



Refugees and migrant workers in Benghazi port, Libya waiting in line for their passport to be checked by an international organization before boarding a boat to Alexandria, Egypt. Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated to Egypt and Tunisia during the uprising and armed conflict in Libya in 2011.



Population Levels and Trends

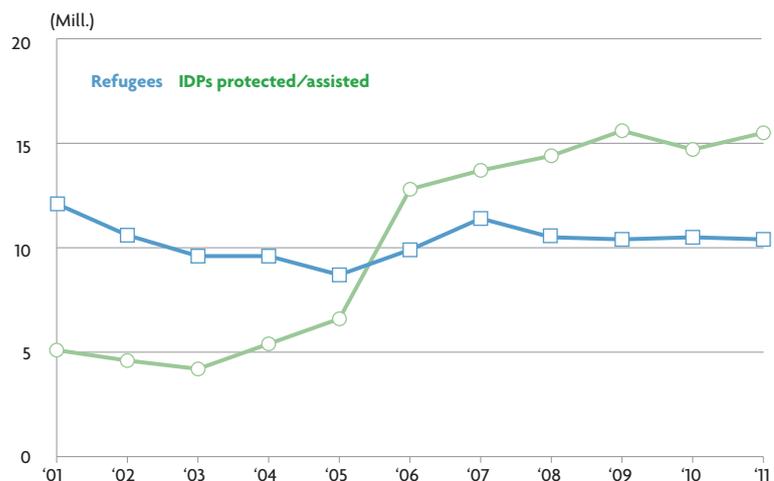
THIS CHAPTER analyses the major trends and changes in 2011 in the global populations for which UNHCR has a responsibility, including changes in the size, origin and flows of refugees, returnees, stateless persons and certain internally displaced persons - collectively referred to as “persons of concern” to UNHCR. Palestinian refugees who fall under the mandate of UNRWA are not included. This chapter only covers IDPs generated by conflict, and who benefited directly or indirectly from UNHCR’s protection and/or assistance activities.

OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL TRENDS

By the end of 2011, the total population under UNHCR’s responsibility numbered 35.4 million persons, taking account of new displacement, durable solutions, legal and demographic changes, improved availability of data, and revised estimates. The analysis presented in the Yearbook is based on individual population groups.

By the end of 2011, there were 10.4 million refugees under UNHCR’s

Fig. II.1 Refugees and IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR | 2001-2011 (end-year)



responsibility, including some 604,000 people in refugee-like situations.³⁰ The number of people whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated by the end of the reporting period was estimated at 895,000. A total of 15.5 million IDPs, including more than 453,000 people in IDP-like situations, received humanitarian assistance under arrangements in which UNHCR was either a lead agency or a key partner. This was the second highest figure on record.

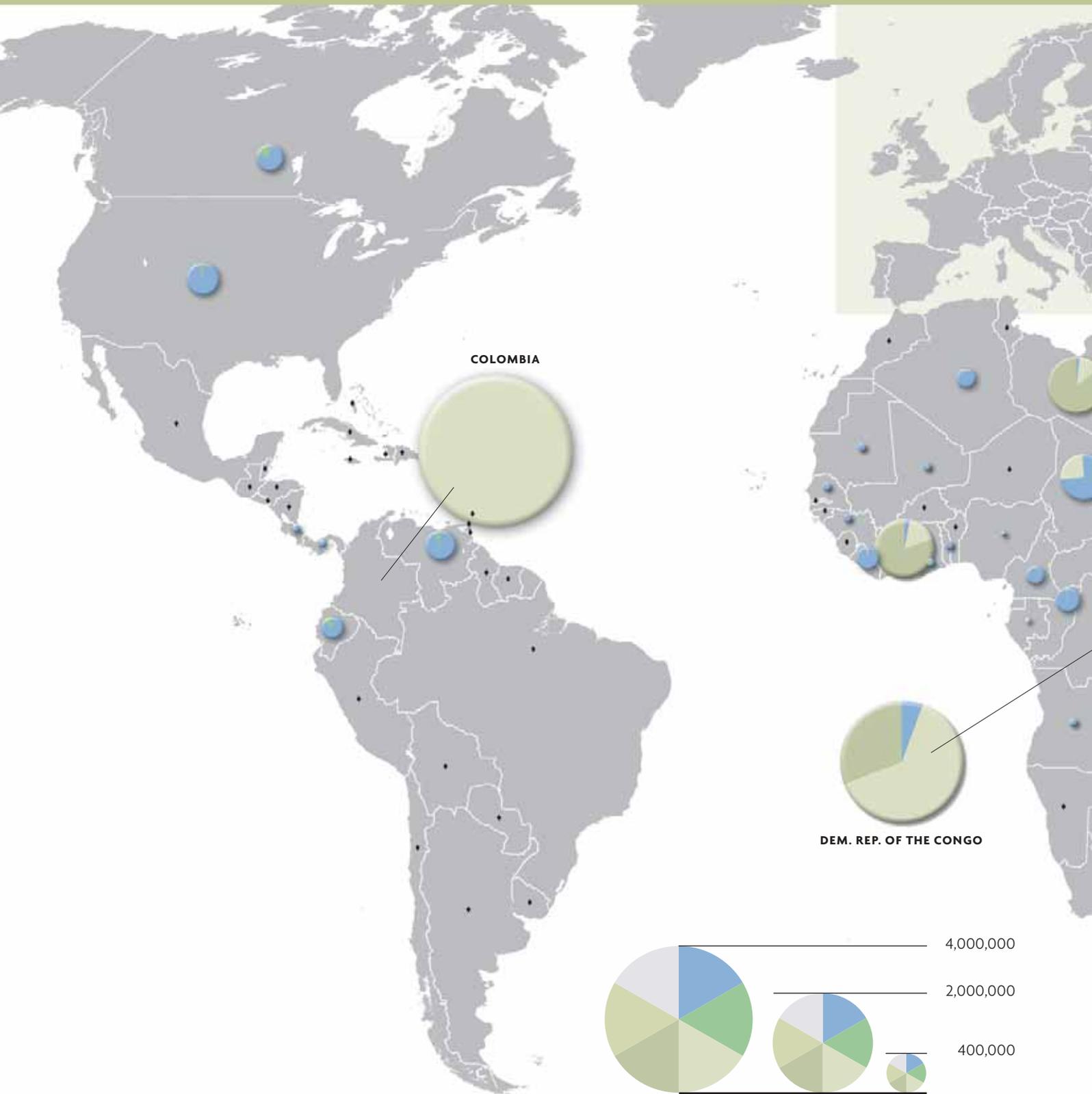
An estimated 3.2 million IDPs were able to return home during the year, the highest number in more than a

decade. Close to 532,000 refugees repatriated voluntarily in 2011, up from the 20-year low of 197,600 in 2010.

During 2011, UNHCR identified 3.5 million stateless persons in 64 countries and estimated the total number of stateless persons worldwide at three times that figure, or up to 12 million people.³¹ In addition, some 1.4 million individuals not included in these categories received protection and/or assistance from UNHCR based on humanitarian or other special grounds. These individuals are referred to as “other groups of people of concern”.

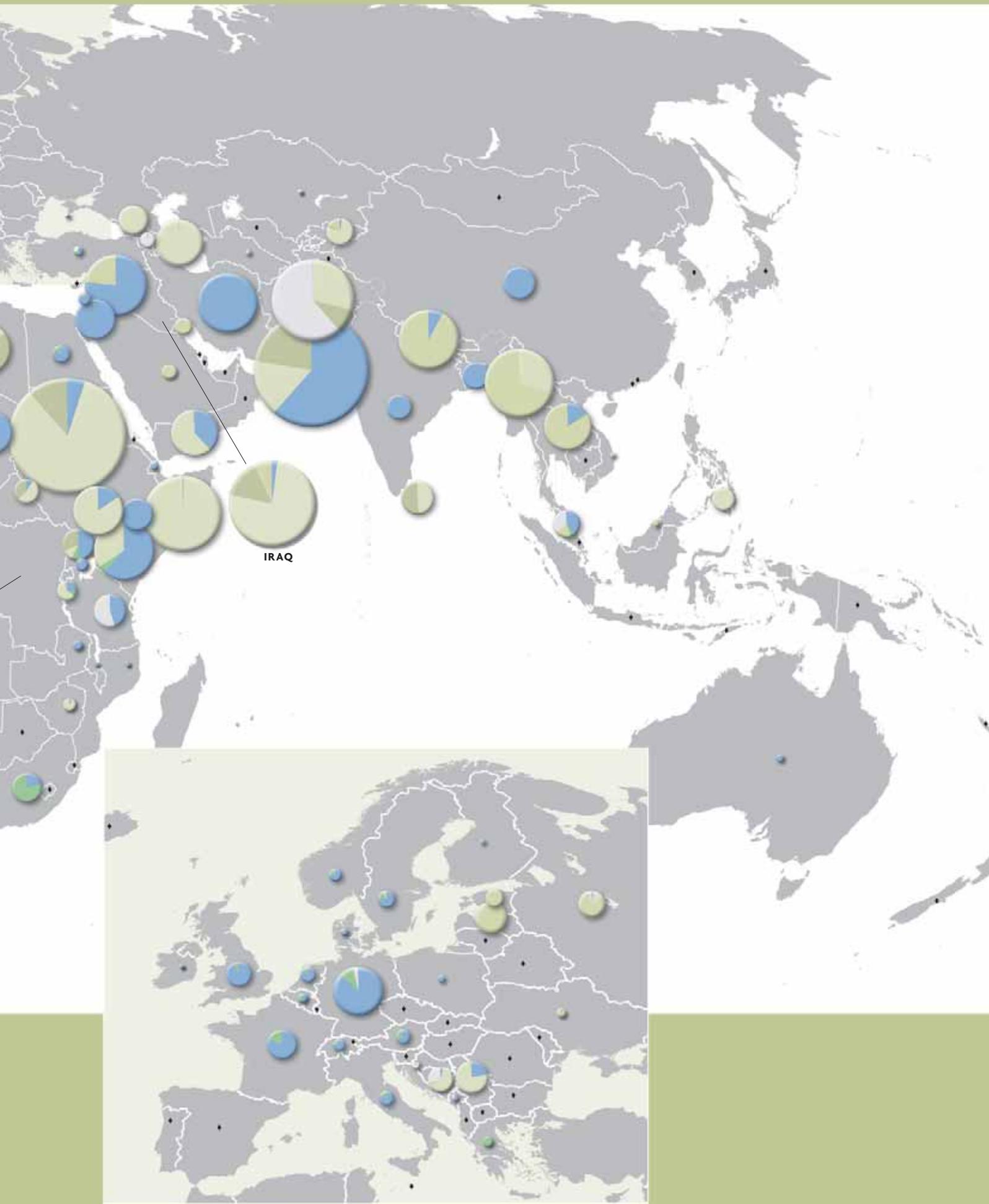
³⁰ Three-quarters of the 604,000 people in a refugee-like situation were located in Bangladesh, Ecuador, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

³¹ Refugees and asylum-seekers who are also stateless persons are not included in this figure, but are reflected in the figures relating to the relevant refugee and asylum-seeker groups.



- Refugees^(a)
- Asylum-seekers (pending cases)
- IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR^(b)
- Returned refugees, returned IDPs
- Stateless persons
- Others of concern

- ◆ Total population below 10,000
- a Including people in refugee-like situation
- b Including people in IDP-like situation



IRAQ

TABLE II.1 Refugee populations by UNHCR regions | 2011

UNHCR regions	Start-2011			End-2011			Change (total)	
	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total refugees	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total refugees	Absolute	%
- Central Africa and Great Lakes	628,400	-	628,400	635,100	-	635,100	6,700	1.1%
- East and Horn of Africa	1,206,100	34,300	1,240,400	1,606,900	26,000	1,632,900	392,500	31.6%
- Southern Africa	146,200	-	146,200	144,900	-	144,900	-1,300	-0.9%
- West Africa	168,300	-	168,300	280,500	-	280,500	112,200	66.7%
Total Africa*	2,149,000	34,300	2,183,300	2,667,400	26,000	2,693,400	510,100	23.4%
Americas	513,500	290,500	804,000	516,600	290,800	807,400	3,400	0.4%
Asia and Pacific	3,793,900	220,200	4,014,100	3,390,900	216,300	3,607,200	-406,900	-10.1%
Europe	1,605,500	1,000	1,606,500	1,556,600	900	1,557,500	-49,000	-3.1%
Middle East and North Africa	1,889,900	50,800	1,940,700	1,669,400	69,900	1,739,300	-201,400	-10.4%
Total	9,951,800	596,800	10,548,600	9,800,900	603,900	10,404,800	-143,800	-1.4%

Note

* Excluding North Africa.

REFUGEES

Regions and countries of asylum

While the number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate increased in some regions, including in sub-Saharan Africa, and decreased in others, such as Asia and the Pacific, the global number of refugees remained essentially stable at 10.4 million, approximately 144,000 fewer than in 2010. Decreases occurred because of two main reasons. First, estimates for Afghan and Iraqi refugee populations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and the Syrian Arab Republic were reduced by 16 per cent. Second, a number of refugees found durable solutions during the year, notably

voluntary repatriation. In some locations, however, there were significant increases in refugee numbers due to new or continued conflicts, as in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and Somalia.

By the end of 2011, women and girls constituted slightly less than half (48%) of all refugees globally.³² Developing countries hosted 8.4 million refugees, or four-fifths of the global refugee population. The 48 Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 2.3 million refugees, 22 per cent of the total.³³

Table II.1 shows that 3.6 million or more than one-third (35%) of all refugees were residing in countries covered by UNHCR's Asia and Pacific region. Of these, 2.6 million were Afghans (71%). Sub-Saharan Africa was host to 2.7 million refugees or one quarter of the global population. They originated primarily from Somalia (760,800), Sudan (462,100), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (457,900). The Middle East and North Africa region hosted 1.7 million refugees or 17 per cent of the total. They originated mainly from Iraq (some 1.2 million according to Government estimates). Europe hosted some 1.6 million refugees (15%). Refugees from Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)) (159,000), Iraq (148,000), and Turkey (119,500) were the largest groups. The Americas region hosted the smallest share of the global refugee population (8%), with Colombians

(392,600)³⁴ constituting the largest number in this region.

A decrease in the number of refugees was observed in the Middle East and North Africa region, where figures dropped by 10 per cent during the reporting period, primarily the result of revised estimates. Estimates by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for the number of Iraqi refugees was revised downward by 250,000, based on the assumption that a number of Iraqis had left, either to return to Iraq or to other countries. Conversely, the armed conflict in Libya led to an estimated 150,000 Libyans fleeing, primarily to Tunisia. Almost all of them had returned to Libya by the end of the year. More than 27,000 Somali refugees arrived in Yemen during the year.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the number of refugees had declined for nine consecutive years between 2001 and 2009. In 2010, the trend reversed as the number of refugees rose, and this continued into 2011. By the end of 2011, there were close to 2.7 million refugees in sub-Saharan Africa, roughly half a million more than at the beginning of the year. However, the numbers remained below those of 2000

Most refugees remain within their region of origin

Available statistical evidence demonstrates that most refugees having fled to neighbouring countries, remain in the same region.

The major refugee-generating regions

hosted on average between 75 and 93 per cent of refugees from within the same region. UNHCR estimates that some 1.8 million refugees (17% of the total of 10.4 million) live outside their region of origin. ●

³² See Chapter V for more details on the demographic composition of refugee populations.

³³ See <http://www.unohrls.org> for countries included.

³⁴ Including 283,300 Colombians considered to be in a refugee-like situation.

when more than 3.4 million people were refugees in the region.

Due to conflict, violence and drought in southern and central Somalia, close to 300,000 Somalis left their homes in 2011 and sought refuge abroad, mainly in Kenya (163,100) and Ethiopia (101,000). Overall, an estimated 700,000 Somalis have left their country during the past five years. Côte d'Ivoire witnessed a large-scale outflow of refugees in 2011, when an estimated 207,000 people fled mostly to Liberia (about 200,000), with smaller numbers arriving in Ghana and Guinea. With the gradual return of civil order from April 2011, more than 135,200 people were able to return to Côte d'Ivoire by the end of the year. Conflicts or human rights violations in Eritrea and Sudan led to new outflows of more than 127,500 refugees, primarily to South Sudan (76,800), Ethiopia (30,200), and Israel (15,300). In total some 236,000 refugees across sub-Saharan Africa were able to return home in safety and dignity, including to Côte d'Ivoire (135,200), Sudan (50,000), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (21,100),

the Central African Republic (9,000), and Rwanda (8,500).

IN THE AMERICAS, the refugee population remained virtually unchanged (+0.4%), at roughly 807,000. The United States of America was home to one third of refugees in this region according to UNHCR estimates (264,800).³⁵ Some 2,700 Colombians were granted refugee status in Ecuador bringing the total number of Colombian refugees (54,300) and people in a refugee-like situation (68,300) to 122,600 at the end of 2011. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the total number of Colombian refugees and persons in a refugee-like situation remained stable at about 202,000.

In the Asia and Pacific region, the total number of refugees, including people in a refugee-like situation, was estimated at 3.6 million at the end of 2011, a decrease of 10 per cent during the year. This was largely due to revised estimates of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, following comprehensive registration exercises in both countries.

Protracted refugee situations

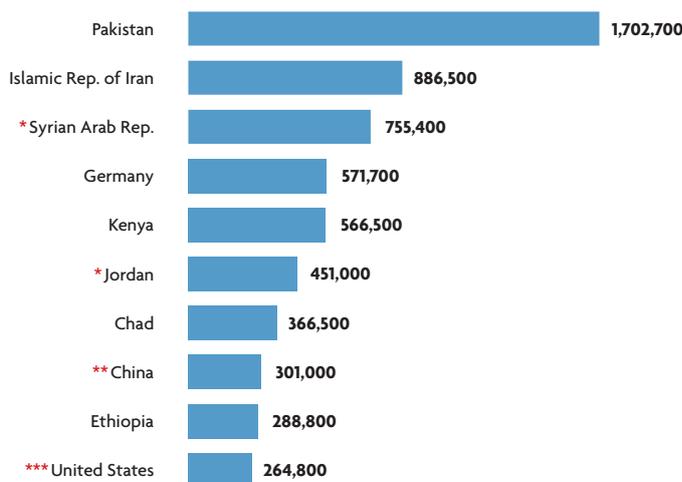
UNHCR defines a protracted refugee situation as one in which 25,000 or more refugees of the same nationality have been in exile for five years or longer in any given asylum country. Based on this definition, it is estimated that some 7.1 million refugees were in a protracted situation by the end of 2011. These refugees were living in 26 host countries accounting for an overall total of 31 protracted situations. ●

In Pakistan, the Afghan refugee estimate dropped from 1.9 to 1.7 million while in the Islamic Republic of Iran it went from slightly over 1 million at the start of 2011, to 840,500 by year-end. Voluntary repatriation of about 71,000 Afghans from both countries also contributed to these reductions.

In Europe, the refugee population decreased by 49,000 people to 1.56 million at the end of 2011 (-3%) largely as a result of revised estimates in Germany and in the United Kingdom. In Germany, the figure decreased from 594,300 at the start of 2011 to 571,700 by year-end. In the United Kingdom, UNHCR's estimate of the refugee population was revised downwards from 238,200 to 193,500, based on assumptions regarding the acquisition of citizenship by long-term recognised refugees.

With one exception, the 10 major refugee-hosting countries in 2011 were the same as in 2010. The United Kingdom dropped out of the top 10, and Ethiopia moved into ninth place [see Figure II.2]. Together, these 10 countries accounted for 59 per cent of all refugees under UNHCR's mandate. Over the past four years, the list of the top 10 refugee-hosting countries has remained largely unchanged (see Table II.2).

Fig. II.2 Major refugee hosting countries | end-2011

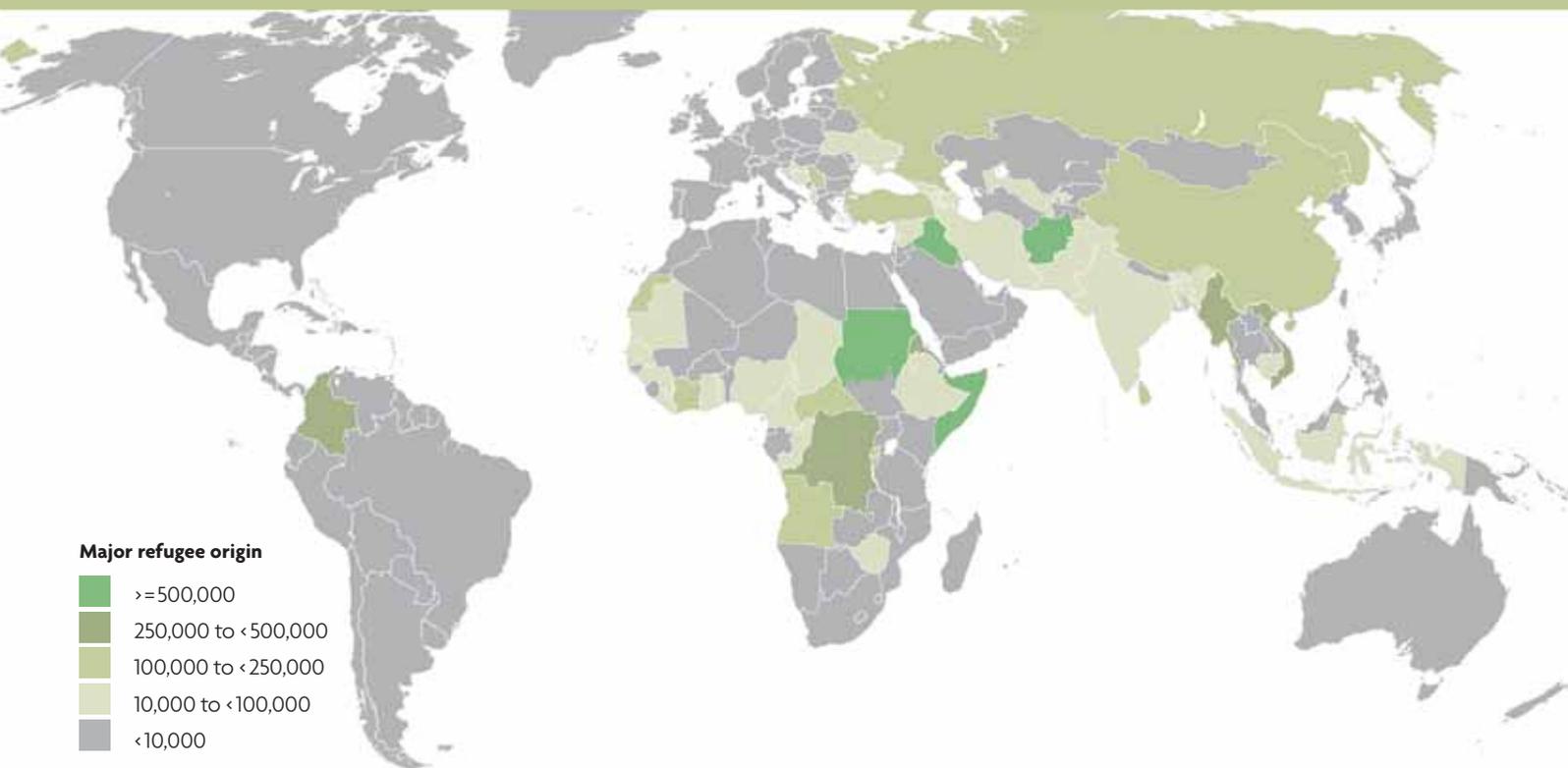


* Government estimate. UNHCR has registered and is assisting 132,500 Iraqi refugees in both countries.

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

*** UNHCR estimate.

³⁵ In the absence of official refugee statistics, UNHCR is required to estimate refugee populations in 24 industrialized countries.



PAKISTAN CONTINUED to host the largest number of refugees (1.7 million), nearly all from Afghanistan, with a decrease of almost 200,000 in the total refugee population in the country. The decrease was partly due to a large number of registered Afghans not having renewed their Proof of Registration cards by 31 December 2011. The Islamic Republic of Iran hosted 886,500 refugees by year-end, again almost all Afghans. The Government decreased its refugee estimate by 187,000 people as a result of a re-registration exercise known as “Amayesh VII” for Afghan refugees. According to Government estimates, the Syrian Arab Republic was host to 750,000 Iraqi refugees, making it the third largest refugee-hosting country. The Government revised its 2011 figure by 25 per cent (-250,000 people), based on the assumption that a number of Iraqis had left the country. UNHCR had registered and was assisting 100,300 Iraqi refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic at the end of 2011.

Germany reported 571,700 refugees at the end of 2011, a decrease of 4 per cent (-22,600 people). Kenya was the fifth largest hosting country at the end of 2011 with 566,500 refugees.

The number of refugees in Kenya increased by 163,600 people during the year (+41%), mainly as a result of new arrivals from Somalia. From 2009 to 2011, 374,000 Somali refugees arrived in Kenya, stretching the capacity of the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps to the limit. In Jordan, the Government’s estimate of Iraqi refugees remained unchanged at 450,000, of whom UNHCR has registered and assisted 32,200. In Chad, the overall refugee population increased by 5 per cent to 366,500 by the end of 2011, partly due to new arrivals from Sudan. The country was the seventh

largest refugee-hosting country in the world.

Estimated refugee numbers in China remained unchanged from 2010. Ethiopia, meanwhile, witnessed large numbers of new arrivals in 2011. In 2008 Ethiopia had been host to 83,600 refugees, making it the 27th largest refugee-hosting country in the world at that time - the lowest level for Ethiopia in nearly three decades. Since 2008 refugee figures have more than tripled with the arrival of hundreds of thousands of Eritrean and Somali refugees. By the end of 2011, the refugee population had grown to

TABLE II.2 Ranking of top-10 refugee hosting countries | 2008 - 2011

List of countries based on each of them having been among the top-10 at least once during the period.

Country of asylum	2008	2009	2010	2011
Pakistan	1	1	1	1
Islamic Republic of Iran	3	2	2	2
Syrian Arab Republic	2	3	3	3
Germany	4	4	4	4
Kenya	8	6	6	5
Jordan	5	5	5	6
Chad	6	7	7	7
China	9	8	8	8
Ethiopia	27	20	19	9
United States of America	11	9	9	10
United Kingdom	10	10	10	15
United Republic of Tanzania	7	21	23	22

288,800 making Ethiopia host to the ninth largest refugee population in the world.

Contributions of host countries

The impact of hosting refugees should, in theory, be quantifiable in terms of the national and international protection and assistance provided, and of the contributions made by refugees to the host country. In practice, however, comprehensive and comparable data are not available to allow this calculation.

Countries with strong economies are more likely to be capable of absorbing and supporting refugees. By comparing the refugee population with the average income level of a country according to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Purchasing Power Parity)³⁶ per capita³⁷, a statistical measure can be obtained of the relative weight of hosting refugees. If the number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita is high, the relative contribution and effort made by countries compared to their national economy can also be considered high. The 20 countries with the largest number of refugees per 1 USD GDP per capita are all developing countries, and include 12 Least Developed Countries. Moreover, more than 4.7 million refugees, representing 45 per cent of the global total, resided in countries whose GDP (PPP) per capita was below USD 3,000.

At the end of 2011, Pakistan had the highest number of refugees compared to its national economy [see Figure II.3], hosting 605 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was second with 399 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita, followed by Kenya (321), Liberia (290), Ethiopia (253), and Chad (211). The highest ranked developed country was Germany, in 26th place, with 15 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita.

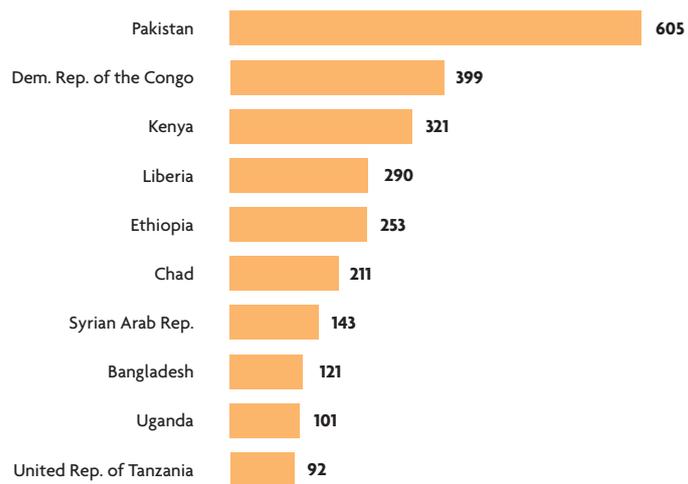
Origins

The 10 main countries of refugee origin in 2011 were the same as in 2010. Together, these countries accounted

for 79 per cent of all refugees under UNHCR's mandate. Over the past years, the list of the top 10 refugee countries of origin has fluctuated only marginally [see Table II.3].

Afghanistan remained the leading country of origin of refugees in 2011 with nearly 2.7 million refugees in 79 countries. On average, one out of every four refugees in the world was from Afghanistan, with 95 per cent of them in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iraqis were the second largest refugee group, with an estimated 1.4 million having sought safety mainly in neighbouring countries.

Fig. II.3 Number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita | 2011



Afghan and Iraqi refugees accounted for more than one-third (39%) of all refugees under UNHCR's responsibility worldwide. [see Map 2]

Somalis constituted the third largest group under UNHCR's responsibility, with almost 1.1 million people living as refugees at the end of 2011, three times as many as in 2004. As conditions in Somalia continued to deteriorate, particularly in the central and southern areas of the country, the combination of conflict, violence, drought, and famine caused more than 300,000 people to flee their country in 2011. More than half found shelter at the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya. Others fled to

³⁶ Source for GDP (PPP): International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2012 (accessed 25 April 2012)

³⁷ Source for national populations: United Nations, Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision, New York, 2011.

Ethiopia (101,000), Yemen (27,400), and Djibouti (5,700). In Dadaab, the development of new sites, registration, deliveries of emergency assistance and services continued throughout the year. As of October, violence against Kenyan security forces and humanitarian workers crippled the ability of aid agencies to deliver all but life-saving assistance such as food, water and health services.

Sudan was the fourth largest country of origin, with 500,000 refugees under UNHCR's mandate at the end of 2011. Fighting in southern areas of Sudan forced an estimated 102,000 people to flee the country during 2011, mainly to South Sudan (76,800) and Ethiopia (19,200). Many families left with few belongings and walked for weeks through the bush, stopping where there was water and moving on when the source ran dry. Some were stranded in heavily-forested areas bordering South Sudan.

Other main source countries of refugees were the Democratic Republic of the Congo (491,500), Myanmar (414,600), and Colombia (395,900). The number of Congolese refugees increased by about 14,700, mainly as a result of almost 8,000 asylum-seek-

TABLE II.3 Ranking of top-10 refugee origins | 2008 - 2011

List of origins based of each of them having been among the top-10 at least once during the period.

Origin	2008	2009	2010	2011
Afghanistan	1	1	1	1
Iraq	2	2	2	2
Somalia	3	3	3	3
Sudan	4	7	7	4
Democratic Republic of the Congo	6	4	4	5
Myanmar*	14	5	5	6
Colombia	5	6	6	7
Viet Nam	8	8	8	8
Eritrea	12	9	9	9
China	15	12	10	10
Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999))	13	10	11	12
Turkey	10	14	14	15
Burundi	9	21	21	21
Palestinian**	7	20	20	22

Notes:

* Since 2009, some 200,000 people in a refugee-like situation in Bangladesh are included.

** In the absence of a reliable and accurate figure for Palestinian refugees in Saudi Arabia, the figure of 240,000 Palestinian refugees was removed from UNHCR statistics in 2009.

ers being granted refugee status in Burundi and Uganda. The number of refugees from Myanmar and Colombia remained relatively stable compared to early 2011. For refugees from Myanmar, the figure includes an estimated 200,000 unregistered people in Bangladesh, while for Colombians, it includes refugees as well people in a refugee-like situation in Ecuador, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Panama.

ASYLUM-SEEKERS

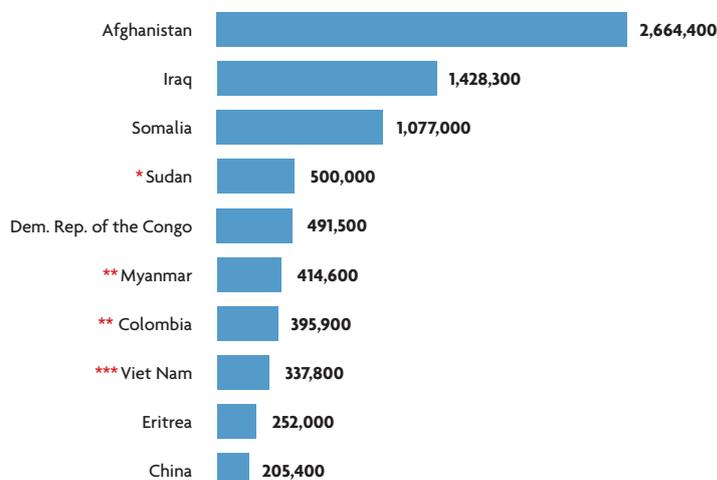
Those asylum-seekers that are included in the total population of concern to UNHCR are people who are awaiting a final decision on their applications for asylum or refugee status. The figures in this chapter refer to claimants whose applications were pending as of the end of 2011, irrespective of when they were lodged, and may include undecided or pending cases from previous years.³⁸

Worldwide, at least 895,300 individuals were still awaiting a decision on their asylum claims at the end of 2011. They included people at all stages of the asylum process. Despite improved reporting in recent years, the global number of undecided cases presented here is incomplete as some countries, particularly in the industrialized world, do not report these figures.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The global number of conflict-generated IDPs at the end of 2011 was estimated at some 26.4 million.³⁹ The number of IDPs, including people in IDP-like situations⁴⁰ who benefited

Fig. II.4 Major source countries of refugees | end-2011



* May include citizens of South Sudan (in absence of separate statistics for both countries).

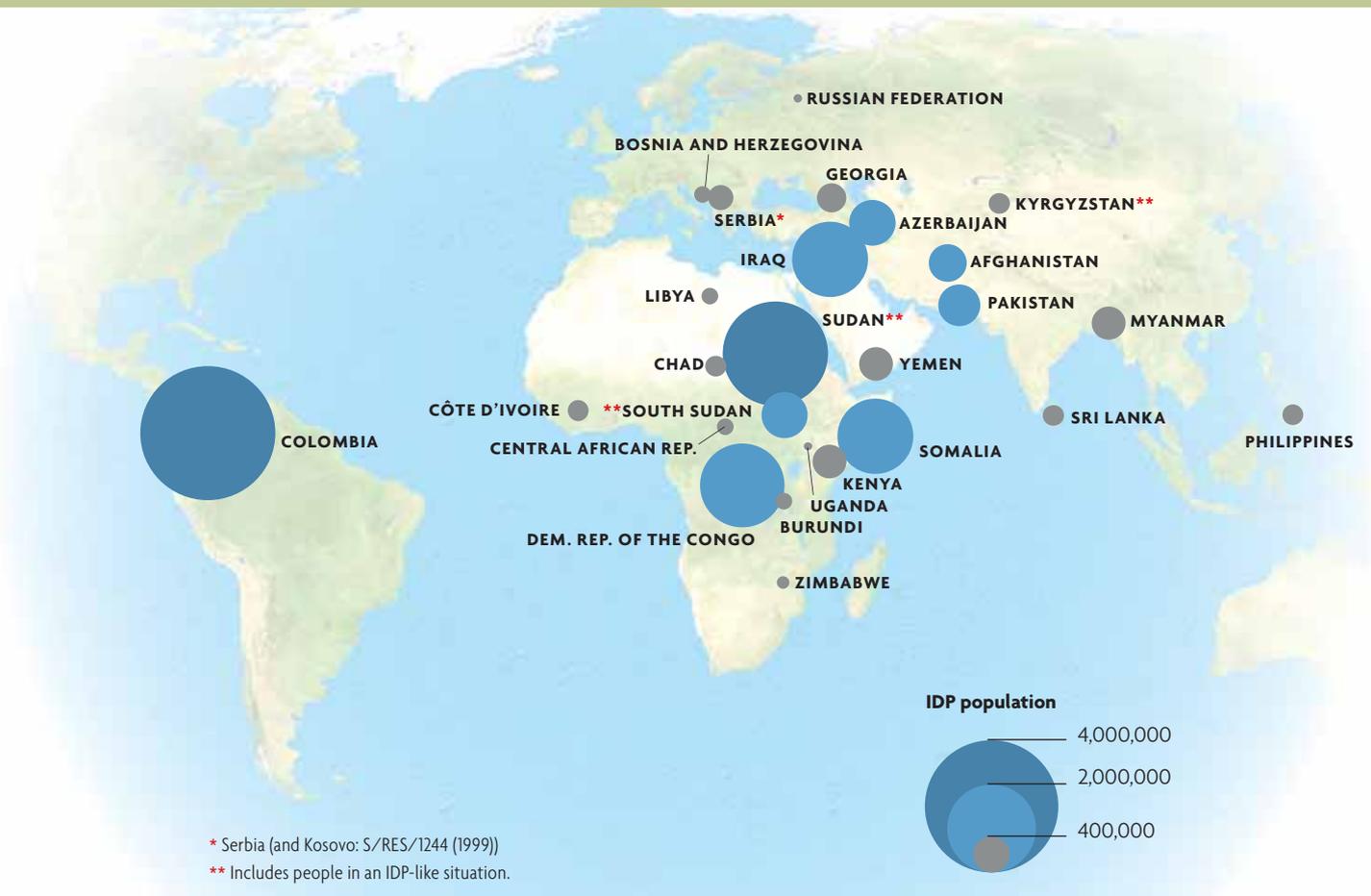
** Includes people in a refugee-like situation.

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

³⁸ For details on the number of new asylum claims submitted as well as decisions taken, see Chapter IV.

³⁹ For detailed statistics on global internal displacement, see the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre website at www.internal-displacement.org.

⁴⁰ As in Kyrgyzstan (160,500), South Sudan (207,200), and Sudan (83,100).



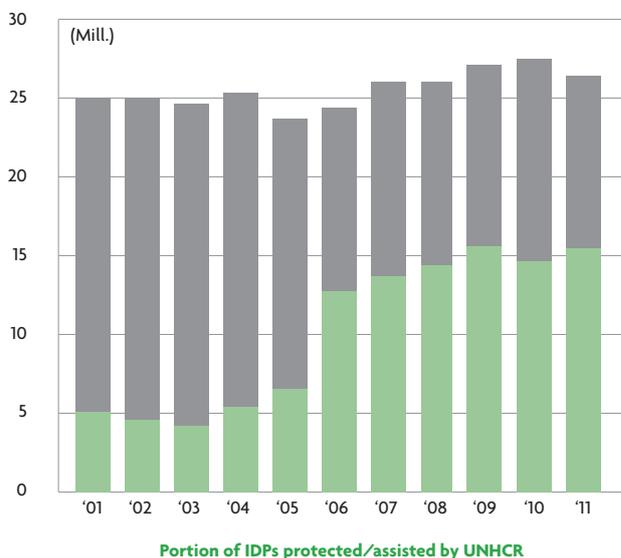
from UNHCR’s protection and assistance activities stood at almost 15.5 million at the end of 2011. This was the second highest figure on record, and almost 800,000 more than at the end of 2010 (14.7 million). The increase was partly due to new or renewed dis-

placement occurring in Afghanistan, Côte d’Ivoire, Libya, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen. UNHCR offices reported at least 2.9 million newly-displaced people in 2011. More than 3.2 million IDPs returned home during the reporting period - the highest

number in 15 years. Of the countries where UNHCR was engaged with IDPs in 2011, returns were highest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (822,700), Pakistan (620,400), Côte d’Ivoire (466,800), and Libya (458,000). UNHCR statistics at the end of 2011 included IDP populations in a total of 26 countries.

In Colombia, where Government registration of IDPs began in 1997, more than 3.8 million IDPs were reported as registered by the end of 2011.⁴¹ Escalating violence in Côte d’Ivoire displaced an estimated one million people during the year, while the uprising in Libya displaced more than half a million people within the country. In both countries, hundreds of thousands of IDPs were able to return to their place of habitual residence during the year, reducing the estimated number of IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR to 126,700 in Côte d’Ivoire and 93,600 in Libya.

Fig. 11.5 Internal displacement due to conflict | 2001-2011 (end-year)



⁴¹ Cumulative figure dating back to 1997. The Government has highlighted an under-registration of 21 per cent (see Report by the National Government to the Constitutional Court, Judgment T-025/2004).

THE NUMBER OF IDPS protected or assisted by UNHCR in Sudan was approximately 2.4 million⁴² by the end of the year. In Somalia, the IDP figure stood at an estimated 1.4 million. In the newly-independent Republic of South Sudan, an estimated 350,000 people were displaced in 2011, due to fighting. The number of IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, including that of persons in an IDP-like situation, stood at 560,200 at the end of the year. Renewed conflict and security concerns displaced 212,000 people in Afghanistan in 2011; by the end of the year, the number of IDPs was estimated at almost 447,500, compared to 351,900 in 2010. (see Annex Table 6)

In Yemen, internal displacement continued as tens of thousands of civilians fled tribal clashes in the north and renewed fighting between government troops and militant groups in the south. As a consequence, the number of IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR in the country nearly doubled to 347,000.

In Pakistan, although more than 620,000 IDPs were able to return home in 2011, an estimated 453,000 remained displaced within the country at year-end. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, more than 822,000 IDPs returned to their homes in 2011; however, at the end of the year the number of IDPs remained high (1.7 million) as a result of renewed conflict.⁴³

Some 96,000 IDPs in Uganda were able to return to their villages in the course of the year, reducing the IDP population remaining in camps and transit sites to less than 30,000, and marking the end of UNHCR's assistance to displaced people in the country. At the conflict's peak in 2005, caused by fighting between the Ugandan army and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army, there had been 1.84 million IDPs living in 251 camps across 11 districts of northern Uganda.

⁴² According to IDMC estimates, the number of IDPs in Sudan is estimated at up to 5.2 million

⁴³ The number of newly displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2011 is unknown.



STATELESS PERSONS

Identifying stateless persons remains key to addressing their difficulties, and to enabling UNHCR to fulfil its statelessness mandate. This responsibility includes the prevention and reduction of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons, and involves informing the international community of the magnitude of statelessness around the world. Measuring statelessness is complicated by the very nature of the phenomenon. Stateless people often live in a precarious situation on the margins of society, frequently lacking identity documentation, and subject to discrimination. Only a minority of countries have procedures in place for the identification, registration and documentation of stateless persons.

In December 2011, UNHCR convened a Ministerial Intergovernmental Event on Refugees and Stateless Persons to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Many States used this occasion to pledge their accession to one or both of the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions, to establish statelessness determination procedures, and to improve levels of birth registration and civil documentation in order to prevent and reduce statelessness. In addition, a number of States expressed their commitment to improve data collection on stateless populations. Nine States specifically pledged to map stateless populations within their respective territories in the context of carrying out a national population census or through dedicated surveys and studies. UNHCR has already begun to see the results of the 2010 World Population and Housing

Census Programme⁴⁴ in providing information that is crucial to determine the magnitude of statelessness.⁴⁵

The statistics in the Yearbook only include data on countries for which reliable official statistics or estimates of stateless populations were available. Annex table 7 includes some countries (marked with an asterisk) for which UNHCR has information about the existence of significant stateless populations but for which no reliable figures were available. They include the Dominican Republic, India and Indonesia.

Following a gradual expansion in data coverage and awareness of state-

less persons in recent years, the quality of data improved somewhat in 2011, but the number of countries reporting statelessness figures did not increase. By the end of 2011, statistics on stateless populations were available for 64 countries, compared to the 30 countries reporting these figures in 2004, when UNHCR first started systematically collecting statistics on stateless populations. For 2011, UNHCR offices reported an identified 3.5 million stateless persons, a figure comparable to that reported in 2010.

RETURNEES (REFUGEES AND IDPS)⁴⁶

Voluntary repatriation (for refugees) and voluntary return (for IDPs) remain the durable solution sought by the largest numbers of persons displaced by conflict. As a result of enhanced efforts to provide durable solutions, 532,000 refugees repatriated voluntar-

MEASURING STATELESSNESS IS COMPLICATED BY THE VERY NATURE OF THE PHENOMENON.

ily during 2011, more than double the figure for 2010 (197,600). Yet, 2011 saw the third lowest number of voluntarily repatriated refugees in a decade. More than 3.2 million IDPs were able to return - the highest number in more than a decade.

UNHCR extended its protection or assistance activities to individuals whom it considers “of concern”, but who do not fall into any of the above population categories. These activities were based on humanitarian or other special grounds, and included asylum-seekers rejected by States, but whom UNHCR deemed to be in need of humanitarian assistance or otherwise of its concern. The number of people in this category was 1.4 million by year-end, of whom two-thirds were Afghans. These were former refugees who returned to Afghanistan prior to 2011 but who had been unable to reintegrate due to the difficult economic situation, the lack of comprehensive reintegration measures, and poor security. Many of these individuals continued to benefit from UNHCR’s assistance. ■

OTHER GROUPS OR PEOPLE OF CONCERN

Despite improvements in the number of countries reporting and in the reliability of reported figures, UNHCR was unable to provide comprehensive statistics on the number of stateless persons in all countries around

A girl stands outside a tent in a UNHCR emergency relief camp for flood-affected communities alongside a road between the cities of Hyderabad and Thatta, Pakistan.

⁴⁴ See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/default.htm

⁴⁵ See for example the report of results of the census of the Russian Federation at http://www.perepis-2010.ru/results_of_the_census/results-inform.php

⁴⁶ See Chapter III for more details on durable solutions