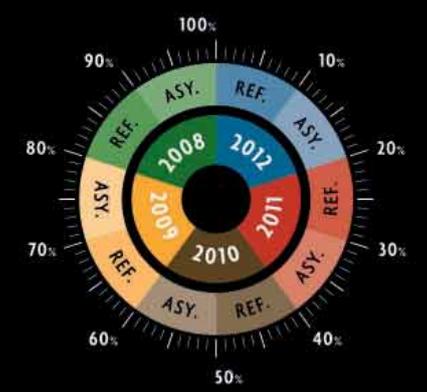
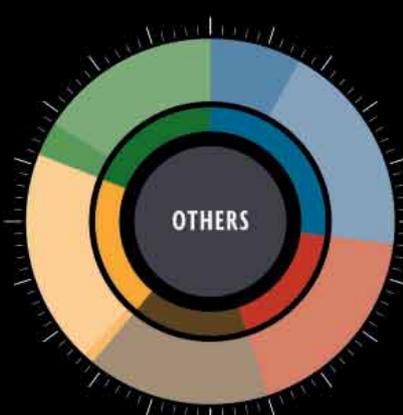
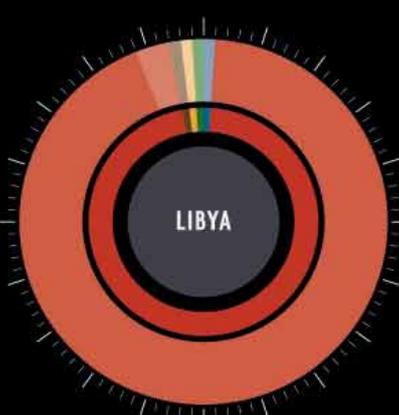
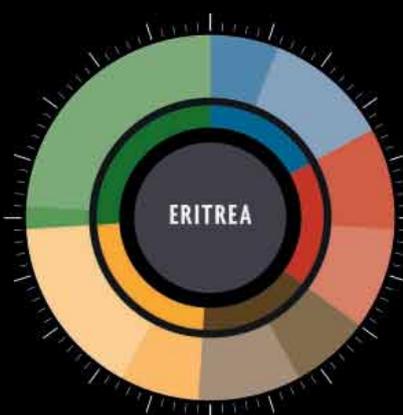
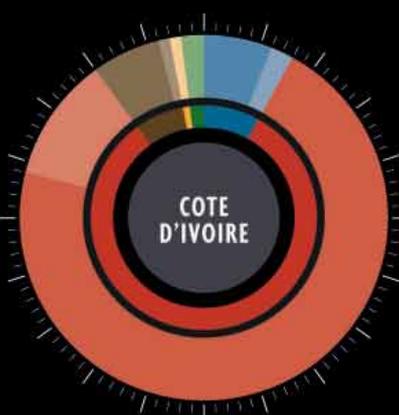
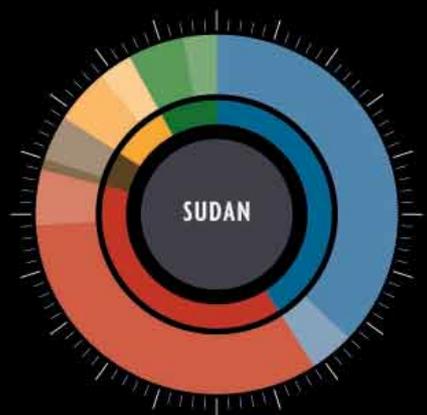
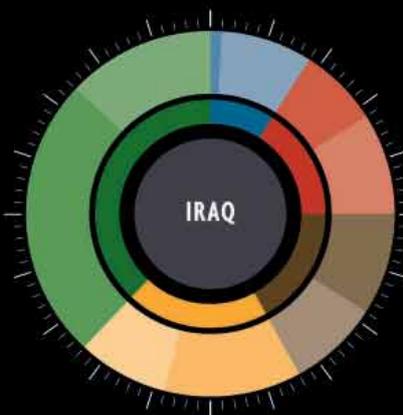
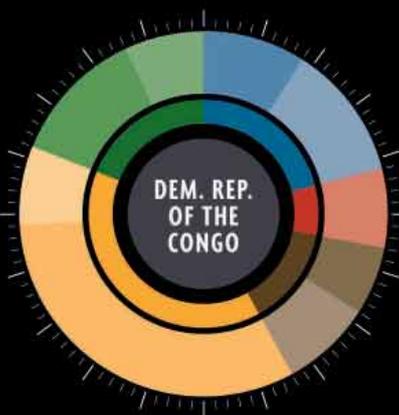
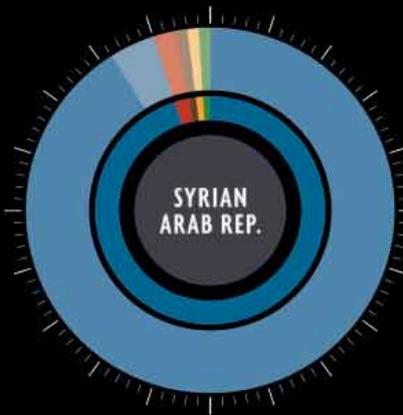
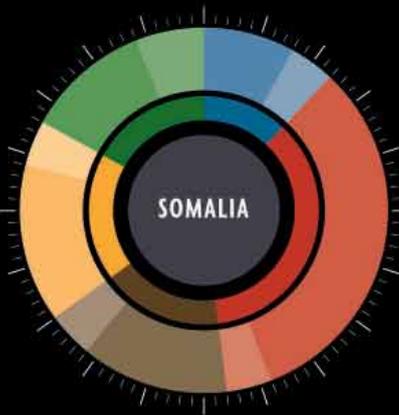


TOP POPULATION* OUTFLOWS BY ORIGINS REFUGEES vs. ASYLUM-SEEKERS



Note: * Refugees refers to mass outflows while asylum-seekers to asylum applications submitted on an individual basis.



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MAIN FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the major statistical developments in 2012 and a summary of key findings. More detailed analyses, including the definitions used and limitations of the data, can be found in Chapters I to VI.

GLOBAL TRENDS

45.2 MILLION

By end-2012, **45.2 million people** were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, and/or human rights violations. Some 15.4 million people were refugees, 10.5 million under UNHCR's mandate and 4.9 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA.

The global figure included 28.8 million internally displaced persons and some 928,200 asylum-seekers. This was the highest overall level since 1994, when an estimated 47 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide.

7.6 MILLION

An estimated **7.6 million people** were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution, including 1.1 million new refugees – the highest number of new arrivals in a single year since 1999. Another 6.5 million people were newly displaced within the borders of their countries, the second highest figure of the past 10 years.

23,000

During the year, conflict and persecution forced an average of **23,000 persons per day** to leave their homes and seek protection elsewhere, either within the borders of their countries or in other countries.

TOTAL POPULATION OF CONCERN

7

The 2012 Statistical Yearbook identifies seven population categories:

1. refugees
2. asylum-seekers
3. internally displaced persons (IDPs) protected/assisted by UNHCR
4. stateless persons
5. returned refugees
6. returned IDPs
7. others of concern

These categories are collectively referred to as the 'total population of concern' or as 'persons of concern'.¹

35.8 MILLION

By the end of 2012, the total population of concern to UNHCR was estimated at **35.8 million people**.

10.5 million refugees²

928,200 asylum-seekers

526,000 refugees who had repatriated during 2012

17.7 million IDPs protected or assisted by UNHCR

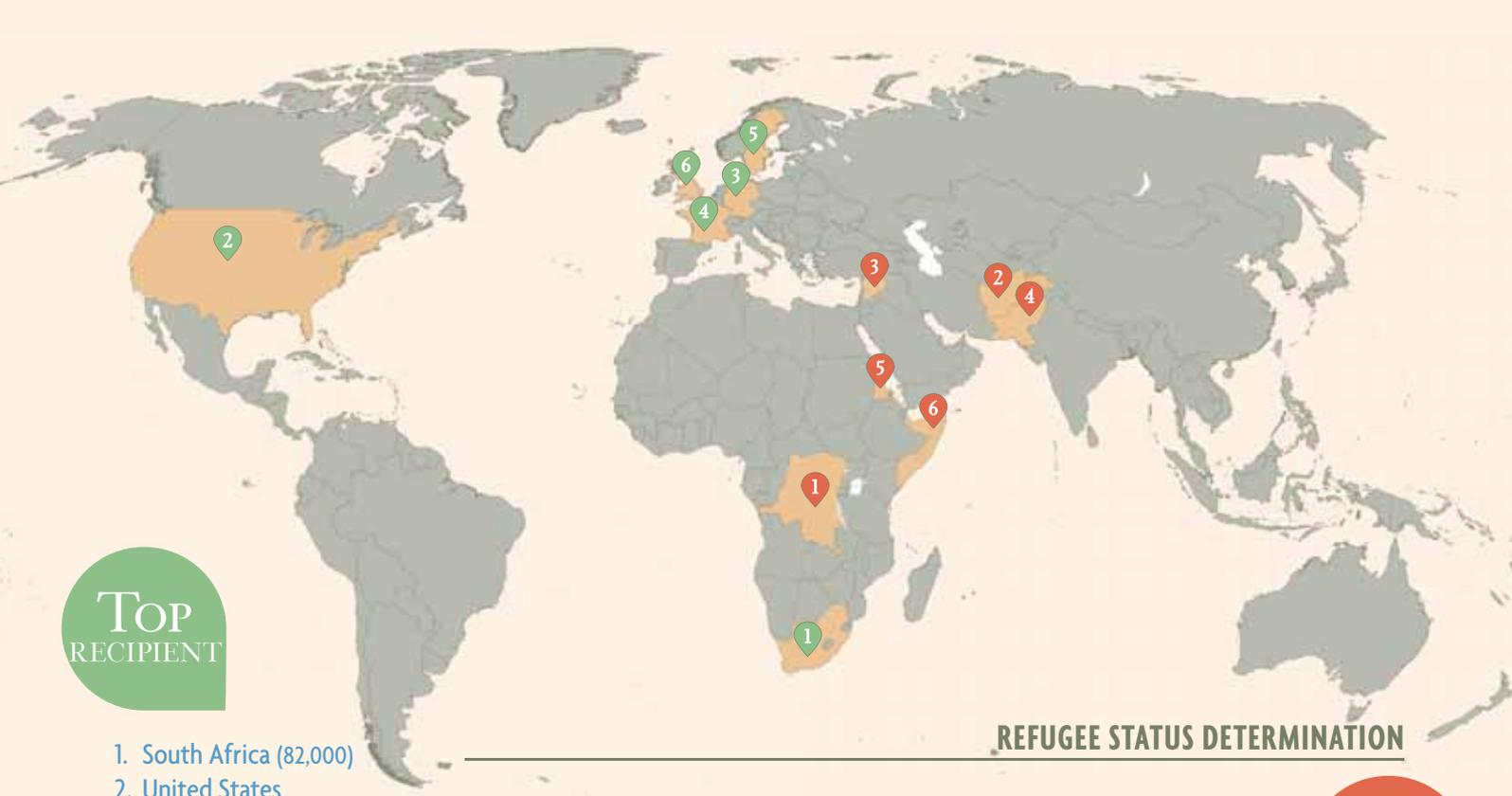
1.5 million IDPs who had returned to their place of origin in 2012

3.3 million stateless persons

1.3 million others of concern

¹ For definitions of the various population categories, see Chapter I.

² The 4.9 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) are not included in UNHCR's statistics.



TOP
RECIPIENT

1. South Africa (82,000)
2. United States of America (70,400)
3. Germany (64,500)
4. France (55,100)
5. Sweden (43,900)
6. United Kingdom (28,000)

REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION

$\frac{1}{10}$

South Africa remained the major destination for asylum-seekers, with **82,000 new asylum** claims registered in 2012, accounting for a tenth of individual applications globally.

1. Democratic Republic of the Congo (54,100)
2. Afghanistan (50,000)
3. Syrian Arab Republic (32,300)
4. Pakistan (30,700)
5. Eritrea (30,200)
6. Somalia (29,700)

TOP
ORIGIN

920,000

752,700 initial applications submitted at 'first instance' procedures

167,000 claims were submitted on appeal, including to courts³

During 2012, some **920,000 individual applications** for asylum or refugee status were submitted to governments and UNHCR offices in **176 countries** or territories. This constituted a 6 per cent increase compared to the previous year (864,600 claims) and was in line with increases observed in industrialized countries in 2012 (+8%).⁴ UNHCR offices registered some 115,800 individual applications, equivalent to 13 per cent of applications registered globally.

261,900

Some **261,900 asylum-seekers** were either recognized as refugees (210,900) or granted a complementary form of protection (51,000) during 2012. This number includes an estimated 20,500 individuals who initially received negative decisions on their asylum claims but which were subsequently overturned at the appeal or review stage.

54,100

The Democratic Republic of the Congo was the single largest country of origin for asylum-seekers in 2012, with **54,100 new applications submitted** by its nationals during the year.

928,200

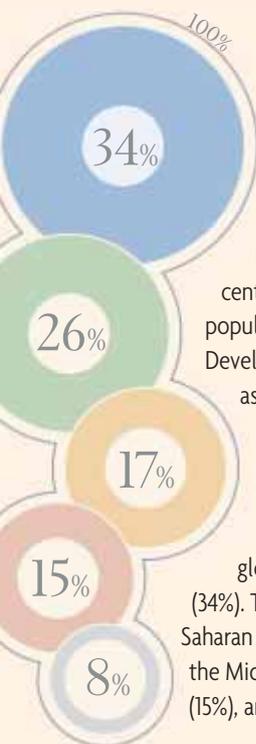
By the end of the year, some **928,200 individuals** were reported to be awaiting a decision on their asylum claims, the highest number since 2009.

30%

Refugee status based on the 1951 Convention was **granted in 30 per cent of decisions** in 2012. With the addition of complementary forms of protection, 37 per cent of all substantive asylum decisions taken in 2012 were positive. These rates are virtually identical to those of 2010 and 2011.

³ Statistical information on outcomes of asylum appeals and court proceedings is under-reported in UNHCR statistics, as this type of data is often either not collected by States or not published separately.

⁴ For a detailed analysis of asylum trends in industrialized countries, see *Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries, 2012*, UNHCR Geneva, March 2013, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/5149b81e9.html>.



By the end of 2012, developing countries hosted **8.5 million refugees**, or 81 per cent of the global refugee population. The 49 Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 2.5 million refugees, or 24 per cent of the total. The Asia and Pacific region hosted about one third of the global refugee population (34%). This was followed by sub-Saharan Africa (26%), Europe (17%), the Middle East and North Africa (15%), and the Americas (8%).⁵

TOP HOST

1. Pakistan (1.6 million)
2. Islamic Republic of Iran (868,200)
3. Germany (589,700)
4. Kenya (564,900)
5. Syrian Arab Republic (476,500, a government estimate)

1.6 MILLION

Pakistan, with **1.6 million refugees**, hosted the highest number of refugees at the end of 2012. Other major countries of asylum included the Islamic Republic of Iran (868,200), Germany (589,700), Kenya (564,900), and the Syrian Arab Republic (476,500, a government estimate).

10.5 MILLION

The number of refugees at end-2012 was **10.5 million**, including 619,000 people considered by UNHCR to be in a refugee-like situation. The previous year, the figure was 10.4 million.

1. Afghanistan (2.6 million)
2. Somalia (1.1 million)
3. Iraq (746,200)⁶
4. Syrian Arab Republic (729,000)
5. Sudan (569,000)⁷
6. Democratic Republic of the Congo (509,300)

TOP ORIGIN

2.6 MILLION

By the end of 2012, according to UNHCR's global estimates, there were some **2.6 million** Afghan refugees, accounting for 25 per cent of the global refugee population under UNHCR's responsibility.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

526,000

Over the course of 2012, **526,000 refugees returned** to their country of origin, half of them to Afghanistan, Iraq, or Côte d'Ivoire. This figure was similar to that of 2011 (532,000). Further, while this number was an improvement on the particularly low figures of 2009 and 2010, it was still lower than those of all other years in the past decade.

23 COUNTRIES

During the year, UNHCR submitted over **74,800 refugees** to States for resettlement, and more than **71,000 departed with UNHCR's assistance**. According to government statistics, 23 countries admitted 89,000 refugees for resettlement during 2012 (with or without UNHCR's assistance). The United States of America received the highest number (66,300).

SEX AND AGE

48%

Refugee women and girls accounted for **48 per cent** of the refugee population in 2012, a proportion that has remained constant over the past decade.

35.8 MILLION

Of the **35.8 million people of concern** to UNHCR in 2012, data on sex and age are available for 22.2 million (62%) and 14.9 million (41%), respectively. The available disaggregated information by sex revealed that on average 49 per cent of persons of concern were female.

Disaggregated information on age showed that **children** under the age of 18 represented an average of **49 per cent** of the total population of concern to UNHCR, of whom 13 per cent were under the age of five. Less than half (46%) of the population were between the ages of 18 and 59 years, whereas 4 per cent were 60 years or older.

46%

Among refugees and individuals in refugee-like situations, children constituted **46 per cent** of the refugee population in 2012. This was in line with 2011 but higher than a few years ago.

⁵ The geographical regions used are those of UNHCR. See Annex, Table 26 for country breakdown.

⁶ This includes government estimates for Iraqi refugees in Jordan (63,000) and the Syrian Arab Republic (471,400).

⁷ May include citizens of South Sudan (in absence of separate statistics for both countries).



TOP 5

- 1 to 4. Kenya 'Dadaab camps' (+500,000)
- 5. United Republic of Tanzania Nyaragusu camp (68,100)

10.5 MILLION

For **10.5 million refugees**, the type of accommodation was known for 8.4 million (80%). More than half of this number was living in individual accommodation (54%), while a third was reportedly living in refugee camps.

Among the **five largest refugee camps in the world**, the top four are located in Kenya and are known collectively as the 'Dadaab camps', together hosting about half a million refugees. Nyaragusu camp in the United Republic of Tanzania – the fifth largest camp in 2012 – hosted 68,100 refugees, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

53%

In 2012, UNHCR offices reported on the type of location for more than 1,300 individual locations, covering **20.5 million persons** of concern.⁸ The available data revealed that more IDPs, returned IDPs, and returned refugees resided in rural areas than in urban areas. On the other hand, refugees and asylum-seekers were more often found living in urban areas (53% for refugees).

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

17.1 MILLION

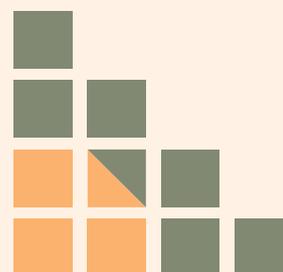
The number of internally displaced persons, including **401,000** in IDP-like situations, benefiting from UNHCR's protection and assistance activities stood at almost **17.7 million** at the end of 2012. This was the highest figure on record, and 2.2 million more than at the start of the year (15.5 million).

26 COUNTRIES

UNHCR's statistics included IDP populations in 26 countries. Its offices reported at least five million IDPs who were newly displaced in 2012, while close to **1.6 million IDPs were able to return home** during the same period.

10 MILLION

Statelessness is estimated to have affected at least **10 million** people in 2012. However, data captured by governments and communicated to UNHCR were limited to **3.3 million** stateless individuals in 72 countries.



STATELESS PERSONS

HOST COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

1st

Pakistan had the largest number of refugees in relation to its economic capacity, hosting **550 refugees per 1 USD Gross Domestic Product** by Purchasing Power Parity – commonly referred to as GDP (PPP)⁹ – per capita.

Ethiopia had the second largest number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita (**317 refugees**), followed by Kenya (305 refugees) and Chad (212 refugees). The largest refugee-hosting developed country was Germany, in 30th place, with 15 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita.

⁸ Although UNHCR offices reported information on the location for a total of 29.6 million persons of concern, this information was either unclear or a mixture of types in the case of 9.1 million persons (mostly IDPs).

⁹ Purchasing Power Parity. Source for Gross Domestic Product (PPP): International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2013 (accessed 6 October 2013). Source for national populations: United Nations, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*, New York, 2013.



Hundreds of Syrian refugees cross into Iraq at the Peshkhabour border crossing in Dohuk Governorate.



UNHCR / G. GUBAIEVA



Introduction

FOR MORE THAN SIX DECADES, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been collecting data on refugees and other persons it deems to be of concern to the organization. Both the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees¹⁰ and the Statute of the Office¹¹ refer to the

obligation of States to report statistical data to the High Commissioner. Clearly, the importance of statistical data in protecting refugees and finding durable solutions was recognized from the early days.

Numbers have long been considered an essential tool at both the field and global levels. It was not until the early

¹⁰ "... the Contracting States undertake to provide [the Office of the High Commissioner] in the appropriate form with information and statistical data requested ..." (Chapter VI, article 35: Co-operation of the national authorities with the United Nations).

¹¹ "The High Commissioner shall provide for the protection for refugees falling under the competence of his Office by ... obtaining from Governments information concerning the number and conditions of refugees in their territories ..." (Chapter II, paragraph 8: Functions of the High Commissioner).



1990s, however, that UNHCR started compiling, analysing, and disseminating data in a more systematic and comprehensive way. Since then, the scope and role of statistics on forced displacement have evolved steadily. Today, these data serve as vital sources of information for those interested in protecting displaced populations, monitoring global trends, and assessing UNHCR activities. Statistics have become invaluable in designing programmes on the basis of gender and age profiles or analysing trends in asylum and refugee admission. To continuously improve its statistics, UNHCR provides methodological advice and support to those compiling or analysing statistics, and participates in international fora to streamline asylum, refugee, and international migration statistics.

Dramatically improved and expanded information technology tools and communication services have had a significant impact on the way UNHCR

disseminates its statistics. The organization's Statistical Online Population Database [popstats.unhcr.org] was launched in 2006, and has since undergone several rounds of improvements, notably in 2012. In addition, the outbreak of multiple simultaneous refugee emergencies in recent years has required an adjustment to the way statistics are disseminated. Today, the operational web portals, such as the one for the Syrian refugee crisis,¹² provide daily statistics on refugee flows. 'Open data' has become a major slogan and is today supported by a significant number of international organizations collecting and disseminating statistical information, including UNHCR.

In addition to expanding its commitments to 'open data', UNHCR is also committed to providing a more open approach to data analysis. New to this Yearbook, UNHCR has opened up space to outside perspectives on the

information reflected by the data. The Yearbook contains an article by a journalist and an entire section by a statistical expert, taking a deeper look into the demographic data available to UNHCR. In future, the Yearbook will expand the space for contribution and analysis by non-UNHCR sources, diversifying the perspectives reflected here.

At a time when the number of forcibly displaced persons is reaching new highs, the dissemination of statistics offers an even more important tool. It is with this view that the 2012 Statistical Yearbook assesses recent levels and trends in populations of concern to UNHCR, reports on progress towards durable solutions, and provides demographic data on beneficiaries of UNHCR's protection and assistance programmes. As such, it aims to contribute to informed decision-making.

¹² See <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/syria.php>.

THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL ASYLUM APPLICATIONS REGISTERED WITH GOVERNMENTS OR UNHCR IN 2012 ALMOST REACHED THE ONE MILLION MARK, REFLECTING A CONTINUED INCREASING DEMAND FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

THE 2012 STATISTICAL YEARBOOK comprises a **Global Analysis** and a series of tables in the Annex. The Global Analysis includes six chapters, providing detailed insight into global trends, levels, and patterns in populations under UNHCR's mandate. The main focus of **Chapter I** is to describe UNHCR's data sources and the various methodologies applied to collect and analyse data. It also provides insights into the processing of data and how statistical standards are being adhered to. This chapter also includes the 'external' view on refugee data noted above, as seen through the eyes of a journalist.

With some 45.2 million people worldwide being considered forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, generalized violence, and human rights violations at the end of 2012, **Chapter II** presents a global overview of the size, main origins, and destinations of the populations of concern to UNHCR.

Conflicts such as those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the border area between South Sudan and Sudan have forced more than 1.1 million refugees into neighbouring countries in 2012. **Chapter III** reflects on the main population movements during the course of the year, with particular emphasis on durable solutions and new refugee out-

flows. This chapter also discusses the comprehensive solutions strategies for a number of refugee situations introduced in 2012, as well as the impact this has had on UNHCR's statistics.

The number of individual asylum applications registered with governments or UNHCR in 2012 almost reached the one million mark, reflecting a continued increasing demand for international protection throughout the year. **Chapter IV** provides an overview of asylum applications and components of the process of refugee status determination. This chapter also includes a historical overview of refugee status determination carried out by UNHCR under its mandate.



An IDP woman outside her tent in the remote river village of Inbargyi in Myanmar's Rakhine State. Locals say the village was attacked by a large group of people, forcing several thousand people to flee the violence and leaving those who remained behind in desperate need of food.

The analysis of demographic characteristics, such as sex and age, as well as information on the types of locations of populations, is discussed in **Chapter V**. This discussion also includes a historical demographic analysis of refugee data and how this population compares to the demography of its hosting countries.

Finally, with the number of refugee emergencies on the rise in recent years, **Chapter VI** provides insights, including statistical trends, into how UNHCR and its staff have managed to respond to such situations and challenges.

The tables appearing in the **Annex** provide additional detailed data for 2012. Statistical data on historical trends that allow for easy global comparison by region and by country for all major themes can be found on UNHCR's statistical website [www.unhcr.org/statistics] or can be downloaded from UNHCR's Statistical Online Population Database at popstats.unhcr.org.

Statistics reflected in this Yearbook are, for the most part, those reported by UNHCR country offices, drawn either from their own data or those of the government. The use of estimates is clearly indicated. Some data contained in this publication may differ from those published earlier, due to retroactive adjustments or the inclusion of previously unavailable data. It is expected that the data contained in the 2012 Yearbook will likewise be subject to minor future adjustments. ■