

## Resettlement

Resettlement remains a life-saving tool to ensure the protection of those refugees most at risk. As one of the key objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, resettlement and complementary pathways are also mechanisms for governments and communities across the world to share responsibility for responding to increasing forced displacement crises and help reduce the impact of large refugee situations on host countries.

UNHCR estimated that 1.4 million refugees were in need of resettlement [Figure 12].<sup>39</sup> However, only 81,300 places for new submissions were provided by 29 resettlement states in 2018. Although this represented an 8 per cent increase compared with 2017 (75,200), the gap between needs and actual resettlement places exceeded 90 per cent and continued to grow.

<sup>38</sup> The number of refugee returns to Somalia in 2018 is provisional and will be updated as it currently includes returns from earlier years.

<sup>39</sup> See: [www.unhcr.org/protection/resettlement/5b28a7df4/projected-global-resettlement-needs-2019.html](http://www.unhcr.org/protection/resettlement/5b28a7df4/projected-global-resettlement-needs-2019.html)

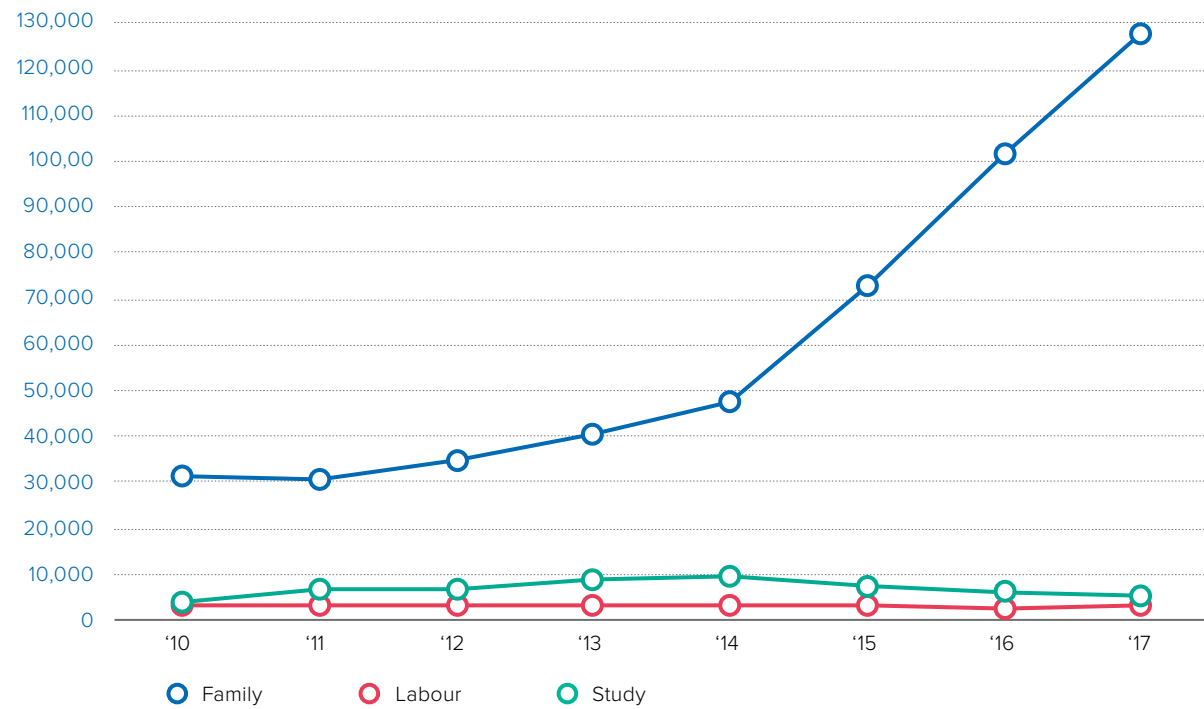


AFGHANISTAN. Sadiq Khan is an Afghan returnee who had been living in Pakistan. He now lives in Dasht-e Tarakhi, an informal settlement on the outskirts of Kabul which is mostly populated by returnees from Pakistan. UNHCR and its partners are helping returnees gain access to basic services, land and jobs.

© UNHCR/JIM HUYLEBROEK



Figure 13 | First permits granted by OECD countries (34) to Afghans, Eritreans, Iraqis, Somalis, and Syrians by permit type | between 2010 and 2017



Of the 81,300 submissions made in 2018, 68 per cent were for survivors of violence and torture, those with legal and physical protection needs, and particularly vulnerable women and girls. Just over half of all resettlement submissions concerned children.

A total of 82 UNHCR operations referred refugees to resettlement states in 2018. Turkey (16,000 submissions) and Lebanon (8,400) were the two largest resettlement operations and accounted for about one third of all submissions worldwide [Table 2]. Syrians constituted the largest refugee

population to be submitted for resettlement by UNHCR in 2018 (28,200 or 35 per cent of all submissions), followed by those from DRC (21,800 submissions) and Eritrea (4,300).

Based on official government statistics provided to UNHCR, 92,400 refugees<sup>40</sup> were resettled to 25 countries during 2018. Canada admitted the largest number of resettled refugees (28,100). The United States of America was second with 22,900. Other countries that admitted large numbers of resettled refugees during the year were Australia (12,700), the United Kingdom (5,800) and France (5,600).

In addition to refugee resettlement, complementary pathways for admission of refugees are key to expanding access to third-country solutions.<sup>41</sup> In 2018, UNHCR and Organization for Economic and Co-operation and Development (OECD) published a study that examined the use of complementary

<sup>40</sup> This figure includes refugees admitted with or without UNHCR's assistance.

<sup>41</sup> The general framework of complementary pathways in the context of solutions for refugees is outlined in UNHCR's "Complementary pathways for admission to third countries: Key considerations" paper. See: [www.unhcr.org/complementary-pathways.html](http://www.unhcr.org/complementary-pathways.html)

Table 2 | Resettlement submissions by UNHCR operation | 2018

UNHCR operation	Resettlement submissions
Turkey	16,042
Lebanon	8,393
United Rep. of Tanzania	6,493
Jordan	6,387
Uganda	5,478
Other	38,544
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,337</b>

pathways.<sup>42</sup> The study focuses on first-entry permits granted for family, study or work purposes in OECD countries to nationals from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq, Somalia and Syria<sup>43</sup> from 2010 to 2017 [Figure 13].

Between 2010 and 2017, the combined total of submitted asylum applications in OECD countries of the five populations was more than 2.5 million, including 322,300 (13 per cent) on appeal following a negative decision at the first-instance. More than 1.5 million were granted either refugee status (890,000) or complementary forms of protection (633,000) during this period, and 566,900 first residence permits were granted to the five populations. Furthermore, 350,400 people from the five populations arrived in OECD countries through resettlement programmes from 2010 to 2017.

## Local integration

One durable solution is the local integration of refugees. This is a complex and gradual process that involves refugees establishing themselves in a country of asylum and integrating into the community there. Separate but equally important legal, economic, social, and cultural aspects to local integration form part of the process, which over time should lead to permanent residence rights and, in many cases, the acquisition of citizenship in the country of asylum.

Measuring and quantifying local integration in a way that is comparable and consistent across different contexts is challenging. The International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics make several recommendations on appropriate indicators, but data availability on the situation of refugees is still very poor.<sup>44</sup> 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 measure of local integration. However, even this proxy is limited by 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 will explore with governments opportunities to address these gaps.

During 2018, a total of 62,600 refugee naturalizations were reported – lower than the 73,400 reported in 2017 – with 27 countries reporting at least one. Turkey reported the most naturalizations with 29,000 in 2018, all originating from Syria. Canada reported the second largest number, with 18,300, reversing that country's decline in naturalizations since 2015 and substantially higher than the 10,500 reported in 2017. Canada naturalized refugees from 162 countries with the highest number from Iraq (2,800). The Netherlands also reported an increasing number of naturalizations with 7,900 compared with 6,600 in 2017. Other countries that reported significant numbers of naturalizations of refugees in 2018 were Guinea-Bissau (3,500) and France (3,300). ■

<sup>42</sup> See: [www.unhcr.org/5c07a2c84](http://www.unhcr.org/5c07a2c84). The findings will support the development of the three-year strategy envisaged by the Global Compact on Refugees to expand resettlement and complementary pathways. Data will be updated on a regular basis, with the report intended to be issued by UNHCR-OECD every two years. The next report will be completed in 2020, covering 2018-2019 data.

<sup>43</sup> These nationalities were selected because they account for more than half of the world's refugees under UNHCR's mandate and have a high recognition rate for those applying for asylum in OECD countries.

<sup>44</sup> See: [ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/9315869/KS-GQ-18-004-EN-N.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/9315869/KS-GQ-18-004-EN-N.pdf)





DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.  
Prosper, 25, fled his village in 2016 after receiving threats from an armed group. He lives with his wife, their three-year-old daughter, and a 12-year-old boy who joined them during their flight. Prosper explains how they tried to find the boy's parents but, with no success, decided to take him in.  
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## CHAPTER 4

# Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

Increasing numbers of people are being displaced within their own countries due to armed conflict, generalized violence and human rights violations

An estimated 41.3 million people were internally displaced due to armed conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations at the end of 2018, according to estimates from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). This is an increase on the 40.0 million reported in 2017. The small declines of the previous years were reversed and the internally displaced population in 2018 was the largest ever reported by IDMC.<sup>45</sup>

Since the inter-agency cluster approach was introduced in January 2006, IDP statistics have been collected jointly by UNHCR and cluster members.<sup>46</sup> The total reported by UNHCR offices stood at 41.4 million at the end of 2018, including those in IDP-like situations, compared with 39.1 million at the end of 2017 [Figure 14]. In 2018, 31 UNHCR operations reported an IDP population, compared with 32 the previous year and 29 in 2016.

As has been the case since 2015, Colombia continued to report the highest number of internally displaced people with 7,816,500 at the end of 2018 according to Government statistics [Figure 15].<sup>47</sup> During 2018, 118,200 new displacements were reported, with no returns or other decreases reported. The regions

most impacted by mass displacements included Colombia's north-eastern border with Venezuela, the southern border with Ecuador, the Pacific coast bordering Panama, and the northwest, comprising the departments of Norte de Santander, Nariño, Antioquia and Choco.<sup>48</sup>

Similarly, Syria remained the country with the second highest level of internal displacement. During 2018, 256,700 new displacements were reported with the total displaced population reaching 6,183,900.<sup>49,50</sup> As the Syria crisis entered its eighth year, continued

<sup>45</sup> For detailed statistics on global internal displacement, see [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)

<sup>46</sup> In December 2005, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee endorsed the "cluster" approach for handling situations of internal displacement. Under this arrangement, UNHCR assumes leadership responsibility and accountability for three clusters: protection, shelter, and camp coordination and camp management.

<sup>47</sup> The large number of registered IDPs in Colombia comes from the total cumulative figure from the Victims' Registry, which commenced in 1985. See: <http://rni.unidadvictimas.gov.co/RUV>.

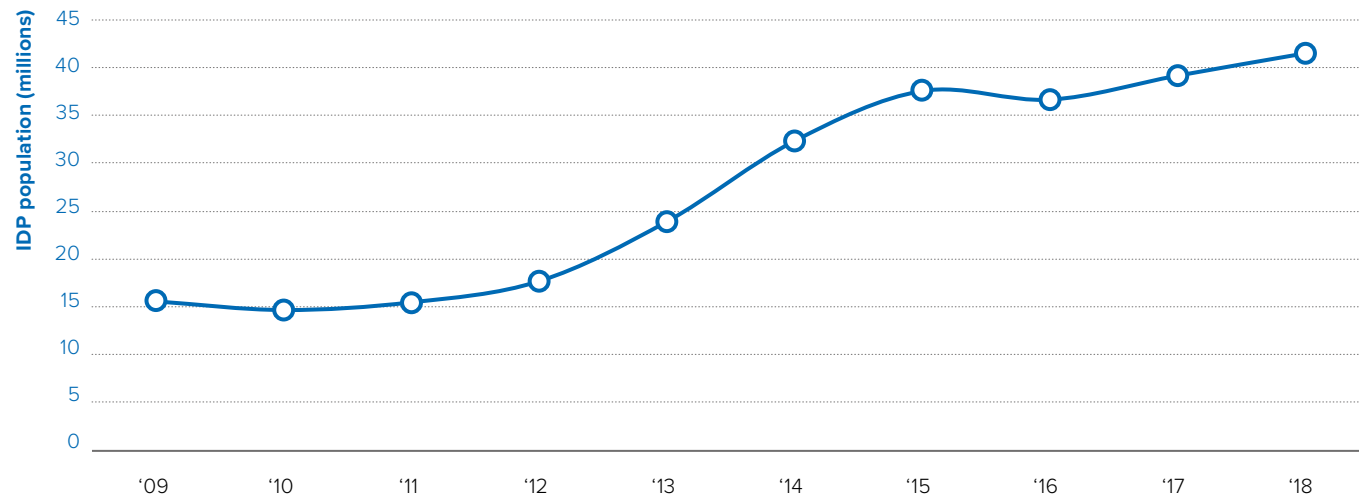
<sup>48</sup> "2019 Humanitarian needs overview: – Colombia". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/290119\\_hno\\_2019\\_en.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/290119_hno_2019_en.pdf)

<sup>49</sup> The population is as of end-August 2018.

<sup>50</sup> The IDP estimates were reported by the Government of Syria and did not include any reported IDP returns. However, OCHA reported 1.4 million spontaneous returns. See: [reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019\\_Syr\\_HNO\\_Summary.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019_Syr_HNO_Summary.pdf) UNHCR is working to reconcile these estimates.



Figure 14 | IDPs of concern to UNHCR (includes people in an IDP-like situation) | 2009-2018



hostilities in Eastern Ghouta and Afrin led to large-scale displacement to Rural Damascus and northern Syria. Escalated tensions in southern Syria forced people to flee toward the border with Jordan and the Golan area to the west. Sporadic artillery shelling and infighting among non-State armed groups in north-western Syria and south-eastern Deir-ez-Zor pushed successive waves of new displacement into Idlib Governorate, exacerbating existing pressures.<sup>51</sup> While there were displacements in many regions of the country, more than half of the new displacements were recorded in Idlib Governorate.

The IDP population in DRC continued to increase, rising from 4,351,400 at the end of 2017 to 4,516,900 at the end of 2018. There were 322,000 reported new displacements in 2018 with South Kivu, North Kivu, Tanganyika and Kasai provinces being the most affected. Active conflicts and political uncertainties exacerbated by the ongoing electoral process continued to drive significant displacement.<sup>52</sup> Nevertheless, improved security across some territories in Tanganyika facilitated some spontaneous returns.<sup>53</sup>

Somalia experienced a significant increase in internal displacement with 602,700 new displacements during 2018. That brought the total displaced population to about 2,648,000, the fourth largest IDP population and an increase of 25 per cent over the course of 2018. The largest displaced population was

concentrated in south-central Somalia, while the majority of newly displaced people were living in Somaliland by the end of 2018. Armed conflict and food insecurity continued to spur large-scale displacement, largely toward urban areas, where approximately 80 per cent of Somali IDPs remained in 2018. Even where violence had ceased, many IDPs were reluctant to return due to fear of reprisal and limited availability of social services and livelihood opportunities. Sexual and gender-based violence, child recruitment, and attacks on civilian areas and infrastructure remained pervasive features of the humanitarian crisis as active conflict exacerbated existing risks.<sup>54</sup>

In Ethiopia there was a dramatic increase in the internally displaced population, which more than doubled from 1,078,400 at the beginning of 2018 to 2,615,800 at the end.<sup>55</sup> The increase is accounted for by more than 1.5 million new displacements, mainly

<sup>51</sup> "2019 Humanitarian needs overview: – Syria". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2019\\_syr\\_hno\\_full.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2019_syr_hno_full.pdf)

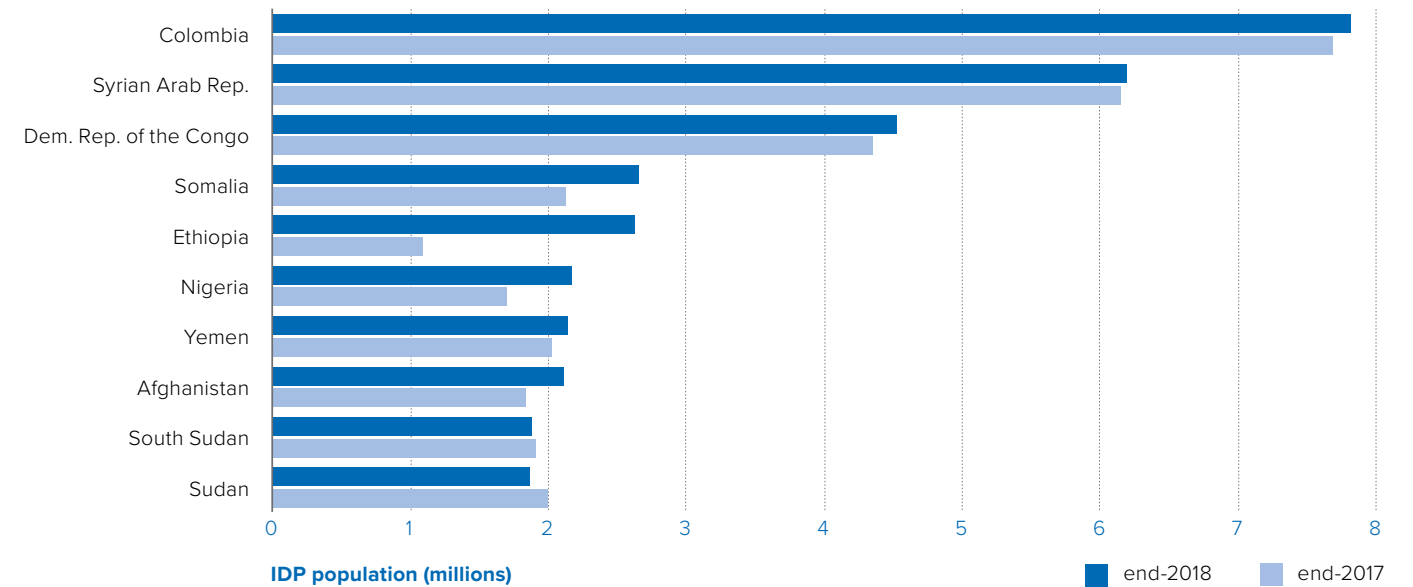
<sup>52</sup> "Global humanitarian overview 2019". See: [www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHO2019.pdf](http://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHO2019.pdf)

<sup>53</sup> "2018 Aperçu des besoins humanitaires: – République Démocratique du Congo". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/drc\\_hno\\_2018\\_fr.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/drc_hno_2018_fr.pdf)

<sup>54</sup> "2019 Humanitarian needs overview: – Somalia". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/somalia\\_2019\\_hno.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/somalia_2019_hno.pdf)

<sup>55</sup> This figure relates to displacement caused by conflict and does not include the displacement associated with natural disasters in Ethiopia.

Figure 15 | Ten largest IDP populations | end-2017 to end-2018



attributed to the conflict in the West Guji and Gedeo zones along the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) and Oromia Region border with the Somali Region. Although localized, small-scale displacements have always existed in the country due to community-level clashes over pasture and water rights along regional boundaries, large-scale intercommunal violence throughout 2018 resulted in massive displacement, with communities living along disputed boundaries most affected.<sup>56</sup>

The internally displaced population also increased in Nigeria. At the end of 2018 there were 2,167,900 people displaced in the country, an increase of 27 per cent during the year. Internal movements included both 581,700 new displacements and 176,200 returns. Borno State saw the highest level of new displacement with 195,000 but also the highest levels of returning IDPs (80,100). Although regional military forces made gains against the Boko Haram insurgency in 2018 and managed to temporarily improve the security situation in certain areas of the Lake Chad Basin, conflict in north-eastern Nigeria has

<sup>56</sup> "2019 Humanitarian needs overview: – Ethiopia". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ethiopia\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_overview\\_2019.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ethiopia_humanitarian_needs_overview_2019.pdf)

<sup>57</sup> "2019 Humanitarian needs overview: – Nigeria". See: [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/01022019\\_ocha\\_nigeria\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_overview.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/01022019_ocha_nigeria_humanitarian_needs_overview.pdf)

<sup>58</sup> "2019 Humanitarian needs overview: – Yemen". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2019\\_yemen\\_hno\\_final\\_1.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2019_yemen_hno_final_1.pdf)

been continuing for more than a decade and showed little sign of abating, with attacks by non-State armed groups throughout 2018 driving further displacement.<sup>57</sup>

There were 2,144,700 internally displaced people in Yemen at the end of 2018. While this was a relatively small overall increase over the year, it masked a high level of movement, with 264,300 newly displaced and 133,600 returning to their localities of origin, often to areas still affected by conflict and with continuing humanitarian needs and limited humanitarian access. While many regions of Yemen were affected by displacement, Taizz and Al Hudaydah Governorate witnessed the highest level of new displacement, with the largest IDP population overall reported in Taizz Governorate. Approximately 60 per cent of the displaced population had been displaced since the start of escalations.<sup>58</sup>

The internally displaced population in Afghanistan stood at 2.1 million at the end of 2018 compared with 1.8 million at the end of 2017. There were new displacements and returns throughout the year, often occurring simultaneously in the same province. While the IDP population in Ghazni Province increased slightly from 57,800 to 62,400, there were 37,000 new internal displacements and 33,200 returns. The province with the largest IDP population was Nangarhar with 279,700 people, followed by Helmand. With almost two thirds of the population

Figure 16 | New IDP displacements and returns | 2009-2018



living in areas directly affected by conflict, population movement has become a permanent feature. A convergence of factors arising from escalating violence, forced displacement, loss of essential livelihoods, and limited access to basic services exacerbated chronic vulnerabilities related to poverty, food insecurity and unemployment.<sup>59</sup>

In South Sudan the number of IDPs remained high, around 1.9 million, although decreasing slightly from 1,904,000 to 1,878,200 during the year. The majority of the internally displaced population was concentrated in the Greater Upper Nile states of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile. The decreases in the IDP population were due mainly to secondary movements to neighbouring countries, especially Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia, rather than returns. While South Sudan's recently revitalized peace process offers new opportunities amid de-escalating tensions, the numbers of internally displaced have continued to remain high with five years of conflict having driven many families to flee on multiple occasions.<sup>60</sup>

At the end of 2018, the internally displaced population in Sudan stood at 1,864,200, a decrease from the 1,997,000 at the start of the year. The vast majority of IDPs were in Darfur (88 per cent) and Kordofan (9 per cent). Some have been living in protracted

displacement for over a decade, while others were recently displaced amid continued conflict. Segments of this population made spontaneous returns to their areas of origin, but sporadic and localized clashes in Darfur's Jebel Marra area continued to drive displacement in 2018.<sup>61, 62</sup>

The number of IDPs in Iraq declined over 2018, decreasing from 2.6 million at the start of 2018 to 1.8 million at the end. There were close to 1 million returns during the year and 150,200 new displacements. Ninewa Province, which includes the city of Mosul, maintained the largest IDP population at 576,000, despite 437,000 returns during the year. Although the safe, voluntary and informed return of displaced

<sup>59</sup> "2019 Humanitarian needs overview: – Afghanistan". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/afg\\_2019\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_overview.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/afg_2019_humanitarian_needs_overview.pdf)

<sup>60</sup> "2019 Humanitarian needs overview: – South Sudan". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/south\\_sudan\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_overview\\_2019\\_final.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/south_sudan_humanitarian_needs_overview_2019_final.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> "2018 Humanitarian needs overview: – Sudan". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/sudan\\_2018\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_overview.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/sudan_2018_humanitarian_needs_overview.pdf)

<sup>62</sup> "Sudan Humanitarian Bulletin, issue 20, 26 November – 23 December 2018". See: [reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA\\_Sudan\\_Humanitarian\\_Bulletin\\_Issue\\_20\\_%2826\\_November\\_-\\_23\\_December\\_2018%29.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA_Sudan_Humanitarian_Bulletin_Issue_20_%2826_November_-_23_December_2018%29.pdf)

people remained an overarching priority, it became increasingly clear that a significant majority of current IDPs may not return to their area of origin.<sup>58</sup> In the aftermath of the Government of Iraq's conflict with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) armed group, protection remained a crucial humanitarian priority.<sup>63</sup>

According to official statistics, 1.5 million people were registered as internally displaced with the Ukrainian authorities. Of these, the United Nations estimated that 800,000 resided permanently in Government-controlled areas, while others moved frequently across the "contact line" or registered as IDPs to maintain access to their pensions. Most of those displaced had been living in displacement since the peak of hostilities in 2014, unable to return home in the absence of a sustained peace.<sup>64</sup>

Cameroon experienced a trebling of its internally displaced population from 221,700 at the start of 2018 to 668,500 at the end, with over half a million new displacements. While the majority of IDPs continued to flee violence from the Southwest and Northwest regions, the incidence of internal displacement in the Far North slowed gradually amid increasing numbers of returns to the region.<sup>65</sup> People in the Far North were especially vulnerable due to loss of property, limited access to services, and general mistrust and stigmatization by community members on suspicion of collaboration and affiliation with Boko Haram.<sup>66</sup>

Other countries with significant IDP populations reported at the end of 2018 included CAR (641,000), Azerbaijan (620,400), Myanmar (370,300) and Georgia (282,400).

Over the course of 2018, about 5.4 million people were forced to move within their countries due to conflict and violence, according to data reported by UNHCR offices. [Figure 16]. This is a significant reduction compared with 2017 (8.5 million) and similar to 2016 (4.9 million).

The dramatic increase of over 1.5 million internally displaced people in Ethiopia was mainly the result of

inter-communal violence in various pockets of the country over territory, pasture and water rights in pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas along regional boundaries.<sup>66</sup>

Other countries with high levels of new internal displacement included Somalia (602,700), Nigeria (581,700), Cameroon (514,500), Afghanistan (343,300), DRC (322,000), CAR (266,400), Yemen (264,300), Syria (256,700), the Philippines (212,600), Iraq (150,200), Colombia (118,100), Mali (82,100), Niger (51,800), Burkina Faso (44,700), Libya (33,200) and Congo (30,200).

As in previous years, Iraq continued to have the highest number of returns in 2018 with close to 1 million people (945,000) returning to their localities of origin. This was followed by the Philippines with 445,700 returns, the vast majority of which were to locations on the island of Mindanao. CAR also saw 306,200 returns, followed by Nigeria (176,200), Yemen (133,600), Pakistan (83,500), Afghanistan (73,500), Cameroon (67,700) and Libya (43,700). ■

<sup>63</sup> "2019 Humanitarian needs overview: – Iraq". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2019\\_hno\\_irq\\_28122018.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2019_hno_irq_28122018.pdf)

<sup>64</sup> "2019 Humanitarian needs overview: – Ukraine". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ukraine\\_2019\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_overview\\_en.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ukraine_2019_humanitarian_needs_overview_en.pdf)

<sup>65</sup> "2018 Aperçu des besoins humanitaires: – Cameroon". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/cmr\\_hno18\\_v1.3\\_light.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/cmr_hno18_v1.3_light.pdf)

<sup>66</sup> "Ethiopia humanitarian needs overview 2019". See: [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ethiopia\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_overview\\_2019.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ethiopia_humanitarian_needs_overview_2019.pdf)



GREECE. Children play with a kitten at the transit site located above a fishing village in northern Lesvos. In September 2018, the reception and identification centre in Moria, on the island of Lesvos, hosted more than 8,500 asylum-seekers, almost four times its official capacity. Some 35,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece between January and September 2018 – an increase of 48 per cent compared to 2017.

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## CHAPTER 5

# Asylum-Seekers

1 in 5 asylum seekers come from Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

This chapter presents the main trends in asylum applications and decisions in 2018. Note that it does not include information on mass influxes of refugees or those recognized as refugees on a group or prima facie basis.

During the year, some 2.1 million individual applications for asylum or refugee status were submitted to States or UNHCR in 158 countries or territories in 2018, a small increase from 2017 when there were 1.9 million.<sup>67,68</sup> Of the provisional total of 2.1 million, 1.7 million were initial applications lodged in “first instance” procedures,<sup>69</sup> while the remaining claims were submitted at second instance, including with courts or other appellate bodies.<sup>70</sup>

In many countries, UNHCR may undertake refugee status determination. In those countries, UNHCR offices registered 227,800 applications in 2018, of which 12,200 were on appeal or repeat [Table 3].

<sup>67</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. In particular, it should be noted that South Africa is yet to submit national asylum data.

<sup>68</sup> Analysis of global levels and by country of asylum is based on individuals, with cases multiplied by the average number of persons per case. Analysis by country of origin is based on individuals and cases as reported by the country of asylum, since inflation factors are not available by country of origin.

<sup>69</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>70</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 openly.



Table 3 | **New and appeal applications registered | 2013-2018**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
States	870,700	1,401,700	2,063,900	1,941,700	1,661,500	1,906,400
UNHCR	203,200	245,700	269,400	208,100	263,400	227,800
Jointly**	5,800	12,900	17,800	26,300	24,300	11,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,079,700</b>	<b>1,660,300</b>	<b>2,351,100</b>	<b>2,176,100</b>	<b>1,949,100</b>	<b>2,145,600</b>
% UNHCR only	19	15	11	10	14	11

\* Provisional figures.

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

## New individual asylum applications registered<sup>71</sup>

### By receiving country<sup>72</sup>

As in 2017, the United States of America continued to be the largest recipient of new asylum applications, with 254,300 registered during 2018 [Figure 17].<sup>73</sup> While this was a decrease compared with 2017 (331,700), it was similar to 2016 (262,000). As in previous years, El Salvador was the most common nationality of origin of applicants for asylum during 2018 with 33,400 claims, a decrease on the 49,500 submitted in 2017 and about the same as 2016 (33,600). Also, as in 2017, Guatemalans were the next largest group with 33,100 new applications. Venezuelans became the third most common nationality of applicants for asylum during 2018 with 27,500 applications, reflecting the continued deterioration of conditions in the country.<sup>74</sup> This was followed by applicants from Honduras with 24,400 applications and Mexicans (20,000). As in previous years, applicants from Central America and Mexico made up about half of all applications (54 per cent). Other countries from which there were significant applicants for asylum in 2018 included India (9,400) and China (9,400). Overall, claims were received from applicants from 166 countries or territories.

As a result of the crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the number of asylum applications increased sharply in Peru, which became the second largest recipient of asylum applications globally with 192,500. Nearly all such claims were submitted by Venezuelans (190,500). In 2017, by contrast, Peru received 37,800 asylum claims and 4,400 in 2016.

Germany continued to experience a decline in the number of new asylum applications received with 161,900 and became the third largest recipient of new

asylum claims. This compared with 198,300 in 2017, as well as the peak of 722,400 in 2016. As in previous years, Syrians made up the largest number of asylum claims with 44,200 although this declined to 27 per cent as a proportion of all claims. Also, as in 2017, Iraqis were the second most common nationality of origin with 16,300 claims in 2018, although this constituted a decline from the 21,900 in 2017. The number of applications from Iranians increased in 2018 to 10,900 to become the third most common nationality. Of note is the decrease in applications from Afghans: While there were 127,000 such applications in 2016, there were only 9,900 in 2018. Other nationalities with significant numbers of new asylum-seekers in Germany were Nigeria (10,200), Turkey (10,200), Eritrea (5,600) and Somalia (5,100).

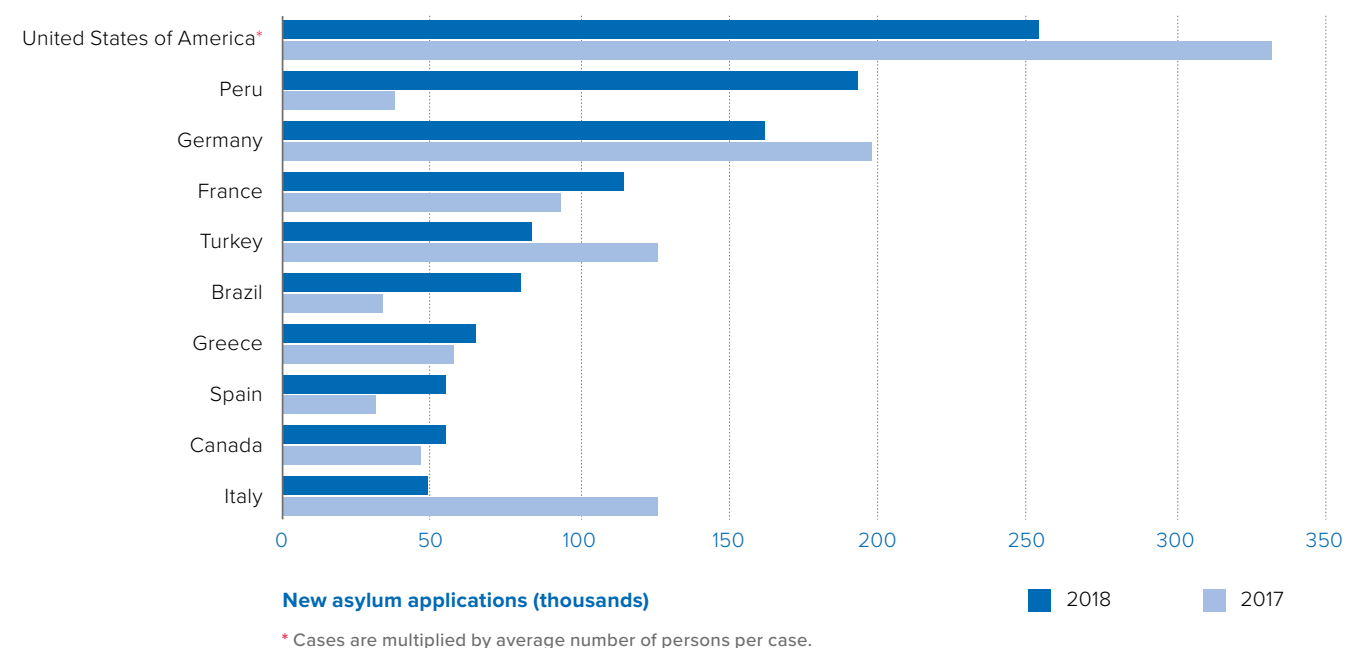
The fourth largest recipient of new asylum claims in 2018 was France with 114,500 registered, a 23 per cent increase on 2017. Unlike previous years, applicants from Afghanistan were the most common with 10,300 new applications, compared with 6,600 in 2017. Albanians were the next most common nationality with 8,300 claims, followed by Georgia (6,800), Guinea (6,700), Côte d'Ivoire (5,300) and Syria (5,000).

<sup>71</sup> Figures quoted in this section relate to new asylum applications lodged at the first instance. Appeal, court, repeat, or re-opened applications are excluded, to the extent possible.

<sup>72</sup> The number of applications reported for a country is based on individuals, with cases multiplied by an inflation factor when provided. Any further analysis by country of origin is based on individuals and cases, as inflation factors are not provided by country of origin.

<sup>73</sup> Estimated number of individuals based on the number of new affirmative asylum cases (96,600) 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 (109,300 individuals) (Source: US Department of Justice).

<sup>74</sup> The actual number of Venezuelan new asylum-seekers is likely significantly higher. Venezuelans are disproportionately more likely to submit affirmative asylum claims through the Department of Homeland Security (96 per cent of all claims) which reports to UNHCR claims by cases that often include more than one person rather than defensive claims through the Department of Justice which are reported by individuals. In contrast, 23 per cent of Salvadoran new asylum claims, 29 per cent of Guatemalan claims and 23 per cent of Honduran claims were submitted through the Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 17 | **Major recipient countries of new asylum applications | 2017-2018**

Turkey continued to receive individual asylum claims from nationalities other than Syrians who receive protection under the Government's Temporary Protection Regulation. Turkey thus became the fifth largest recipient of new asylum claims with 83,800 submitted in 2018. (These figures pertain to claims submitted to UNHCR as of 10th September 2018, after which UNHCR Turkey phased out its role in registering foreigners wishing to apply for international protection and the Government of Turkey moved to a fully decentralized procedure for all persons seeking international protection.) Afghan asylum-seekers continued to submit the most claims in 2018 with 53,000, compared with 67,400 in 2017. Similarly, asylum claims from Iraqis remained the second most common and declined from 44,500 in 2017 to 20,000 in 2018. There were also 6,400 claims from Iranians. These three countries accounted for nearly all newly received individual asylum claims in Turkey (95 per cent).

Brazil received 80,000 applications in 2018 to become the sixth largest recipient of asylum claims, a rise from 33,800 in 2017 and 10,300 in 2016. Like Peru, Brazil also witnessed a steep increase in asylum applications from Venezuelans, who accounted for more than three quarters of such claims in 2018 (61,600). There were also 7,000 applicants from Haitians.

Greece saw a continuation of the trend of increasing new individual asylum claims from 57,000 in 2017 to 65,000 in 2018 (compared with 11,400 in 2015). As in previous years, the most common nationality of origin was Syrian (13,200), although this constituted a decrease from the 16,300 submitted in 2017, and thus represented a decreasing proportion of claims. In contrast, there were increases in claims submitted by Afghans (11,800 in 2018 and 7,500 in 2017) and Iraqis (9,600 in 2018 and 7,900 in 2017), the second and third most common nationalities of origin, respectively.

During 2018, Spain received 55,700 new asylum claims, the eighth largest number globally and again a significant rise from 31,700 in 2017. The number of applications from Venezuelans, the most common nationality of origin, nearly doubled from 10,600 in 2017 to 20,000 in 2018. This was followed by Colombian applicants who also saw an increase from 2,500 in 2017 to 8,800 in 2018.

Canada was the ninth largest recipient of new asylum claims with 55,400 registered in 2018, a small increase on the claims registered in 2017 (47,000). Nationals of Nigeria submitted the largest number (9,600).

The number of new asylum applications in Italy more than halved to 48,900 in 2018, making it the tenth largest recipient of asylum claims. Pakistanis submitted the most applications with 7,300, followed



Table 4 | **New asylum claims registered in UNHCR offices with more than 10,000 claims\*** | 2014-2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Turkey **	87,800	133,300	78,600	126,100	83,800
Malaysia	25,700	22,100	20,100	23,700	23,800
Egypt	10,000	21,100	28,500	27,800	23,000
Libya	2,900	100	1,900	6,600	16,300
Jordan	29,100	19,400	12,000	10,600	10,400

\* Excluding appeal and review claims.

\*\* Pertains only up to 10 September 2018.

by Nigerians with 5,100 new applications (compared with the 25,100 in 2017).

Other countries receiving large numbers of new asylum claims were the United Kingdom (37,500), Mexico (29,600), Australia (28,800), Costa Rica (28,000), Malaysia (23,800), Egypt (23,000) and the Netherlands (20,500).

Among countries where refugee status determination is carried out by UNHCR, the office in Turkey continued to receive the most claims with 83,800 [Table 4]. As noted, these claims were recorded only until 10 September 2018, when the Government of Turkey assumed responsibility for all applications. The UNHCR office in Malaysia received the next highest number of new applications with 23,800, followed by Egypt (23,000),<sup>75</sup> Libya (16,300) and Jordan (10,400).

#### By nationality

For the first time, asylum claims from Venezuelans dominated the global asylum statistics with 341,800 new claims in 2018, accounting for more than 1 in 5 claims submitted [Figure 18]. The new individual claims are in addition to an estimated 2.6 million Venezuelans who have fled the country, many of whom have international protection needs but have not sought asylum (see page 24 for more information on the Venezuela situation). This number is a sharp increase compared with 116,000 claims in 2017, 34,200 in 2016 and 10,200 in 2015.

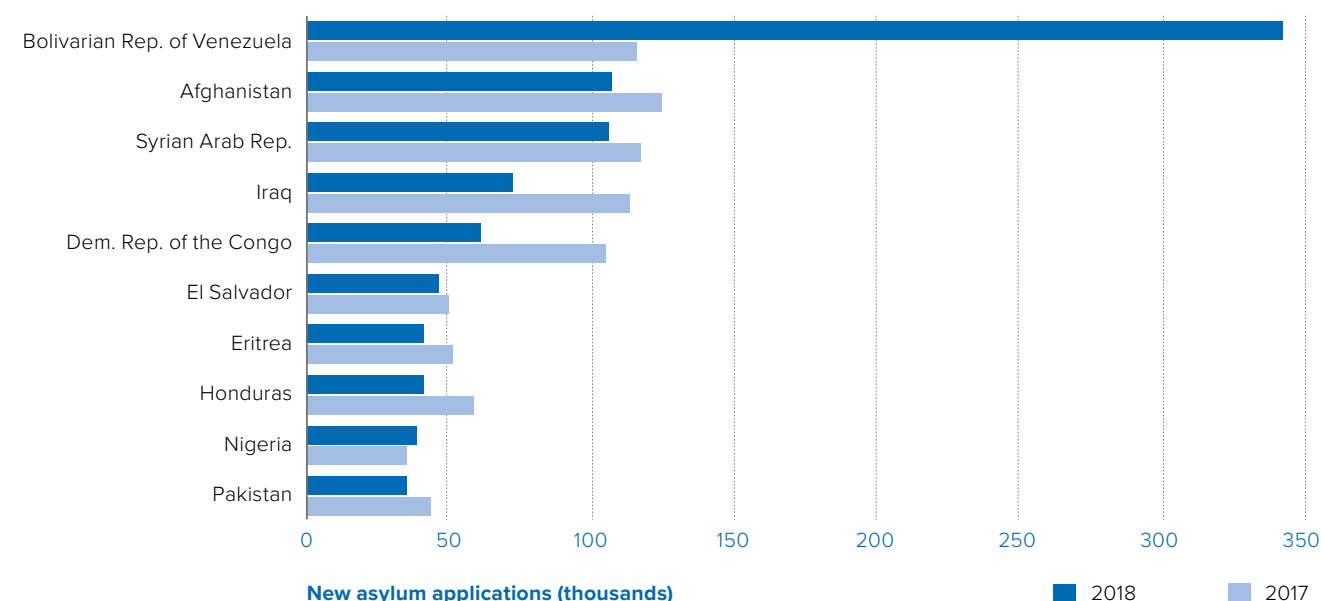
By far the most Venezuelan claims were submitted in Peru, with 190,500 new applications compared with 33,100 in 2017 – a more than five-fold increase. This was followed by 61,600 claims submitted in Brazil, where 17,900 were reported in 2017. There were 27,500 claims in the United States of America,

although the number of people is very likely to be higher since nearly all Venezuelan claims were affirmative applications reported as cases and can pertain to more than one person. Other countries that received significant claims were Spain (20,000), Ecuador (11,400), Trinidad and Tobago (7,100), Mexico (6,300), Panama (4,600), Costa Rica (2,900), Colombia (2,600), Chile (1,700) and Canada (1,300).

Afghanistan was the next most common country of origin for individual new asylum applications in 2018, with 107,500 claims lodged in 80 countries. As has been the case since 2016, Turkey received the most claims in 2018 with 53,000 registered. This was followed by Greece which received 11,800 claims – a significant increase on the 7,500 in 2017. A similar increase was seen in France, from 6,600 in 2017 to 10,300 in 2018. In contrast, there has been a sharp decline in Germany from 127,000 new claims in 2016 to 16,400 in 2017 and 9,900 in 2018. New Afghan claims for asylum were received in India (4,500), Austria (2,100), the United Kingdom (2,100), Pakistan (1,800), Switzerland (1,100), Bulgaria (1,100) and Belgium (1,000).

Asylum claims from Syrians were the third most common, in contrast to previous years. There were 106,200 new claims in 2018, a quarter of the peak number of 409,900 lodged in 2015 and a small decline on the 117,100 submitted in 2017. The number of new individual claims is in addition to new arrivals in countries where Syrians receive prima facie or group recognition such as Jordan and Lebanon; or in Turkey, where they were granted protection under the Government's Temporary Protection regime. Excluding these countries, individual asylum claims

<sup>75</sup> As of 31 December 2018, an additional 11,200 individuals have been awaiting registration with UNHCR after an initial visit to UNHCR.

Figure 18 | **Major source countries of new asylum-seekers** | 2017-2018

from Syrians were lodged in 98 countries, mostly in Europe. Germany received the most claims with 44,200, followed by Greece (13,100). In addition, the United Arab Emirates (7,200), France (5,000), Austria (3,300), the Netherlands (3,000), Spain (2,900), Belgium (2,800), Sweden (2,500), Saudi Arabia (2,200) and Albania (2,100) all received large numbers of claims for asylum from Syrians.

The fourth most common country of origin for asylum applications was Iraq with 72,600 new claims in 2018, compared with 113,500 the previous year. Turkey received the most new claims from Iraqis with 20,000 in 2018. This was followed by Germany, which received 16,300 in 2018, a decrease compared with the 21,900 received in 2017 and dramatically fewer than the 96,100 received in 2016. Iraqis also applied for asylum in Greece (9,600), Syria (4,500), the United Kingdom (3,600), Jordan (2,700) and France (2,300), as well as 68 other countries.

Similar to the past couple of years, the fifth most common country of origin remained DRC with 61,100 new applications in 2018, in addition to the 123,400 new refugee registrations on a group or prima facie basis. Burundi was the recipient of the largest number of claims with 13,700, followed by Zambia (9,600), Uganda (8,900), Kenya (6,600), Malawi (4,100), France (4,000) and Zimbabwe (2,300).

Salvadorans submitted 46,800 new claims globally in 2018, the sixth highest. Most of these were

submitted in the United States of America (33,400), although significant numbers were also registered in Mexico (6,200) and Spain (2,300).

There were 42,000 new asylum claims from Eritreans in 2018, a small decline from the 49,900 in 2017. Israel received the most claims with 6,300, followed by Germany (5,600), Libya (4,700), Uganda (3,400), Switzerland (2,500) and the United Kingdom (2,200).

Hondurans made up the eighth largest group to apply for asylum in 2018 with 41,500 new claims. More than half of these claims were submitted in the United States of America (24,400), in addition to 13,600 registered in Mexico and 2,500 in Spain.

Nigerians were the ninth most common nationality for new asylum-seekers with 39,200 new claims in 2018 compared with 52,000 in 2017. Of these, 10,200 claims were registered in Germany, followed by 9,600 in Canada, 5,100 in Italy, 3,500 in the United States of America and 3,100 in France.

Nationals of Pakistan submitted 35,800 new asylum claims in 2018. Italy received the largest number of these claims with 7,300, followed by Greece (7,200), the United Kingdom (2,600) and Germany (2,200).

Other nationalities that submitted significant numbers of new asylum claims in 2018 included the Islamic Republic of Iran (35,800), Guatemala (34,800), Sudan (32,400), Nicaragua (31,400),

Table 5 | Substantive decisions take | 2014-2018\*

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
States	941,800	1,086,400	1,408,500	1,395,000	1,064,100
UNHCR	99,600	91,600	83,400	87,400	67,500
Jointly**	4,400	6,400	6,000	4,300	2,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,045,800</b>	<b>1,184,400</b>	<b>1,498,000</b>	<b>1,486,600</b>	<b>1,134,200</b>
% UNHCR only	10	8	6	6	6

\* Provisional figures.

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

Turkey (30,000), Somalia (27,800), China (27,500) and Colombia (25,500).

All figures in this section should be considered indicative, because the country of origin for some asylum-seekers is unknown, underestimated or undisclosed by some States. Data may include instances of double counting, as some people are likely to have applied for asylum in more than one country. Additionally, only partial data have been received from Belgium, Luxembourg and South Africa, and data from Turkey pertain only until 10 September 2018.

## Decisions

Provisional figures indicate that States and UNHCR rendered 1,134,200 decisions on individual asylum applications – new, on appeal, or repeat – during 2018 [Table 5], a decrease from the high seen in 2016.<sup>76</sup> These figures do not include cases closed for administrative reasons with no decision issued to applicants,<sup>77</sup> of which 514,900 were reported in 2018.

Of the total substantive decisions taken, UNHCR staff globally adjudicated 67,500 or 6 per cent, a decrease from the 87,400 reported in 2017 but with the proportion of all decisions remaining the same. The decrease is mainly linked to the handover of refugee status determination to national authorities, a decrease in refugee status determination for resettlement purposes and backlog clearance projects. Data relating to individual decisions are incomplete, however, as a few States have not yet released all of their official statistics. Thus, there are likely to be additional substantive decisions that have been taken by States in 2018, figures on which will be updated later.

Available data indicate that 500,100 asylum-seekers were granted protection in 2018, with 351,100 recognized as refugees and 149,000 granted a complementary form of protection. This was the lowest figure since 2013. About 634,100 claims were rejected on substantive grounds, a number that includes negative decisions at the first instance and on appeal. Asylum-seekers rejected at both first and appeal instances may be reported twice, depending on the methods used by governments for reporting decisions on individual asylum applications.

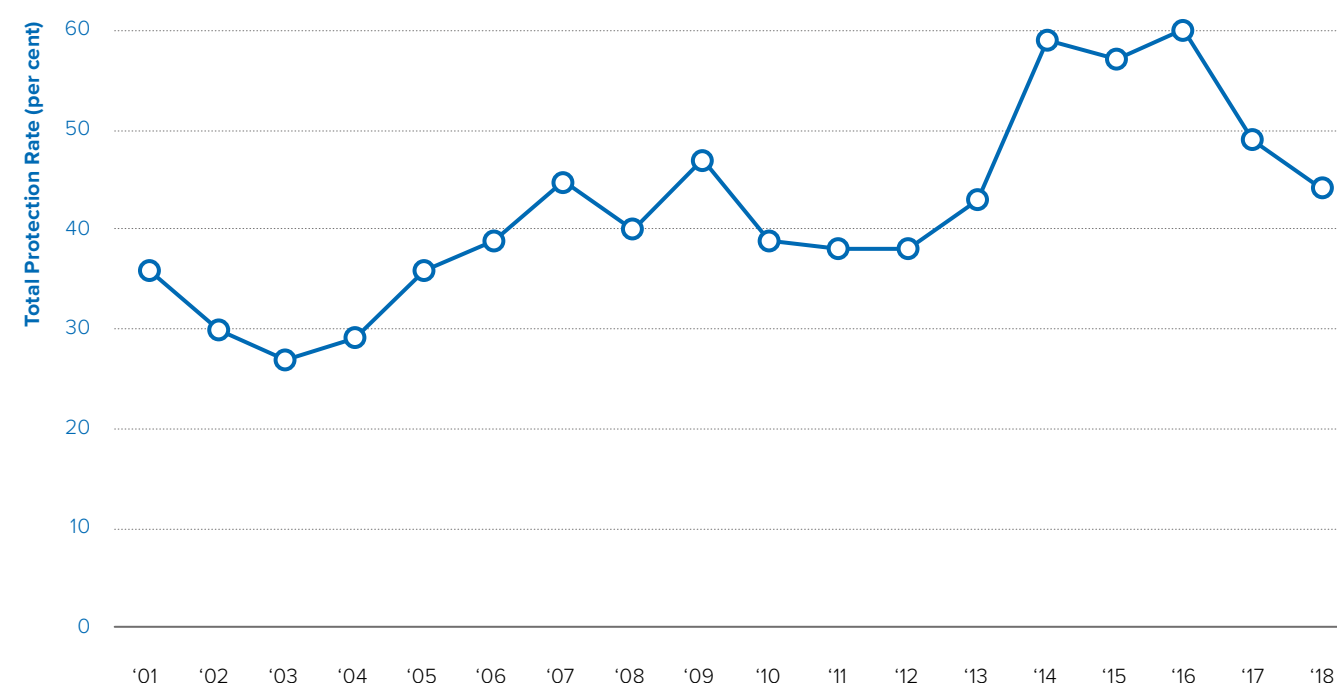
At the global level (UNHCR and State asylum procedures combined), the Total Protection Rate (TPR) was 44 per cent – i.e. the percentage of substantive decisions that resulted in any form of international protection [Figure 19].<sup>78</sup> This rate is lower than the previous year when it stood at 49 per cent and substantially lower than the 60 per cent reported in 2016 (although at this time global rates are indicative). Looking at the global figures for the countries of origin with over 10,000 substantive decisions, nationals of Burkina Faso had the highest TPR with 86 per cent, followed by nationals of DRC (83 per cent), Eritrea (81 per cent), Syria (81 per cent) and Somalia (73 per cent). Venezuelans received protection in under half of decisions (40 per cent) as did Iraqis (46 per cent), while Afghans received

<sup>76</sup> Refers to decisions taken at all levels in the asylum procedure.

<sup>77</sup> Also referred to as "non-substantive" decisions, which may result from the death of the applicant, no-show for interview, withdrawal of the application, abandonment of the claim or the determination that another country is responsible for the claim ("Dublin II" procedure), among other factors.

<sup>78</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 (formerly referred to as Total Recognition Rate or TRR). 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 19 | Global Total Protection Rates | 2001-2018



protection in just over half (54 per cent). The TPR varies greatly among countries of asylum. For example, Switzerland had a TPR of 75 per cent, compared with Australia and Sweden where only about a quarter of asylum decisions granted protection (27 per cent and 23 per cent respectively). Germany made the most substantive decisions (245,700) and had a TPR of 43 per cent.

## Pending claims

There were 3,503,300 asylum-seekers with pending claims at the end of 2018, an 13 per cent increase on the 3,090,900 awaiting decisions at the end of the previous year and a continuation of an increasing trend over recent years.

The largest asylum-seeker population at the end of 2018 continued to be in the United States of America, where the population increased from 642,700 at the start of the year to 719,000 at the end.

In Germany, the asylum-seeker population continued to decline, as decisions were made on the large number of applications lodged in the previous years, and stood at 369,300 at the end of 2018. This was a 14 per cent decline on the 429,300 asylum-seekers

at the end of 2017. The majority of these were cases pending court proceedings.

Turkey hosted the third largest asylum-seeker population with 311,700 pending claims as of 10 September 2018. This figure does not include Syrians who are protected under the country's Temporary Protection Regulation and do not undergo individual refugee status determination.

Peru has seen a more than six-fold increase of its asylum-seeker population from 37,800 at the end of 2017 to 230,900 at the end of 2018. This is mainly due to the large number of asylum claims from Venezuelans received during the year.

Other countries with more than 50,000 asylum claims pending at the end of 2018 included South Africa (184,200),<sup>79</sup> Brazil (152,700), Italy (105,600), France (89,100), Canada (78,800), Spain (78,700), Greece (76,100), Egypt (68,200) and Australia (60,600).

Venezuelans had the largest number of pending asylum claims in 2018 with 464,200 cases. This compares with 45,100 in 2016 and 148,000 in 2017. Asylum-seekers from Afghanistan constituted

<sup>79</sup> Mid-2018.





**GERMANY.** Elahe, a 44-year-old tailor and asylum-seeker from the Islamic Republic of Iran, works at Mimycr in Berlin. This non-profit organization upcycles materials from refugee boats and turns them into fashion accessories. Their aim is simple: to raise awareness of the plight of refugees at sea and provide opportunities for those who would otherwise struggle to find employment.

© UNHCR/GORDON WELTERS

the second largest nationality of origin with 310,100 pending claims at the end of 2018 compared with 334,000 at the end of 2017. Iraqi asylum-seekers were the third most common nationality and continued to decrease slightly from 272,600 at end-2017 to 256,700 at end-2018. Asylum-seekers from Syria have continued to decline, reaching 139,600 at the end of 2018, compared with 146,700 in 2017.

Other countries of origin with significant numbers of asylum-seekers awaiting decisions were DRC

(133,400), Ethiopia (133,300), El Salvador (119,300), China (94,400), Mexico (89,800), the Islamic Republic of Iran (87,400), Guatemala (86,900), Nigeria (84,700), Eritrea (78,600), Honduras (76,500) and Pakistan (75,400). Despite improved statistical reporting on pending asylum applications, the actual number of undecided asylum cases is unknown, as some countries do not report this information. ■

## UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

While all children must be protected, some of the youngest asylum-seekers and refugees face even greater risks. This is particularly the case for “unaccompanied and separated children” – minors who have fled alone or have become separated from parents and are not being cared for by an adult who by law or custom has responsibility to do so. It is essential that data are collected to identify these children, protect and assist them.

In efforts to improve reporting on this vulnerable population, UNHCR began reporting on unaccompanied and separated refugee children, in addition to asylum applicants in last year’s reporting and has decided to continue to do so in its efforts to improve and expand data. Unfortunately, data on displaced unaccompanied and separated children are limited, both in terms of availability and the quality of data reported. Many countries with significant asylum claims do not report on unaccompanied and separated children among asylum applicants. Similarly, many countries with large registered refugee populations do not report on unaccompanied and separated children in the population.

### Asylum applications

In 2018, provisional data indicated that 27,600 unaccompanied or separated children sought asylum on an individual basis in at least 60 countries that report on this figure. While it is known that this is an underestimate, the trend indicates a decline in the number of unaccompanied or separated children applying for asylum, which reflects the overall trends in declining asylum claims since 2015. Most of these claims were from children aged 15 to 17 (18,500) but a substantial minority were from younger children aged under 15 (6,000).

As in previous years, Germany received the most asylum claims from unaccompanied and separated children with 4,100 – substantially lower than the 35,900 in 2016 and 9,100 in 2017. Although the number of asylum-seekers has declined overall, the decrease in applications by unaccompanied and separated children was nonetheless disproportionately high.

As in previous years, children from Afghanistan submitted the most such claims in Germany (700) but this was just 5 per cent of the 15,000 claims submitted by unaccompanied and separated Afghan children in 2016. The next most common nationalities were

Somalia (600), Guinea (500), Eritrea (500), Syria (400) and Iraq (300).

Other countries that received significant numbers of asylum applications from unaccompanied and separated children included the United Kingdom (2,900), Greece (2,600), Sweden (1,700), Egypt (1,700), Turkey (1,700), Libya (1,500), Tanzania (1,400), the Netherlands (1,200) and Morocco (1,200).

As in previous years, the most common country of origin for unaccompanied and separated child asylum applicant was Afghanistan with 4,800 claims – just over half the 8,800 submitted in 2017 and substantially below the 26,700 in 2016. Eritrea continued to be the second most common country of origin with 3,500 claims.

### 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.

The largest number of unaccompanied and separated child refugees was reported in Uganda with 41,200, with the majority aged under 15 (29,900) and 2,800 aged under 5. Most of these children originated from South Sudan (37,000) and DRC (3,500). Unaccompanied and separated children represented nearly 5 per cent of the entire South Sudanese refugee population present in Uganda.

Kenya reported 13,200 unaccompanied and separated children in 2018. Other countries with significant such populations included Sudan (11,300), DRC (9,400), Canada (8,400), Chad (4,200), Lebanon (3,200), Burundi (2,200), Morocco (2,200), Guinea (2,000), Rwanda (1,800), Egypt (1,800), Zambia (1,500), Ireland (1,100) and Iraq (1,000).

As in 2017, South Sudan was the most common country of origin for unaccompanied and separated child refugees, with 58,600 representing 53 per cent of the global population. Other countries of origin reported for unaccompanied and separated children included DRC (9,900), Rwanda (7,600), Syria (7,600), CAR (5,600), Burundi (2,300), Somalia (2,200), Côte d’Ivoire (2,100), Nigeria (2,000), Afghanistan (1,500) and Sudan (1,100). ■



BANGLADESH. A young Rohingya child is full of smiles as she stands outside a shelter for refugees in Kutupalong camp, Bangladesh.  
© UNHCR/ROGER ARNOLD



## CHAPTER 6

# Stateless People

In 2018 millions of people were not considered nationals by any state – knowing who and where they are is the first step towards ending statelessness

Improving global data on statelessness remained a significant and important challenge in 2018. Stateless people, who are not considered as nationals by any State, often live in precarious situations on the margins of society and are frequently not included in States' data collection exercises, including censuses. Despite the increased awareness of statelessness globally and stronger efforts by States and UNHCR to encourage and capacitate governments to identify stateless individuals on their territory, fewer than half of countries have official statistics on stateless people.

This year UNHCR was able to report on people coming under UNHCR's statelessness mandate for 78 countries, based on information reported by States and other sources [Figure 20].<sup>80</sup> In addition, Annex Table 7 includes countries marked with an asterisk where UNHCR has information about the

existence of stateless populations but where reliable figures were not available. These countries remain priorities for UNHCR in its efforts toward improved data on statelessness. Data on some 3.9 million stateless persons are captured in this report, but the true global figure is estimated to be significantly higher.

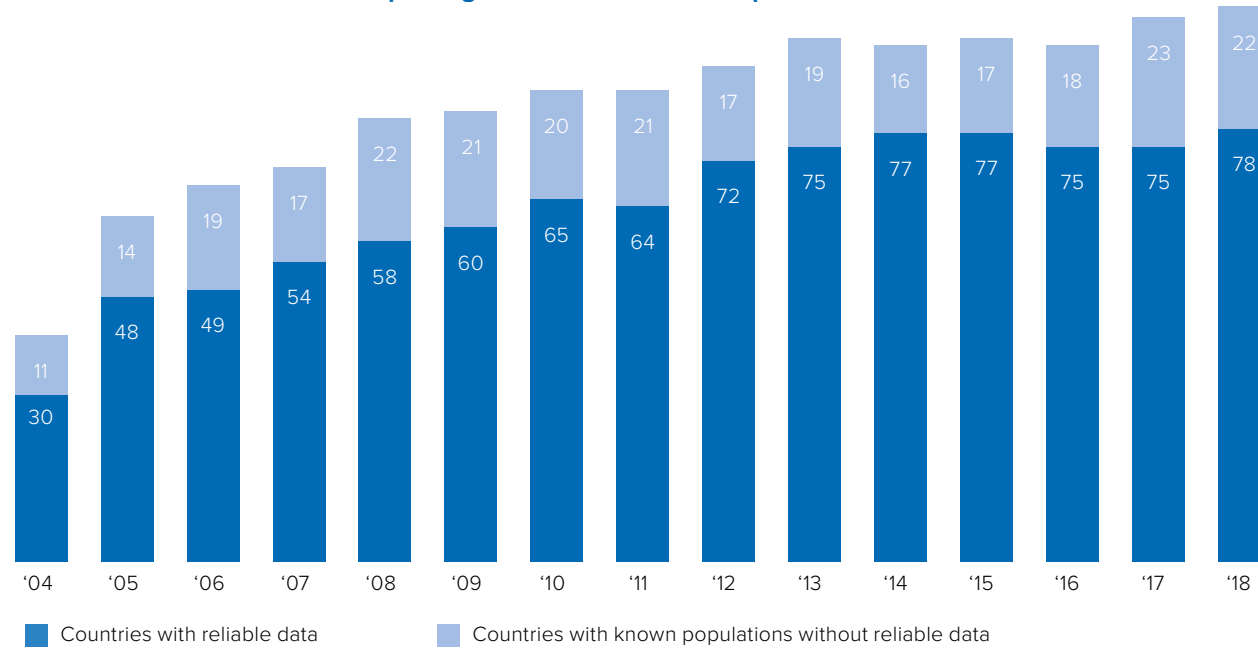
The identification of stateless people is key to addressing difficulties they face and to enabling governments, UNHCR and others to prevent and reduce statelessness. Action 10 of UNHCR's Global Action Plan to end Statelessness (GAP),<sup>81</sup> the guiding

<sup>80</sup> UNHCR's statistics on statelessness focus mainly on de jure stateless people: those not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. However, data from some countries also include people of undetermined nationality.

<sup>81</sup> Global Action Plan to End Statelessness, 4 November 2014. See: [www.refworld.org/docid/545b47d64.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/545b47d64.html).



Figure 20 | Number of countries reporting statistics on stateless persons | 2004-2018



framework to achieve the goals of UNHCR's #IBelong Campaign, accordingly calls upon States and others to work to improve quantitative and qualitative data on statelessness. In addition, Action 6 of the GAP calls for the adoption of statelessness determination procedures that will lead to new data in countries hosting stateless migrants.<sup>82</sup> Strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics systems in accordance with Action 7 of the GAP also will contribute to the availability of quantitative data.<sup>83</sup> States are encouraged to make concrete pledges in one or more of these areas in connection with the High Level Segment on Statelessness that UNHCR will convene on 7 October 2019 to mark the mid-point in the #IBelong Campaign.

UNHCR works with States to undertake targeted surveys and studies (including participatory assessments with stateless individuals and groups). During 2018, a number of new studies were completed, including for Albania,<sup>84</sup> Switzerland and the East African community.

Statistics and information on the situation of stateless populations can also be gathered through population censuses. It is therefore important to include questions to allow for the identification of stateless populations in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses. UNHCR operations are collaborating with statisticians and relevant authorities to include appropriate questions in upcoming censuses. UNHCR encourages all

States to include questions in censuses that will lead to improved data on stateless people.

In 2018, progress continued to be made to reduce the number of stateless people through acquisition or confirmation of nationality. A reported 56,400 stateless people in 24 countries acquired nationality during the year, with significant reductions occurring in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam, among other places. In Sweden, for example, an estimated 7,200 people had their nationality confirmed in 2018, as did an estimated 6,400 in the Russian Federation.

Many displaced people are also stateless. While the current reporting methodology generally does not involve reporting on multiple statuses, in 2017 it was decided that it was important to report on the displaced stateless Rohingya population as having both statuses. Therefore, as was the case last year, this population is included in both the displaced and stateless counts.<sup>85</sup>

<sup>82</sup> Good Practices Paper – Action 6: “Establishing statelessness determination procedures to protect stateless persons”, 11 July 2016. See: [www.refworld.org/docid/57836cff4.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/57836cff4.html).

<sup>83</sup> Good Practices Paper – Action 7: “Ensuring birth registration for the prevention of statelessness”, November 2017. See: [www.refworld.org/docid/5a0ac8f94.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/5a0ac8f94.html).

<sup>84</sup> The statelessness figure refers to a census from 2011 and has been adjusted to reflect the number of people with undetermined nationality who had their nationality confirmed from 2011 to 2018.

<sup>85</sup> This includes refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh and IDPs in Rakhine State, Myanmar.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE. Ivorian foundlings overcome risk of statelessness. Françoise (in patterned dress) and Christelle (in red), both aged 17, walk through Korhogo's main market. The two foundlings, abandoned by their families after their mothers died in childbirth, are now citizens of Côte d'Ivoire, after a judicial breakthrough.

© UNHCR/MARK HENLEY



## CHAPTER 7

# Other Groups or People of Concern

1.2 million people made up the category ‘people of concern’, which can include returned refugees and host communities in need of support

*KENYA. A woman from the Turkana host community (left) and her friend, a refugee from South Sudan (right), stand among the crops in the 180-hectare sorghum farm at the Kalobeyei integrated settlement.*

© UNHCR/SAMUEL OTIENO

In addition to the people falling within the categories of forcibly displaced, returns and/or stateless, UNHCR may provide protection and assistance to a number of other individuals “of concern” to the organization, based on international agreements, their situation, other regional documents or General Assembly resolutions. Typical examples include returned refugees who remain in need of UNHCR assistance beyond one year after their arrival, host populations affected by large refugee influxes, and rejected asylum-seekers who are deemed to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

By the end of 2018, there were 1.2 million people reported within this category. In previous years, Venezuelans in Latin American and Caribbean countries present under arrangements outside the formal asylum system (such as temporary residence permits, labour migration visas, humanitarian visas and regional visa agreements) were included in this category. This population is now not reported under “others of concern” in 2018 but rather as “Venezuelans displaced abroad” (see page 24 for more details on the Venezuela situation).

The largest group of individuals in the “others of concern” category were hosted by Afghanistan, where many refugees who had returned through the UNHCR-assisted voluntary repatriation programme (489,900) remained of concern to the Office during their initial phases of reintegration. Assistance to Afghan refugees continued beyond the first year of return, and UNHCR assisted these returnees through the provision of cash grants and via reintegration projects in the reporting period. About 17,000 individuals who had returned in 2014 were no longer assisted in 2018 while the assisted population increased by about 58,000 people who had returned in 2017.

Uganda reported assisting some 180,000 people in this category. This population comprised Ugandan nationals living in refugee-hosting communities who benefitted directly or indirectly from interventions implemented through the Regional Refugee Response Plan – education, health, water, sanitation and other interventions aimed at helping local communities meet the challenges of the arrival of a large number of refugees.

Approximately 110,600 people were reported in Guatemala as “others of concern”. This figure corresponds to an estimated number of deportees or individuals in transit with possible protection needs during the year, mainly from countries in northern Central America, deported from or in transit to the United States of America or Mexico. Similarly, Mexico reported about 83,000 “others of concern”.

As in previous years, Filipino Muslims (80,000) who settled in Malaysia’s Sabah state were reported as “others of concern” by Malaysia. Former refugees and IDPs were reported as “of concern” in Bosnia and Herzegovina, comprising some 1,900 former refugees and 47,000 former IDPs, also similar to previous years.

Chad reported 36,700 people “of concern” at the end of 2018, of which 20,000 were nationals of CAR pending screening and refugee registration and 16,700 were of Chadian descent evacuated from CAR and at risk of statelessness. In Niger there were 27,100 people in this category, comprising mainly Niger nationals who fled Nigeria and came back to Niger. Most lived in the Diffa region but do not have

any documentation proving their Nigerian nationality. There were also Nigerian nationals who had fled their home country but who are not from states currently considered by Niger to be in a state of emergency.

Several countries also reported significant “of concern” populations. These included Zambia (22,800), mainly former refugees from Angola and Rwanda; Tanzania (19,000), mainly nationals of Burundi who were disqualified during the joint verification exercise and for whom UNHCR is advocating for legal status, though this number also includes refugees and asylum-seekers with registration disputes and former refugees who are married to refugees; Congo (12,400), mainly former Rwandan refugees under the cessation clause; Montenegro (12,300), mainly former refugees from the former Yugoslavia who acquired the status of foreigner in Montenegro; and South Sudan (10,000), comprising persons at risk of statelessness due to state succession.

In 2018, a total of 56 UNHCR offices reported data on “others of concern”, compared with 59 in the previous year. ■





LEBANON. Syrian refugee Shadi El Aiek looks over the rooftops of Beirut from his balcony in the Geitawi district. He earns a living tutoring students in Arabic language over Skype through the NaTakallam programme, which pairs displaced persons with learners from around the world. "Being part of NaTakallam is so positive for me. It's more than just teaching," Shadi says. © UNHCR/DIEGO IBARRA SANCHEZ

SPECIAL SECTION:

# URBAN REFUGEES

Most refugees are now based in urban areas

Globally, more people live in urban than rural areas. In 2018, about 55 per cent of the world's population was urban, compared with only 30 per cent in 1950. However, this figure masks important differences, with urbanization most common in developed regions such as North America and Europe. About half the population of Asia is urban, as is 43 per cent of Africa.<sup>86</sup> The refugee population reflects these global changes, both in terms of the regions from which refugees originate and the areas to which they move in countries of asylum.

The humanitarian response to urban refugee crises and the impact on the country of asylum reflect important differences in housing, infrastructure, services delivery, and the economic and social fabric of urban versus rural host communities. Unlike a camp, cities allow refugees to live autonomously and find employment or economic opportunities. But there are also dangers, risks and challenges. Refugees may be vulnerable to exploitation, arrest or detention, and can be forced to compete with the poorest local workers for the worst jobs.

Thus, understanding the key trends in urbanization of refugee movements is crucial to ensuring appropriate and integrated policies to meet the needs and improve the lives of both refugees and host communities. UNHCR works to maximize the skills, productivity and experience that displaced populations bring to urban areas, striving to help displaced people find the safety and security they deserve. This, in turn, helps to stimulate economic growth and development within host communities, while enhancing universal access to human rights.

Of critical importance too is the different range and profile of responses to the challenges of urban refugee situations. This is fully recognized in the Global Compact on Refugees which makes explicit reference to their important role. Drawing on experiences and insights gained since the adoption of its urban refugee policy, UNHCR has operationalized innovative and networked approaches to promote the inclusion of refugees into urban life, most notably the Cities of Solidarity initiative.<sup>87</sup> This has recognized the leadership of municipal authorities in promoting positive interventions that enable socio-economic integration. The December 2018 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges in urban situations provided a rich opportunity for municipal authorities to showcase the diversity of their responses in welcoming refugees.<sup>88</sup>

In 2018, the proportion of the refugee population that was urban-based was estimated at 61 per cent globally. The data coverage on location of refugees is variable and covers 56 per cent of the refugee population. Given that the coverage is poorest in high-income countries and in order not to bias the results towards lower-income and more rural countries of asylum, where 75 per cent or more of a national population in a country of asylum was urban, it was assumed that hosted refugees would be urban.<sup>89</sup>

The largest urban refugee population was in Turkey where the vast majority of refugees were reported to be living in urban or peri-urban areas, other than the 137,000 Syrian

refugees living in temporary accommodation centres (4 per cent). The urban-rural breakdown was not reported for the Syrian refugees under the Government of Turkey's Temporary Protection Regulation, but given the high level of urbanization in the country (75 per cent), it was assumed that the majority of refugees would be urban while some are also living among in rural and semi-rural areas.

Similarly, Germany reported an urban refugee population of more than 1 million given that more than three quarters of the country's population live in urban areas. Among countries that reported the urban-rural breakdown, Pakistan reported an urban refugee population of 957,900, representing 68 per cent of the refugee population, nearly all of whom originated in Afghanistan. Likewise, the Islamic Republic of Iran reported an urban refugee population of 949,600, again mostly Afghan, nearly 97 per cent of the country's refugee population.

Similarly, the largest urban refugee population in 2018 originated from Syria with 6.3 million people, representing 98 per cent of the entire population for which location was known. This was followed by the Afghan refugee population, which stood at 2.1 million in urban areas, representing 82 per cent of the entire population, again for which location was reported.

The urban refugee population differed in its demographic characteristics from rural populations. More than two thirds of rural refugee populations were under 18 years of age, compared with 48 per cent of urban refugee populations. Among the adult population, there was a higher proportion of men in urban refugee populations (58 per cent) than in rural refugee populations (47 per cent).

Bearing in mind the issues with data availability and accuracy, the data indicated a rise in the proportion and numbers of the urban refugee population in the twenty-first century. At the start of the century, most refugees were camp-based or in rural settings. From 2006, the proportion increased significantly and reached 61 per cent by 2018. The influx of Syrian refugees since 2012 caused the absolute numbers of urban refugees to more than double. ■

<sup>86</sup> See: [population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-PopFacts\\_2018-1.pdf](https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-PopFacts_2018-1.pdf)

<sup>87</sup> See: [www.unhcr.org/cities-of-light.html](https://www.unhcr.org/cities-of-light.html)

<sup>88</sup> See: [www.unhcr.org/high-commissioners-dialogue-on-protection-challenges-2018.html](https://www.unhcr.org/high-commissioners-dialogue-on-protection-challenges-2018.html)

<sup>89</sup> Levels of urbanization from United Nations Population Division, "World urbanization prospects: 2018 Revision". See: [population.un.org/wup/](https://population.un.org/wup/)



BANGLADESH. Rahima (centre), 55, stands outside her shelter for stateless Rohingya refugees in Kutupalong camp, Bangladesh with her five children and seven grandchildren. Rahima first fled Myanmar in 1978 at the age of 14, then again in 1992. Following her most recent flight she says: "I didn't think I would return here again, I hoped I would live in my homeland."

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## CHAPTER 8

# Demographic and Location Data

Improved data underpin progress in planning and response

Data disaggregated by sex, age and geographic location are essential to guide effective and efficient policy responses and programmatic interventions that address the needs of vulnerable groups and help ensure that “no one is left behind” as laid out in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Given the critical need for disaggregated data, UNHCR has been making strong efforts to improve the quality and availability of detailed disaggregated primary data on displaced people. UNHCR and its partners look for new and innovative ways to gather this information as quickly as possible, and the organization has intensified its efforts to systematically disaggregate data by location and demographic characteristics. For example, UNHCR is working with IOM and

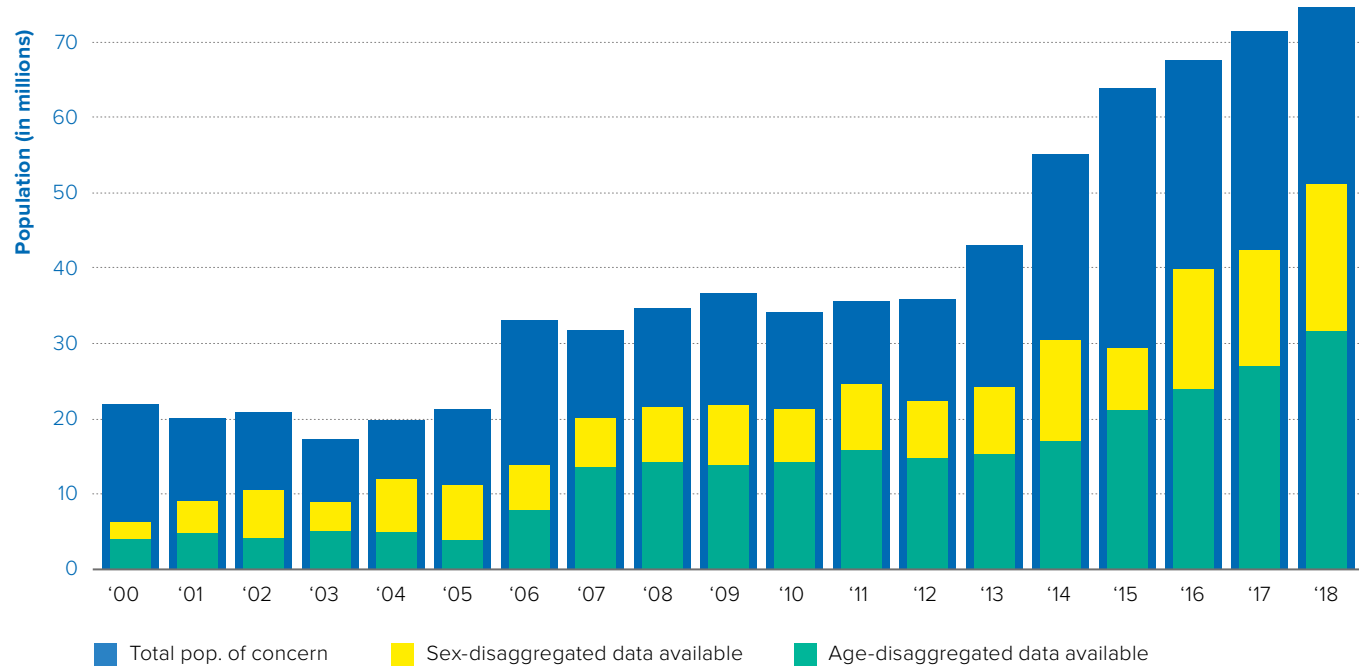
UNICEF to build national statistical capabilities to measure “children on the move”, including those who have been forcibly displaced.<sup>90</sup>

Collecting disaggregated data can be challenging in emergency situations, as resources for data collection compete with other acute needs such as the immediate delivery of aid and protection. As emergency situations stabilize, data availability tends to improve, although UNHCR faces barriers to obtaining disaggregated data in many high-income countries with well-resourced statistical systems. Despite UNHCR’s efforts to improve data availability, it has continued to be difficult to obtain

<sup>90</sup> See: [data.unicef.org/resources/call-action-protecting-children-move-starts-better-data/](https://data.unicef.org/resources/call-action-protecting-children-move-starts-better-data/)



Figure 21 | Coverage of sex- and age-disaggregated data for the population of concern to UNHCR | 2000-2018



disaggregated data in many countries where the Office is not involved in primary data collection, with a substantial number of countries not reporting disaggregated data to UNHCR or data only partially covering the populations of concern.

### Demographic characteristics

The availability of disaggregated data varies widely between countries and population groups. In general, the quality of demographic data tends to be highest in countries where UNHCR has an operational role and undertakes registration and primary data collection. In countries where national authorities are responsible for registration and primary data collection, it can be more challenging to obtain sex- and age-disaggregated data, even if such data are collected and there is a high-capacity statistical system. Furthermore, data on some population groups are particularly poor, for example IDPs.

In 2018, 131 countries reported at least some sex-disaggregated data. This is a significant decline from previous years, including the 147 countries in 2017. The decline is partially accounted for by more attention being paid to the quality of the estimation

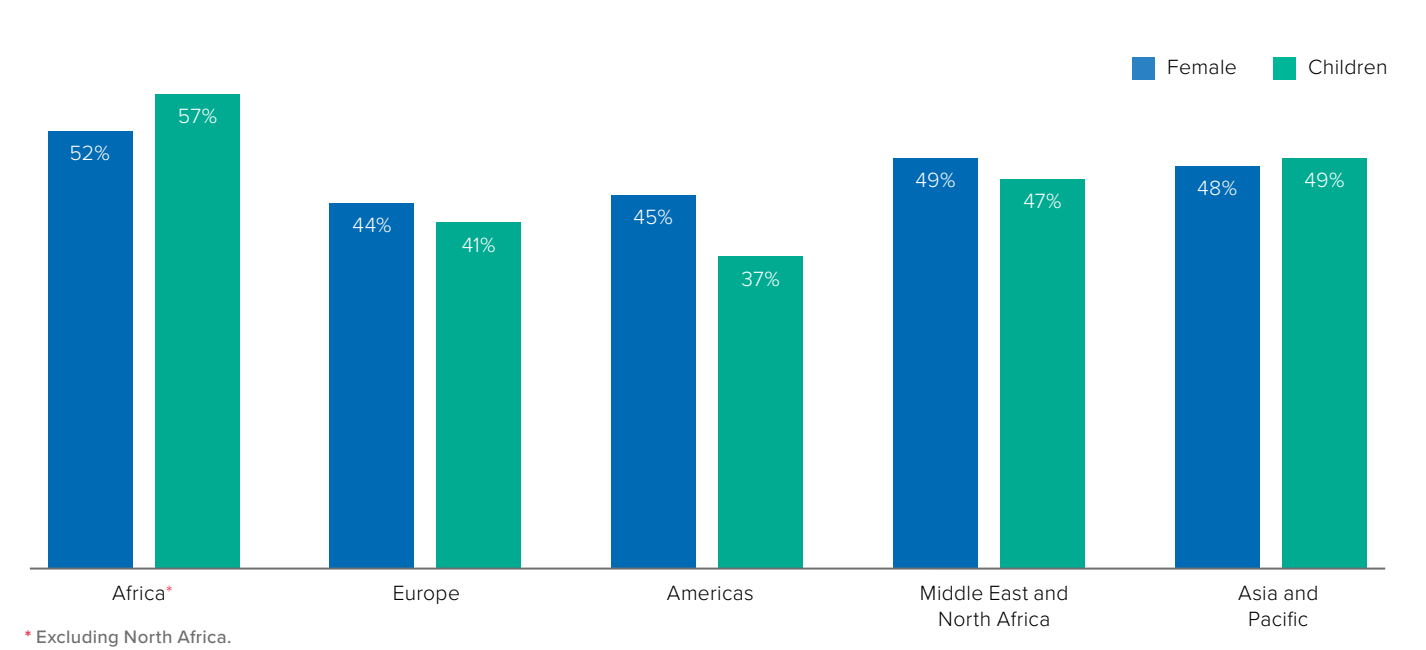
of the sex breakdown but also partially due to an increasing reluctance of governments to share data. However, the population covered by sex-disaggregated data has increased from 59 per cent in 2017 to 69 per cent in 2018 [Figure 21]. According to the available data, overall males and females were almost equally represented in the population of concern to UNHCR with 25.4 million men and boys and 25.7 million women and girls.<sup>91</sup>

Coverage of the population of concern to UNHCR by age was lower than for sex. In 2018, 125 countries reported at least some age-disaggregated data, which covered only 43 per cent of the population of concern. This proportion is about the same as the previous year when, as for sex disaggregation, a higher number of countries (136) reported data. Out of the 31.5 million people for whom age-disaggregated data are available, 16.3 million (52 per cent) were children under the age of 18, almost the same as in 2017.

The best coverage of disaggregated data was among refugees and asylum-seekers. For refugees, sex-disaggregated data was available for 17.6 million

<sup>91</sup> The population of concern to UNHCR includes refugees, IDPs, returnees, others of concern, and stateless people.

Figure 22 | Demographic characteristics of refugee population by UNHCR regions | end-2018



\* Excluding North Africa.

people, 86 per cent of the population. For age disaggregation, this was 16.4 million people or 80 per cent. The coverage for asylum-seekers for sex-disaggregated data was 48 per cent of the population, and for age it was 46 per cent. Among IDPs, sex-disaggregation covered 70 per cent of the population, compared with only 30 per cent for age-disaggregated data coverage.

Based on the available data, the proportion of women and girls in the refugee population was 48 per cent in 2018, similar to the past few years. Children represented about half of the refugee population, also similar to previous years. It should be noted that the availability of data on age is biased toward countries where UNHCR carries out refugee registration which tend to be lower-income countries with a younger age structure. Therefore, it is likely that the proportion of children in the refugee population overall is lower. The proportion of working age population (18-59 years) remained constant at 46 per cent, and the proportion aged 60 and older was 3 per cent.

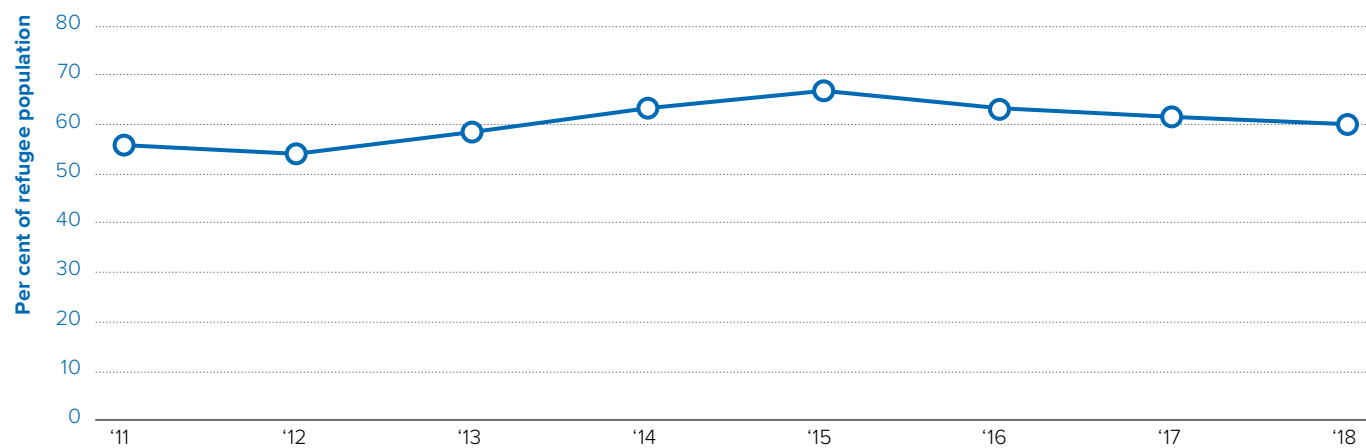
At the country level, there was wide variation in the sex and age breakdown of hosted refugees. Among countries that reported sex-disaggregated data in

2018 for more than 1,000 refugees, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)) and Bosnia and Herzegovina had the highest female proportion with 58 per cent. This was followed by Togo with 56 per cent and Nigeria and Chad with 55 per cent. The lowest proportion was reported in Ecuador with 24 per cent, followed by Malta (27 per cent), Indonesia (28 per cent) and the Republic of Korea (29 per cent).

The proportion of children among the refugee population also varied widely in 2018. Among countries reporting age-disaggregated data for more than 1,000 refugees, DRC reported the greatest proportion of children with 63 per cent under the age of 18, followed by South Sudan (62 per cent) and Uganda (62 per cent), which reflects the young age structure of the population of many countries in the region. The lowest proportion of children in 2018 was reported by Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)) with only about 1 per cent of the population, followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina (6 per cent) and Argentina (9 per cent).

These differences are also seen at a regional level [Figure 22]. The lowest proportion of both children and women was seen in the refugee population in Europe where only 44 per cent of the refugee

Figure 23 | Per cent of refugees living in privately hosted individual accommodation | 2011-2018



population was female and 41 per cent was under the age of 18 in 2018 (although the data coverage was also very poor in this region so the estimates are indicative only). In contrast, the highest proportion of both women and children was in sub-Saharan Africa with 52 per cent and 57 per cent respectively.

### Location characteristics

Knowing where displaced people are and how they are living is as important as knowing who they are when it comes to delivering assistance and protection. UNHCR requests geographically disaggregated data on populations of concern from its office, partners and governments, and classifies locations into urban and rural localities (as well as a various/unknown category, which includes locations that are a mix of urban and rural or where the categorization is unclear).

Additionally, UNHCR collects data on the type of accommodation in which individuals reside, especially for refugee populations. This information is important for efficient policymaking and programme design. Accommodation types are classified as planned/managed camp, self-settled camp, collective centre, reception/transit camp and individual accommodation (private), as well as various/unknown if the information is not known, is unclear or does not fit in any of the other categories.

A special section on page 56 discusses in more details trends in refugees living in urban areas.

Disaggregated data by location at the subnational level is collected by UNHCR, and they are critical for

policymaking and delivering assistance. However, the extent of these data was variable. Altogether for 2018, UNHCR had data on location at the sub-national level for 60 per cent of the total population of concern, a small increase from 2017 when it was 59 per cent. There was disaggregated information available for some 56 per cent of the refugee population and 69 per cent of the IDP population, but only 25 per cent of asylum-seekers. Reporting on IDPs has relatively good sub-national data at the regional level.

Accommodation type was known for some 18.1 million refugees, about 89 per cent of the global total in 2018, an increase from the 85 per cent reported in 2017. The majority of refugees lived in privately hosted and out-of-camp individual accommodation (60 per cent) at the end of 2018, a proportion that has been stable since 2014 with variation of only a few percentage points [Figure 23]. Many countries, especially high- and middle-income, reported all refugees living in individual accommodation.

In contrast, there were also countries where most refugees were reported as living in some kind of camp setting such as Bangladesh, Tanzania, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Nigeria. This trend is seen when examined by country of origin. The Syrian refugees were overwhelmingly an out-of-camp population, with more than 98 per cent living in individual accommodation. Afghan refugees were also likely to be in individual accommodation with 80 per cent of the population doing so. In contrast, only 8 per cent of the South Sudanese refugee population lived in individual accommodation in 2018, as did just 6 per cent of Sudanese refugees. ■

## CHAPTER 9

# Who are included in the statistics?

**Refugees** include individuals recognized under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 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.

**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 2018, irrespective of when those claims may have been lodged.

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

**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 normally would take place only under conditions of safety and dignity. For the purposes of this report, only refugees who returned between January and December 2018 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 2018. In practice, however, operations may assist IDP returnees for longer periods.

**Individuals under UNHCR’s statelessness mandate** are defined under international law as those not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. In other words, they do not possess the nationality of any State. UNHCR statistics refer to people who fall under the organization’s statelessness mandate as those who are stateless according to this international definition, but data from some countries may also include people with undetermined nationality. UNHCR has been given a global mandate by the United Nations General Assembly to contribute to the prevention and reduction of statelessness and to the identification and the protection of stateless persons. UNHCR also works with populations at risk of statelessness in line with its mandate to prevent statelessness but these population groups are not reflected in this statistical report

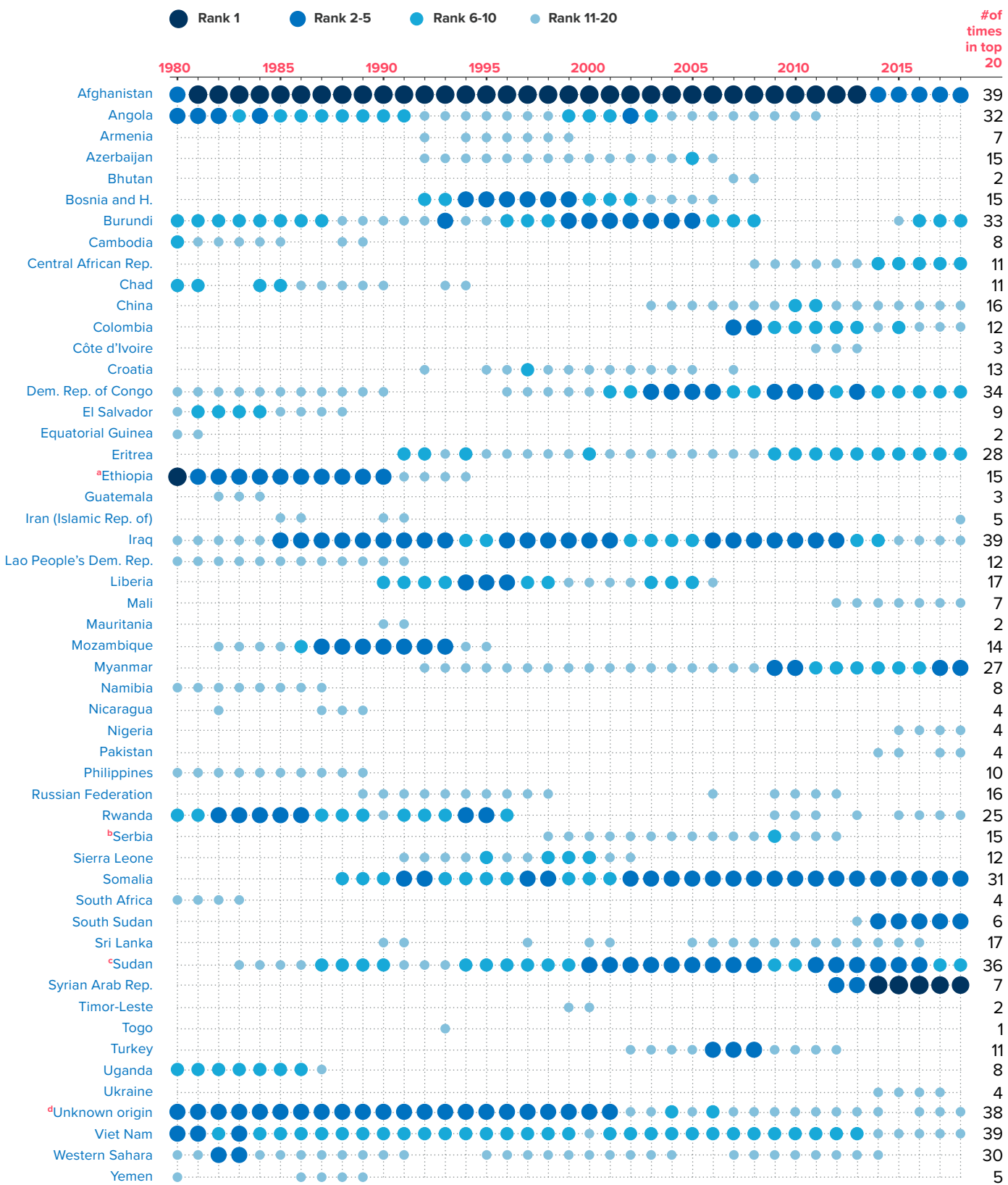
**Other groups or persons of concern** refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of these groups but to whom UNHCR has extended its protection and/or assistance services, based on humanitarian or other special grounds.

**Venezuelans in refugee-like situations** refers to persons who are likely to be refugees of Venezuelan origin but who do not apply for asylum in the country in which they are present. UNHCR considers that the majority of Venezuelans nationals or stateless persons who were habitually resident in Venezuela are in need of international protection under the criteria contained in the Cartagena Declaration on the basis of threats to their lives, security or freedom resulting from events that are currently seriously disturbing public order in Venezuela. ■



### Historical review of the 51 major source countries of refugees

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



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

Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by country/territory of asylum | end-2018

All data are provisional and subject to change.

Country/ territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>1</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>3</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's state- lessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezue- lans displaced abroad <sup>10</sup>	Total popula- tion of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee- like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refuge- like situations								
Afghanistan	72,231	-	72,231	285	16,220	2,106,893	73,527	-	489,854	-	2,759,010
Albania <sup>11</sup>	131	-	131	162	-	-	-	4,160	76	-	4,529
Algeria <sup>12</sup>	94,350	-	94,350	8,926	-	-	-	-	-	-	103,276
Angola	39,865	-	39,865	30,140	-	-	-	-	-	-	70,005
Antigua and Barbuda	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Argentina	3,468	-	3,468	6,149	-	-	-	-	410	127,152	137,179
Armenia	3,397	14,573	17,970	115	-	-	-	848	-	-	18,933
Aruba	-	-	-	407	-	-	-	-	-	15,602	16,009
Australia <sup>13</sup>	56,933	-	56,933	60,645	-	-	-	132	-	-	117,710
Austria	128,769	-	128,769	37,364	-	-	-	1,062	-	-	167,195
Azerbaijan	1,131	-	1,131	209	-	620,422	-	3,585	-	-	625,347
Bahamas	15	-	15	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Bahrain	263	-	263	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	319
Bangladesh <sup>14</sup>	906,645	-	906,645	45	-	-	-	906,635	-	-	906,690
Barbados	1	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Belarus	2,234	-	2,234	194	-	-	-	6,025	-	-	8,453
Belgium <sup>15</sup>	42,168	-	42,168	19,550	-	-	-	7,695	-	-	69,413
Belize	28	-	28	3,314	-	-	-	-	2,774	-	6,116
Benin	1,174	-	1,174	320	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,494
Bolivia (Plurinational State of) <sup>16</sup>	810	-	810	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	856
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5,229	-	5,229	1,010	-	96,830	-	90	48,907	-	152,066
Botswana	2,047	-	2,047	268	-	-	-	-	7	-	2,322
Brazil	11,327	-	11,327	152,690	-	-	-	2	-	39,771	203,790
British Virgin Islands	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,863	-	-	20,863
Bulgaria	19,918	-	19,918	1,576	-	-	-	92	-	-	21,586
Burkina Faso	25,122	-	25,122	44	-	47,029	-	-	-	-	72,195
Burundi	71,507	-	71,507	5,670	45,536	31,908	-	974	797	-	156,392
Cabo Verde	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	-	-	115
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57,444	-	-	57,444
Cameroon	380,329	-	380,329	8,117	-	668,494	67,653	-	27	-	1,124,620
Canada	114,109	-	114,109	78,806	-	-	-	3,790	-	-	196,705
Cayman Islands	34	-	34	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
Central African Rep.	6,655	-	6,655	402	35,182	640,969	306,246	-	-	-	989,454
Chad	451,210	-	451,210	3,472	6,351	165,313	-	-	36,718	-	663,064
Chile	2,033	-	2,033	12,012	-	-	-	-	1,989	285,122	301,156
China <sup>17</sup>	321,756	-	321,756	603	-	-	-	-	-	-	322,359
China, Hong Kong SAR	141	-	141	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	141
China, Macao SAR	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Colombia	310	-	310	2,880	23,897	7,816,472	-	11	-	1,171,552	9,015,122
Congo, Republic of	37,494	-	37,494	9,180	2	138,000	-	-	12,419	-	197,095
Costa Rica	4,547	-	4,547	32,618	-	-	-	82	40	-	37,287
Côte d'Ivoire <sup>18</sup>	1,810	-	1,810	217	2,839	-	-	692,000	106	-	696,972
Croatia	750	37	787	220	9	-	-	2,886	4,376	-	8,278
Cuba	287	-	287	32	-	-	-	-	2	-	321
Curaçao	102	-	102	346	-	-	-	-	1	25,686	26,135
Cyprus <sup>19</sup>	11,014	-	11,014	10,307	-	-	-	-	6,000	-	27,321
Czechia	2,186	-	2,186	1,935	-	-	-	1,502	-	-	5,623
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	529,061	-	529,061	5,767	6,628	4,516,865	-	-	-	-	5,058,321
Denmark	36,631	-	36,631	2,719	-	-	-	8,236	-	-	47,586
Djibouti	18,295	-	18,295	10,483	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,778
Dominican Rep. <sup>20</sup>	170	-	170	333	-	-	-	-	-	26,428	26,931
Ecuador	51,614	49,950	101,564	17,050	-	-	-	-	-	256,265	374,879
Egypt	246,749	-	246,749	68,184	-	-	-	4	-	-	314,937
El Salvador	48	-	48	18	-	71,500	-	-	4,700	-	76,266
Equatorial Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by country/territory of asylum | end-2018 (ctnd)

All data are provisional and subject to change.

Country/ territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>1</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>3</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's state- lessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezue- lans displaced abroad <sup>10</sup>	Total popula- tion of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee- like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee- like situations								
Eritrea	2,252	-	2,252	-	297	-	-	-	21	-	2,570
Estonia <sup>21</sup>	325	-	325	34	-	-	-	77,877	-	-	78,236
eSwatini	879	-	879	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,629
Ethiopia	903,226	-	903,226	2,153	16	2,615,800	-	-	452	-	3,521,647
Fiji	4	-	4	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Finland	22,295	-	22,295	3,290	-	-	-	2,759	-	-	28,344
France	368,352	-	368,352	89,074	-	-	-	1,493	-	-	458,919
Gabon	687	-	687	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	774
Gambia	4,034	-	4,034	348	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,382
Georgia	1,382	609	1,991	686	-	282,381	-	566	-	-	285,624
Germany	1,063,837	-	1,063,837	369,284	-	-	-	14,779	-	-	1,447,900
Ghana	11,899	-	11,899	1,317	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,216
Greece	48,026	13,434	61,460	76,099	-	-	-	198	-	-	137,757
Grenada	2	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Guatemala	390	-	390	254	-	-	-	-	110,600	-	111,244
Guinea	4,294	-	4,294	1,584	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,878
Guinea-Bissau	4,850	-	4,850	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,878
Guyana	23	-	23	17	-	-	-	-	1	36,400	36,441
Haiti <sup>22</sup>	8	-	8	3	-	-	-	2,992	-	-	3,003
Honduras	27	-	27	57	-	174,000	-	-	5,200	-	179,284
Hungary	6,040	-	6,040	124	-	-	-	144	-	-	6,308
Iceland	573	-	573	475	-	-	-	69	-	-	1,117
India	195,891	-	195,891	11,957	-	-	-	-	-	-	207,848
Indonesia	10,793	-	10,793	3,223	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,016
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	979,435	-	979,435	33	8	-	-	-	-	-	979,476
Iraq <sup>23</sup>	283,022	-	283,022	14,015	63	1,802,832	944,958	47,515	20	-	3,092,425
Ireland	6,041	-	6,041	7,196	-	-	-	99	-	-	13,336
Israel	1,659	16,910	18,569	35,570	-	-	-	42	-	-	54,181
Italy	189,243	-	189,243	105,624	-	-	-	732	-	-	295,599
Jamaica	15	-	15	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Japan <sup>24</sup>	1,895	-	1,895	29,040	-	-	-	709	-	-	31,644
Jordan <sup>25</sup>	715,312	-	715,312	52,562	-	-	-	-	1,386	-	769,260
Kazakhstan	574	-	574	195	-	-	-	7,690	-	-	8,459
Kenya	421,248	-	421,248	50,476	-	-	-	18,500	-	-	490,224
Kuwait	673	-	673	981	-	-	-	92,000	16	-	93,670
Kyrgyzstan	333	-	333	109	-	-	-	548	1	-	991
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Latvia <sup>26</sup>	670	-	670	58	-	-	-	224,844	-	-	225,572
Lebanon	949,666	-	949,666	16,423	-	-	-	-	3,552	-	969,641
Lesotho	57	-	57	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	95
Liberia	9,122	-	9,122	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,160
Libya	8,794	-	8,794	47,414	-	170,490	43,681	-	-	-	270,379
Liechtenstein	168	-	168	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	245
Lithuania	1,734	-	1,734	277	-	-	-	3,039	-	-	5,050
Luxembourg <sup>27</sup>	2,046	-	2,046	1,485	-	-	-	83	-	-	3,614
Madagascar	44	-	44	106	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Malawi	13,782	-	13,782	23,141	-	-	-	-	321	-	37,244
Malaysia <sup>28</sup>	120,235	1,067	121,302	41,809	-	-	-	9,631	80,000	-	252,742
Maldives	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mali	26,539	-	26,539	918	6,677	120,298	-	-	-	-	154,432
Malta	8,579	-	8,579	1,871	-	-	-	11	-	-	10,461
Mauritania	57,191	26,000	83,191	1,131	-	-	-	-	-	-	84,322
Mauritius	14	-	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Mexico	16,549	-	16,549	23,847	-	-	-	13	82,993	42,104	165,506
Monaco	25	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Mongolia	7	-	7	2	-	-	-	17	5	-	31

Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by country/territory of asylum | end-2018 (ctnd)

All data are provisional and subject to change.

Country/ territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>1</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>3</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's state- lessness mandate <sup>8</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>9</sup>	Venezue- lans displaced abroad <sup>10</sup>	Total popula- tion of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee- like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee- like situations								
Montenegro	729	-	729	169	-	-	-	145	12,293	-	13,336
Morocco	5,940	-	5,940	1,835	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,775
Mozambique	4,907	-	4,907	21,139	8,845	-	-	8,845	-	-	43,736
Myanmar <sup>29</sup>	-	-	-	-	95	370,305	379	620,939	-	-	866,718
Namibia	2,400	-	2,400	1,525	106	-	-	-	10	-	4,041
Nauru <sup>30</sup>	962	-	962	417	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,379
Nepal <sup>31</sup>	20,808	-	20,808	55	-	-	-	-	543	-	21,406
Netherlands	101,837	-	101,837	12,303	-	-	-	1,951	-	-	116,091
New Zealand	1,564	-	1,564	475	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,039
Nicaragua	326	-	326	131	-	-	-	-	361	1	819
Niger	175,418	-	175,418	3,555	-	156,136	24,727	-	27,142	-	386,978
Nigeria	34,738	-	34,738	942	2	2,167,924	176,155	-	-	-	2,379,761
North Macedonia	295	117	412	14	-	-	-	571	-	-	997
Norway	57,026	-	57,026	2,292	-	-	-	2,809	-	-	62,127
Oman	308	-	308	256	-	-	-	-	-	-	564
Pakistan	1,404,019	-	1,404,019	5,181	12	96,384	83,454	-	-	-	1,589,050
Panama	2,518	-	2,518	13,616	-	-	-	2	-	94,400	110,536
Papua New Guinea <sup>32</sup>	5,445	4,581	10,026	151	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,177
Paraguay	266	-	266	352	-	-	-	-	-	803	1,421
Peru	2,529	-	2,529	230,871	-	-	-	-	-	428,214	661,614
Philippines <sup>33</sup>	642	-	642	248	-	77,650	445,655	1,068	68	-	525,331
Poland	12,506	-	12,506	3,065	-	-	-	10,825	-	-	26,396
Portugal	2,136	-	2,136	85	-	-	-	14	-	-	2,235
Qatar	190	-	190	92	-	-	-	-	1,200	-	1,482
Rep. of Korea	2,903	-	2,903	19,836	-	-	-	-	197	-	22,936
Rep. of Moldova	418	-	418	104	-	-	-	4,451	-	-	4,973
Romania	4,157	-	4,157	1,487	-	-	-	227	-	-	5,871
Russian Federation <sup>34</sup>	77,397	-	77,397	1,381	32	-	-	75,679	-	-	154,489
Rwanda	141,617	3,743	145,360	420	3,077	-	-	-	3,740	-	152,597
Saint Kitts and Nevis	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Saint Lucia	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Samoa	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Saudi Arabia	259	7	266	2,170	-	-	-	70,000	-	-	72,436
Senegal	14,359	-	14,359	1,710	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,069
Serbia and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)	26,704	4,250	30,954	239	6	215,793	197	2,052	-	-	249,241
Sierra Leone	592	-	592	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	592
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,303	1	1,304
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Slovakia	949	-	949	17	-	-	-	1,523	-	-	2,489
Slovenia	749	-	749	263	-	-	-	4	-	-	1,016
Solomon Islands	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Somalia	16,741	-	16,741	16,361	87,544	2,648,000	-	-	382	-	2,769,028
South Africa <sup>35</sup>	89,285	-	89,285	184,203	-	-	-	-	-	-	273,488
South Sudan	291,842	-	291,842	2,541	136,155	1,878,153	-	-	10,000	-	2,318,691
Spain	20,457	-	20,457	78,685	-	-	-	2,455	-	-	101,597
Sri Lanka	800	-	800	742	1,421	35,473	3,849	-	-	-	42,285
State of Palestine	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sudan	1,078,287	-	1,078,287	17,622	1,805	1,864,195	-	-	3,737	-	2,965,646
Suriname	43	-	43	212	-	-	-	-	2	-	257
Sweden	248,226	-	248,226	37,942	-	-	-	31,819	-	-	317,987
Switzerland	104,037	-	104,037	14,797	-	-	-	49	-	-	118,883
Syrian Arab Rep. <sup>36</sup>	18,817	-	18,817	18,654	210,947	6,183,920	-	160,000	7,879	-	6,600,217
Tajikistan	2,657	-	2,657	315	-	-	-	4,616	-	-	7,588
Thailand	53,328	48,917	102,245	944	-	-	-	478,843	98	-	582,130
Timor-Leste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Togo	12,336	-	12,336	697	2	-	-	-	-	-	13,035



## Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by country/territory of asylum | end-2018 (ctnd)

All data are provisional and subject to change.

Country/ territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>2</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>3</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>4</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>5</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's state- lessness mandate <sup>6</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>7</sup>	Venezue- lans displaced abroad <sup>10</sup>	Total popula- tion of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee- like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refuge- like situations								
Trinidad and Tobago	785	-	785	9,948	-	-	-	-	17	31,843	42,593
Tunisia	1,066	-	1,066	256	-	-	-	-	8	-	1,330
Turkey <sup>37</sup>	3,681,685	-	3,681,685	311,719	1	-	-	117	-	-	3,993,522
Turkmenistan	22	-	22	-	-	-	-	4,714	1	-	4,737
Turks and Caicos Islands	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Uganda	1,165,653	-	1,165,653	25,269	1	-	-	-	180,000	-	1,370,923
Ukraine <sup>38</sup>	2,620	-	2,620	6,408	6	1,500,000	-	35,650	-	-	1,544,684
United Arab Emirates	1,164	-	1,164	6,506	-	-	-	-	112	-	7,782
United Kingdom	126,720	-	126,720	45,244	-	-	-	125	-	-	172,089
United Rep. of Tanzania	278,322	-	278,322	39,659	-	-	-	-	19,024	-	337,005
United States of America	313,241	-	313,241	718,994	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,032,235
Uruguay	391	-	391	6,425	-	-	-	-	-	11,605	18,421
Uzbekistan <sup>39</sup>	14	-	14	-	4	-	-	79,942	-	-	79,960
Vanuatu	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	8,463	58,826	67,289	142	3	-	-	-	-	-	67,434
Viet Nam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34,110	-	-	34,110
Yemen	264,369	-	264,369	8,814	2	2,144,718	133,600	-	14	-	2,551,517
Zambia	49,879	-	49,879	3,306	-	-	-	-	22,842	-	76,027
Zimbabwe <sup>40</sup>	7,797	-	7,797	10,210	21	-	-	-	863	-	18,891
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,117,541</b>	<b>243,021</b>	<b>20,360,562</b>	<b>3,503,284</b>	<b>593,814</b>	<b>41,425,147</b>	<b>2,312,926</b>	<b>3,851,983</b>	<b>1,182,910</b>	<b>2,592,948</b>	<b>74,791,939</b>

UNHCR-Bureaux											
- Central Africa-Great Lakes	1,445,672	3,743	1,449,415	69,302	90,425	5,996,236	373,899	974	36,007	-	8,016,258
- East and Horn of Africa	4,348,754	-	4,348,754	128,377	232,169	9,171,461	-	18,500	231,310	-	14,130,571
- Southern Africa	210,956	-	210,956	274,827	8,972	-	8,845	-	24,043	-	527,643
- Western Africa	326,287	-	326,287	11,718	9,520	2,491,387	200,882	692,115	27,248	-	3,759,157
<b>Total Africa</b>	<b>6,331,669</b>	<b>3,743</b>	<b>6,335,412</b>	<b>484,224</b>	<b>341,086</b>	<b>17,659,084</b>	<b>583,626</b>	<b>711,589</b>	<b>318,608</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,433,629</b>
Asia and Pacific	4,160,040	54,565	4,214,605	176,332	17,761	2,686,705	606,864	2,229,401	570,573	-	9,470,606
Middle East and North Africa	2,649,792	42,917	2,692,709	283,845	211,013	10,301,960	1,122,239	370,761	12,987	-	14,995,514
Europe	6,441,542	33,020	6,474,562	1,247,229	54	2,715,426	197	533,340	71,652	-	11,042,460
Americas	534,498	108,776	643,274	1,311,654	23,900	8,061,972	-	6,892	209,090	2,592,948	12,849,730
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,117,541</b>	<b>243,021</b>	<b>20,360,562</b>	<b>3,503,284</b>	<b>593,814</b>	<b>41,425,147</b>	<b>2,312,926</b>	<b>3,851,983</b>	<b>1,182,910</b>	<b>2,592,948</b>	<b>74,791,939</b>

UN major regions											
Africa	6,745,759	29,743	6,775,502	611,970	341,086	17,829,574	627,307	711,593	318,616	-	27,215,648
Asia	10,029,440	82,083	10,111,523	593,759	228,775	13,720,978	1,685,422	2,605,142	589,552	-	28,503,516
Europe	2,742,933	17,838	2,760,771	924,193	53	1,812,623	197	528,224	65,652	-	6,091,713
Latin America and the Caribbean	107,148	108,776	215,924	513,854	23,900	8,061,972	-	3,102	209,090	2,592,948	11,620,790
Northern America	427,350	-	427,350	797,800	-	-	-	3,790	-	-	1,228,940
Oceania	64,911	4,581	69,492	61,708	-	-	-	132	-	-	131,332
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,117,541</b>	<b>243,021</b>	<b>20,360,562</b>	<b>3,503,284</b>	<b>593,814</b>	<b>41,425,147</b>	<b>2,312,926</b>	<b>3,851,983</b>	<b>1,182,910</b>	<b>2,592,948</b>	<b>74,791,939</b>

### Notes

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

A dash ("-") indicates that the value is zero, not available or not applicable. All data are provisional and subject to change.

<sup>1</sup> Country or territory of asylum or residence.

<sup>2</sup> Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection. In the absence of Government figures, UNHCR has estimated

the refugee population in many industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual asylum-seeker recognition.

<sup>3</sup> This category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of persons who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.

<sup>4</sup> Persons whose application for asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the asylum procedure.

<sup>5</sup> Refugees who have returned to their place of origin during 2018. Source: Country of origin and asylum.

<sup>6</sup> Persons who are displaced within their country and to whom UNHCR extends protection and/or assistance. It also includes people in IDP-like situations. This category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of persons who are inside their country of nationality or habitual residence and who face protection risks similar to those of IDPs but who, for practical or other reasons, could not be reported as such.

<sup>7</sup> IDPs of concern to UNHCR who have returned to their place of origin during 2018.

<sup>8</sup> 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 figures reported includes stateless persons who are also refugees from Myanmar or IDPs in Myanmar. Most of these people originate from Rakhine State. UNHCR's statistical reporting currently follows a methodology that reports on one legal status as a person of concern only. However, due to the extraordinary size of the newly displaced stateless population in Bangladesh, UNHCR considered it important to reflect the dual status that this population group possesses as to do otherwise might convey the mistaken impression that the overall number of stateless persons has declined significantly, pending a review of UNHCR reporting on statelessness. This approach will not be replicated in the database and in the Excel version of this table, and therefore, figures may differ. See Annex Table 7 at <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/18-WRD-table-7.xls> for detailed notes.

<sup>9</sup> Refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of the other groups but to whom UNHCR may extend its protection and/or assistance services. These activities might be based on humanitarian or other special grounds.

<sup>10</sup> Venezuelans displaced abroad refers to persons who have left Venezuela as a result of the deteriorating circumstances inside the country, but who have not applied for asylum in the country in which they are present. As indicated in the Guidance Note on International Protection Considerations for Venezuelans (May 2019), UNHCR considers that the majority of Venezuelan nationals or stateless persons who were habitually resident in Venezuela, are in need of international protection under the criteria contained in the Cartagena Declaration on the basis of threats to their lives, security or freedom resulting from events that are seriously disturbing public order in Venezuela. In line with the Secretary General's Guidance, UNHCR and IOM have been coordinating closely to respond to the outflow of Venezuelans.

<sup>11</sup> 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 2011-2018.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> Australia's figures for asylum-seekers are based on the number of applications lodged for protection visas.

<sup>14</sup> The figure reported relates to stateless persons who are also refugees from Myanmar, mainly from Rakhine State. This figure exceptionally includes 906,635 stateless refugees who are also counted in the column under "Refugees." UNHCR's statistical reporting currently follows a methodology that reports on one legal status as a person of concern only. However, due to the extraordinary size of the newly displaced stateless population in Bangladesh, UNHCR considered it important to reflect, on an exceptional basis, the dual status that this population group possesses as both refugees and stateless persons as to do otherwise might convey the mistaken impression that the overall number of stateless persons has declined significantly. This approach will not be replicated in the database and in the Excel version of this table and, therefore, figures may differ.

<sup>15</sup> Refugee figure related to the end of 2016.

<sup>16</sup> All figures related to the end of 2016.

<sup>17</sup> The 300,000 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.

<sup>18</sup> The statelessness figure is based on a Government estimate of individuals who themselves or whose parents or grandparents migrated to Côte d'Ivoire before or just after independence and who did not establish their nationality at independence or before the nationality law changed in 1972. The estimate is derived in part from cases denied voter registration in 2010 because electoral authorities could not determine their nationality at the time. The estimation is adjusted to reflect the number of persons who acquired nationality through the special 'acquisition of nationality by declaration' procedure until end of 2018. The estimate does not include individuals of unknown parentage who were abandoned as children and who are not considered as nationals under Ivorian law.

<sup>19</sup> UNHCR's assistance activities for IDPs in Cyprus ended in 1999. Visit the website of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) for further information.

<sup>20</sup> 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. According to information released by the authorities, 26,153 individuals had been issued their Dominican civil documents by September of 2018. Additionally, 308 individuals formally presented their naturalization claims to the Ministry of Interior and Police of the end of 2018 and are awaiting their naturalization decrees.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> Stateless figure refers to individuals without a nationality who were born in the Dominican Republic prior to January 2010.

<sup>23</sup> Pending a more accurate study into statelessness in Iraq, the figure is an estimate based on various sources.

<sup>24</sup> Figures are UNHCR estimates.

<sup>25</sup> Includes 34,600 Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan. The Government estimated the number of Iraqis at 400,000 individuals at the end of March 2015. This includes refugees and other categories of Iraqis.

<sup>26</sup> With respect to persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate, this figure includes persons of concern covered by two separate Latvian laws. 174 persons fall under the Republic of Latvia's Law on Stateless Persons of 17 February 2004. 224,670 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).

<sup>27</sup> Refugee figure related to the end of 2016.

<sup>28</sup> Updated figure is based on a registration and community legal assistance programme undertaken in West Malaysia by a local NGO with technical support from UNHCR, which began in 2014. During 2018, 781 persons of those registered acquired Malaysian nationality.

<sup>29</sup> The figure of persons of concern under the statelessness mandate relates to stateless persons in Rakhine state and persons of undetermined nationality residing in other states in Myanmar. The figure of stateless persons in Rakhine state has been estimated on the basis of the 2014 census report and 2017 General Administration Department (GAD) of Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) data. This figure exceptionally includes stateless IDPs who are also of concern under the statelessness mandate. This approach will not be replicated in the database and in the Excel version of this table and, therefore, figures may differ. In Rakhine State, the total number of stateless persons were estimated to be approximately one million in 2014 according to the Government census report. Revisions have been made to take into account the number of stateless persons who fled to Bangladesh during 2017. The number of remaining stateless persons residing in Maungdaw area as of end of December 2018 is highly uncertain as no reliable comprehensive data is available and access has been severely constrained. Outside of Rakhine state, the figure of those with undetermined nationality (25,939) is based on government data released on 27 December 2016 indicating the number of persons who hold an Identity Card for National Verification, and whose citizenship has not yet been confirmed.

<sup>30</sup> The data was provided by Government on 9 January 2019.

<sup>31</sup> 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.

<sup>32</sup> The data was provided by Government on 3 December 2018.

<sup>33</sup> The updated figure is based on improved information concerning persons of Indonesian descent who have acquired nationality.

<sup>34</sup> Information provided by the Russian Federation includes statistical data for the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation. The statelessness figure refers to the census figure from 2010 adjusted to reflect the number of stateless persons who acquired nationality in 2011-2017.

<sup>35</sup> All figures related to mid-2018.

<sup>36</sup> Refugee figure for Iraqis was a Government estimate. UNHCR has registered 15,700 Iraqis at the end of 2018. Figure for stateless persons is an estimate.

<sup>37</sup> Refugee figure for Syrians in Turkey was a Government estimate.

<sup>38</sup> IDP figure in Ukraine includes 700,000 people who are in an IDP-like situation.

<sup>39</sup> The statelessness figure refers to stateless persons with permanent residence reported by the Government of Uzbekistan in 2010. The figure has been adjusted to reflect that citizenship of Uzbekistan has been granted to 6,761 persons since December 2016.

<sup>40</sup> A study is being pursued to provide a revised estimate of statelessness figure. Source: UNHCR/Governments.



Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by origin | end-2018

All data are provisional and subject to change.

Origin <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <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	2,676,619	4,650	2,681,269	310,120	16,220	2,106,893	73,527	-	489,859	-	5,677,888
Albania	13,518	-	13,518	21,083	-	-	-	-	1	-	34,602
Algeria	4,200	1	4,201	7,460	-	-	-	-	15	-	11,676
Andorra	3	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Angola	8,253	-	8,253	8,927	-	-	-	-	18,020	-	35,200
Antigua and Barbuda	107	-	107	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	156
Argentina	117	-	117	493	-	-	-	-	3	-	613
Armenia	11,047	-	11,047	13,697	-	-	-	-	5	-	24,749
Australia	13	-	13	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
Austria	20	3	23	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Azerbaijan	10,673	573	11,246	9,328	-	620,422	-	-	1	-	640,997
Bahamas	418	-	418	388	-	-	-	-	-	-	806
Bahrain	543	-	543	144	-	-	-	-	-	-	687
Bangladesh	20,888	148	21,036	58,856	-	-	-	-	8	-	79,900
Barbados	214	-	214	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	298
Belarus	3,539	-	3,539	3,300	-	-	-	-	2	-	6,841
Belgium	54	-	54	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	137
Belize	69	-	69	222	-	-	-	-	-	-	291
Benin	665	-	665	1,079	-	-	-	-	7	-	1,751
Bhutan	7,104	-	7,104	394	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,498
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	510	-	510	1,017	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,527
Bosnia and Herzegovina	16,927	37	16,964	1,622	-	96,830	-	-	48,907	-	164,323
Botswana	294	-	294	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	382
Brazil	1,038	-	1,038	8,574	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,612
Brunei Darussalam	3	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Bulgaria	627	-	627	371	-	-	-	-	1	-	999
Burkina Faso	11,460	-	11,460	4,959	-	47,029	-	-	-	-	63,448
Burundi	387,862	-	387,862	53,377	45,536	31,908	-	-	14,149	-	532,832
Cabo Verde	13	-	13	206	-	-	-	-	-	-	219
Cambodia	12,094	45	12,139	752	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,891
Cameroon	45,139	-	45,139	18,665	-	668,494	67,653	-	11	-	799,962
Canada	84	-	84	84	-	-	-	-	2	-	170
Cayman Islands	7	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Central African Rep.	590,874	-	590,874	17,296	35,182	640,969	306,246	-	21,697	-	1,612,264
Chad	10,898	-	10,898	4,425	6,351	165,313	-	-	16,726	-	203,713
Chile	482	-	482	525	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,007
China	212,050	-	212,050	94,364	-	-	-	-	2	-	306,416
China, Hong Kong SAR	13	-	13	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
China, Macao SAR	2	-	2	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Colombia	79,760	58,826	138,586	45,681	23,897	7,816,472	-	-	-	-	8,024,636
Comoros	622	-	622	517	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,139
Congo, Republic of	13,352	-	13,352	11,780	2	138,000	-	-	92	-	163,226
Cook Islands	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Costa Rica	211	-	211	551	-	-	-	-	-	-	762
Côte d'Ivoire	38,323	-	38,323	22,881	2,839	-	-	-	18	-	64,061
Croatia <sup>11</sup>	24,107	-	24,107	81	9	-	-	-	4,376	-	28,573
Cuba	5,488	-	5,488	26,603	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,091
Curaçao	35	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	36
Cyprus <sup>12</sup>	10	-	10	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Czechia	1,240	-	1,240	223	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,463
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	802	-	802	152	-	-	-	-	-	-	954
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	716,355	3,952	720,307	133,441	6,628	4,516,865	-	-	10,867	-	5,388,108
Denmark	2	-	2	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Djibouti	2,132	-	2,132	1,111	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,243
Dominica	40	-	40	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	102

Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by origin | end-2018 (ctnd)

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Origin <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <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								
Dominican Rep.	477	-	477	3,416	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,893
Ecuador	1,431	-	1,431	17,725	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,156
Egypt	24,864	-	24,864	16,776	-	-	-	-	50	-	41,690
El Salvador	32,564	-	32,564	119,271	-	71,500	-	-	27,285	-	250,620
Equatorial Guinea	144	-	144	185	-	-	-	-	-	-	329
Eritrea	492,776	14,491	507,267	78,607	297	-	-	-	86	-	586,257
Estonia	280	-	280	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	321
eSwatini	240	-	240	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	295
Ethiopia	92,234	-	92,234	133,283	16	2,615,800	-	-	4,231	-	2,845,564
Fiji	678	-	678	1,301	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,979
Finland	5	-	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
France	61	-	61	231	-	-	-	-	-	-	292
French Guiana	1	-	1	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Gabon	347	-	347	757	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,104
Gambia	17,251	-	17,251	14,035	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,286
Georgia	6,975	-	6,975	21,018	-	282,381	-	-	-	-	310,374
Germany	71	-	71	185	-	-	-	-	-	-	256
Ghana	18,086	-	18,086	12,557	-	-	-	-	3	-	30,646
Gibraltar	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Greece	107	-	107	135	-	-	-	-	-	-	242
Grenada	97	-	97	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	162
Guadeloupe	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Guam	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Guatemala	19,132	-	19,132	86,874	-	-	-	-	25	-	106,031
Guinea	23,493	-	23,493	33,066	-	-	-	-	1	-	56,560
Guinea-Bissau	2,049	-	2,049	2,849	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,898
Guyana	283	-	283	559	-	-	-	-	1	-	843
Haiti	27,531	-	27,531	40,980	-	-	-	-	-	-	68,511
Holy See (the)	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Honduras	18,860	-	18,860	76,532	-	174,000	-	-	46,419	-	315,811
Hungary	3,927	-	3,927	805	-	-	-	-	3	-	4,735
Iceland	4	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
India	9,601	1	9,602	51,812	-	-	-	-	216	-	61,630
Indonesia	6,668	5,489	12,157	3,402	-	-	-	-	3	-	15,562
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	128,715	1,225	129,940	87,379	8	-	-	-	89	-	217,416
Iraq <sup>13</sup>	369,444	2,898	372,342	256,725	63	1,802,832	944,958	-	7,901	-	3,384,821
Ireland	4	-	4	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
Israel	502	-	502	689	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,191
Italy	69	-	69	388	-	-	-	-	-	-	457
Jamaica	2,453	-	2,453	1,514	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,967
Japan	48	-	48	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	163
Jordan	2,439	3	2,442	4,144	-	-	-	-	1,433	-	8,019
Kazakhstan	2,529	-	2,529	5,848	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,377
Kenya	7,489	-	7,489	7,309	-	-	-	-	3	-	14,801
Kiribati	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kuwait	1,257	-	1,257	1,236	-	-	-	-	3	-	2,496
Kyrgyzstan	2,942	-	2,942	2,731	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,673
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	6,938	-	6,938	296	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,234
Latvia	156	-	156	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	265
Lebanon	5,638	1	5,639	8,080	-	-	-	-	18	-	13,737
Lesotho	11	-	11	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Liberia	5,518	7	5,525	3,000	-	-	-	-	90	-	8,615
Libya	13,874	-	13,874	6,794	-	170,490	43,681	-	10	-	234,849
Liechtenstein	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	70	-	70	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	159

Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by origin | end-2018 (ctnd)

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	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee-like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations								
Luxembourg	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Madagascar	298	-	298	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	417
Malawi	475	-	475	2,802	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,277
Malaysia	823	-	823	15,046	-	-	-	-	1	-	15,870
Maldives	73	-	73	33	1	-	-	-	-	-	107
Mali	158,275	-	158,275	10,907	6,677	120,298	-	-	5	-	296,162
Malta	4	-	4	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Marshall Islands	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Martinique	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mauritania	37,059	-	37,059	8,136	-	-	-	-	4	-	45,199
Mauritius	161	-	161	297	-	-	-	-	-	-	458
Mexico	12,870	-	12,870	89,796	-	-	-	-	-	-	102,666
Micronesia (Federated States of)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Monaco	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Mongolia	2,254	-	2,254	4,397	-	-	-	-	5	-	6,656
Montenegro	716	-	716	640	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,356
Morocco	3,887	1	3,888	8,181	-	-	-	-	21	-	12,090
Mozambique	58	-	58	8,978	8,845	-	8,845	-	-	-	26,726
Myanmar <sup>14</sup>	1,096,213	48,941	1,145,154	30,464	95	370,305	379	-	99	-	1,546,496
Namibia	1,336	-	1,336	338	106	-	-	-	-	-	1,780
Nauru	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nepal	8,589	5	8,594	9,084	-	-	-	-	328	-	18,006
Netherlands	47	-	47	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	139
New Zealand	38	-	38	18	-	-	-	-	1	-	57
Nicaragua	1,673	-	1,673	32,269	-	-	-	-	-	-	33,942
Niger	2,725	-	2,725	2,078	-	156,136	24,727	-	25,731	-	211,397
Nigeria	276,853	-	276,853	84,645	2	2,167,924	176,155	-	1,429	-	2,707,008
Niue	19	-	19	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
North Macedonia	1,731	-	1,731	3,238	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,969
Norway	9	-	9	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Oman	42	-	42	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	77
Pakistan	131,653	606	132,259	75,360	12	96,384	83,454	-	-	-	387,469
Palau	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Palestinian <sup>15</sup>	100,742	-	100,742	13,481	1	-	-	-	1,465	-	115,689
Panama	49	-	49	148	-	-	-	-	-	-	197
Papua New Guinea	427	-	427	450	-	-	-	-	-	-	877
Paraguay	76	-	76	281	-	-	-	-	-	-	357
Peru	2,592	-	2,592	4,905	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,497
Philippines	512	15	527	3,820	-	77,650	445,655	-	80,039	-	607,691
Poland	1,087	-	1,087	920	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,007
Portugal	19	-	19	258	-	-	-	-	-	-	277
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Qatar	36	-	36	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	75
Rep. of Korea	279	-	279	545	-	-	-	-	-	-	824
Rep. of Moldova	2,400	1	2,401	4,540	-	-	-	-	1	-	6,942
Romania	1,160	-	1,160	4,269	-	-	-	-	1	-	5,430
Russian Federation	61,463	-	61,463	43,283	32	-	-	-	2	-	104,780
Rwanda	247,481	-	247,481	13,776	3,077	-	-	-	14,998	-	279,332
Saint Kitts and Nevis	57	-	57	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	73
Saint Lucia	1,027	-	1,027	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,095
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1,255	-	1,255	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,311
Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Samoa	1	-	1	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
San Marino	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Sao Tome and Principe	30	-	30	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	58

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Origin <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>2</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>3</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>4</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								
Saudi Arabia	1,493	-	1,493	1,447	-	-	-	-	10	-	2,950
Senegal	18,222	-	18,222	17,438	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,660
Serbia and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)	32,253	117	32,370	9,714	6	215,793	197	-	-	-	258,080
Seychelles	13	-	13	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Sierra Leone	4,837	-	4,837	7,428	-	-	-	-	1	-	12,266
Singapore	48	-	48	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	120
Slovakia	1,221	-	1,221	395	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,616
Slovenia	20	-	20	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Solomon Islands	33	-	33	145	-	-	-	-	-	-	178
Somalia	949,487	165	949,652	55,864	87,544	2,648,000	-	-	134	-	3,741,194
South Africa	489	-	489	2,414	-	-	-	-	5	-	2,908
South Sudan <sup>16</sup>	2,285,257	59	2,285,316	12,717	136,155	1,878,153	-	-	10,000	-	4,322,341
Spain	48	-	48	245	-	-	-	-	-	-	293
Sri Lanka	113,963	-	113,963	14,526	1,421	35,473	3,849	-	4	-	169,236
Sudan <sup>17</sup>	722,469	2,322	724,791	67,437	1,805	1,864,195	-	-	2	-	2,658,230
Suriname	20	-	20	61	-	-	-	-	1	-	82
Sweden	19	-	19	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
Switzerland	7	-	7	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Syrian Arab Rep.	6,632,451	21,935	6,654,386	139,585	210,947	6,183,920	-	-	8,455	-	13,197,293
Tajikistan	1,701	-	1,701	3,204	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,905
Thailand	174	18	192	2,794	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,986
Tibetan	13,530	-	13,530	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	13,531
Timor-Leste	15	1	16	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Togo	8,040	-	8,040	3,571	2	-	-	-	-	-	11,613
Tonga	33	-	33	172	-	-	-	-	-	-	205
Trinidad and Tobago	322	-	322	310	-	-	-	-	15	-	647
Tunisia	1,999	-	1,999	2,775	-	-	-	-	3	-	4,777
Turkey	68,903	-	68,903	42,925	1	-	-	-	11	-	111,840
Turkmenistan	461	-	461	1,278	-	-	-	-	1	-	1,740
Turks and Caicos Islands	16	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Tuvalu	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Uganda	7,035	-	7,035	10,969	1	-	-	-	180,003	-	198,008
Ukraine <sup>18</sup>	92,991	272	93,263	31,973	6	1,500,000	-	-	7	-	1,625,249
United Arab Emirates	177	-	177	278	-	-	-	-	-	-	455
United Kingdom	77	5	82	200	-	-	-	-	2	-	284
United Rep. of Tanzania	735	-	735	1,673	-	-	-	-	14	-	2,422
United States of America <sup>19</sup>	334	8	342	2,848	-	-	-	-	4	-	3,194
Uruguay	19	-	19	211	-	-	-	-	1	-	231
Uzbekistan	3,284	-	3,284	4,603	4	-	-	-	2	-	7,893
Vanuatu	1	-	1	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	52
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	21,046	-	21,046	464,229	3	-	-	-	-	2,592,948	3,078,226
Viet Nam <sup>20</sup>	334,473	2	334,475	5,579	-	-	-	-	68	-	340,122
Western Sahara <sup>21</sup>	90,791	26,000	116,791	1,805	-	-	-	-	-	-	118,596
Yemen	31,154	-	31,154	35,892	2	2,144,718	133,600	-	8	-	2,345,374
Zambia	284	-	284	263	-	-	-	-	6	-	553
Zimbabwe	15,629	-	15,629	17,134	21	-	-	-	112	-	32,896
Stateless	55,772	-	55,772	7,107	-	-	-	3,851,983	16	-	2,883,243
Various/unknown	166,343	50,198	216,541	65,562	-	-	-	-	147,254	-	429,357
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,117,541</b>	<b>243,021</b>	<b>20,360,562</b>	<b>3,503,284</b>	<b>593,814</b>	<b>41,425,147</b>	<b>2,312,926</b>	<b>3,851,983</b>	<b>1,182,910</b>	<b>2,592,948</b>	<b>74,791,939</b>



Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by origin | end-2018 (ctnd)

All data are provisional and subject to change.

Origin <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES			Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>2</sup>	Returned refugees <sup>3</sup>	IDPs of concern to UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>4</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>5</sup>	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate <sup>6</sup>	Others of concern to UNHCR <sup>7</sup>	Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>10</sup>	Total population of concern
	Refugees <sup>8</sup>	People in refugee-like situations <sup>9</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations								
<b>UNHCR-Bureaux</b>											
- Central Africa-Great Lakes	2,002,319	3,952	2,006,271	250,978	90,425	5,996,236	373,899	-	61,828	-	8,779,637
- East and Horn of Africa	4,569,777	17,037	4,586,814	371,722	232,169	9,171,461	-	-	211,185	-	14,573,351
- Southern Africa	28,163	-	28,163	41,970	8,972	-	8,845	-	18,143	-	106,093
- Western Africa	585,810	7	585,817	220,699	9,520	2,491,387	200,882	-	27,285	-	3,535,590
<b>Total Africa</b>	<b>7,186,069</b>	<b>20,996</b>	<b>7,207,065</b>	<b>885,369</b>	<b>341,086</b>	<b>17,659,084</b>	<b>583,626</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>318,441</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,994,671</b>
Asia and Pacific	4,796,318	61,146	4,857,464	789,309	17,761	2,686,705	606,864	-	570,726	-	9,528,829
Middle East and North Africa	7,322,592	50,839	7,373,431	513,702	211,013	10,301,960	1,122,239	-	19,396	-	19,541,741
Europe	357,680	1,008	358,688	215,731	54	2,715,426	197	-	53,320	-	3,343,416
Americas	232,767	58,834	291,601	1,026,504	23,900	8,061,972	-	-	73,757	2,592,948	12,070,682
Various/Stateless	222,115	50,198	272,313	72,669	-	-	-	3,851,983	147,270	-	3,312,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,117,541</b>	<b>243,021</b>	<b>20,360,562</b>	<b>3,503,284</b>	<b>593,814</b>	<b>41,425,147</b>	<b>2,312,926</b>	<b>3,851,983</b>	<b>1,182,910</b>	<b>2,592,948</b>	<b>74,791,939</b>
<b>UN major regions</b>											
Africa	7,362,743	46,998	7,409,741	937,296	341,086	17,829,574	627,307	-	318,544	-	27,463,548
Asia	12,038,587	86,556	12,125,143	1,335,858	228,775	13,720,978	1,685,422	-	590,035	-	29,686,211
Europe	260,072	435	260,507	128,741	53	1,812,623	197	-	53,303	-	2,255,424
Latin America and the Caribbean	232,349	58,826	291,175	1,023,572	23,900	8,061,972	-	-	73,751	2,592,948	12,067,318
Northern America	418	8	426	2,932	-	-	-	-	6	-	3,364
Oceania	1,257	-	1,257	2,216	-	-	-	-	1	-	3,474
Various/Stateless	222,115	50,198	272,313	72,669	-	-	-	3,851,983	147,270	-	3,312,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,117,541</b>	<b>243,021</b>	<b>20,360,562</b>	<b>3,503,284</b>	<b>593,814</b>	<b>41,425,147</b>	<b>2,312,926</b>	<b>3,851,983</b>	<b>1,182,910</b>	<b>2,592,948</b>	<b>74,791,939</b>

#### Notes

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

A dash ("-") indicates that the value is zero, not available or not applicable. All data are provisional and subject to change.

- Country or territory of origin.
- Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection. In the absence of Government figures, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population in many industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual asylum-seeker recognition.
- This category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of persons who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.
- Persons whose application for asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the asylum procedure.
- Refugees who have returned to their place of origin during 2018. Source: country of origin and asylum.
- Persons who are displaced within their country and to whom UNHCR extends protection and/or assistance. It also includes people in IDP-like situations. This category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of persons who are inside their country of nationality or habitual residence and who face protection risks similar to those of IDPs but who, for practical or other reasons, could not be reported as such.
- IDPs of concern to UNHCR who have returned to their place of origin during 2018.
- Refers to persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. This category refers to persons who fall under the agency's statelessness mandate because they are stateless according to this international definition, but data from some countries may also include persons with undetermined nationality. See Annex Table 7 at <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/18-WRD-table-7.xls> for detailed notes.
- Refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of the other groups but to whom UNHCR may extend its protection and/or assistance services. These activities might be based on humanitarian or other special grounds.
- Venezuelans displaced abroad refers to persons who have left Venezuela as a result of the deteriorating circumstances inside the country, but who have not applied for asylum in the country in which they are present. As indicated in the Guidance Note on International Protection Considerations for Venezuelans (May 2019), UNHCR considers that the majority of Venezuelan nationals or stateless persons who were habitually resident in Venezuela, are in need of international protection under the criteria contained in the Cartagena Declaration on the basis of threats to their lives, security or freedom resulting from events that are seriously disturbing public order in Venezuela. In line with the Secretary General's Guidance, UNHCR and IOM have been coordinating closely to respond to the outflow of Venezuelans.
- UNHCR has recommended on 4 April 2014 to start the process of cessation of refugee status for refugees from Croatia displaced during the 1991-95 conflict.
- UNHCR's assistance activities for IDPs in Cyprus ended in 1999. Visit the website of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) for further information.
- Refugee figure for Iraqis in the Syrian Arab Republic was a Government estimate. UNHCR has registered 15,700 Iraqis at the end of 2018. The refugee population in Jordan includes 34,600 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.
- IDP figure in Myanmar includes 120,000 persons in an IDP-like situation.
- Refers to Palestinian refugees under the UNHCR mandate only.
- An unknown number of refugees and asylum-seekers from South Sudan may be included under Sudan (in absence of separate statistics for both countries).
- Figures for refugees and asylum-seekers may include citizens of South Sudan (in absence of separate statistics for both countries).
- IDP figure in Ukraine includes 700,000 people who are in an IDP-like situation.
- 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 300,000 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.

Source: UNHCR/Governments.

By the end of 2018, the total population of concern to UNHCR stood at 74.8 million people. This included people who have been forcibly displaced (refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced people); 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 70.8 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 29 can be downloaded from the UNHCR website at:**

→ [http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/18-WRD-tab\\_v3\\_external.zip](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/18-WRD-tab_v3_external.zip)

**Annex table 7:**

→ <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/18-WRD-table-7.xls>

# GLOBAL TRENDS

## FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN 2018

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**FRONT COVER:**

*COLOMBIA. Venezuelans risk life and limb to seek help in Colombia. A father carries his young daughter through treacherous, muddy scrublands by the banks of the Tachira River, which forms the border between Venezuela and Colombia. In a context of rampant hyperinflation, food shortages, political turmoil, violence and persecution, more than 3 million Venezuelans have fled the country, making such perilous journeys in search of safety.*

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

