

A newly arrived IDP is being temporarily sheltered with her family in the classroom of an old school building in Mugunga III camp in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Location and Demographics

THIS CHAPTER EXAMINES the demographic characteristics of the populations of concern to UNHCR, with a particular focus on refugees. The demographic trends of forcibly displaced populations are useful for general analyses in order to understand the growth patterns of these populations and to provide insight into their general distribution. The emergencies that took place in 2012 had significant impact on the demographic characteristics of the populations of concern to UNHCR.

The importance of disaggregating population statistics by demographic characteristics cannot be underestimated, as doing so can provide a clear understanding of overall trends for both policy and programme analysis and

implementation. However, collecting data disaggregated by sex and age remains a challenge in some areas, especially in industrialized countries where UNHCR has a limited operational role. Nonetheless, there has been significant progress in the provision of disaggregated population statistics for the past five years, as outlined in this chapter.

It is important to note that disaggregated data have been partial. Some countries provide data on sex but not age, for instance, while others provide data on the location of persons of concern but not on age and/or sex (or vice-versa). Likewise, some categories tend to have more disaggregated data than others. For example, data on refugees are more likely to be disaggregated than those on other population cat-

egories. As a result, the analysis of this chapter will focus more on refugee populations than on the other populations of concern to UNHCR.

This chapter is divided into four main sections. The first discusses the male-to-female distribution of the refugee population for the 2012 reporting period. The second section examines the age distribution as well as the age trend of the populations of concern. The third analyses the types of locations where refugees resided during the reporting period. And the last section provides a detailed historical demographic analysis of selected host countries and countries of origin covering the period 2003 through 2012, the second contribution by an external source to the Yearbook.

Demographic characteristics

In this chapter, UNHCR's population statistics are disaggregated by sex, age, and location. It is important to emphasize that, in addition to these characteristics, population statistics are usually disaggregated by ethnicity, language, and local administrative units in many of UNHCR's field locations around the world.

SEX

In 2012, data availability on sex alone accounted for 62 per cent of the total disaggregated population data. This is

a decline from 2011, when 69 per cent of this data was available. The new emergency situations contributed to this decline, as detailed demographic data is more difficult to obtain in the early stages of humanitarian response. **Figure 5.1** shows the availability of sex-disaggregated data of refugees from 2007 through 2012.

In absolute terms, the total number of countries providing disaggregated data increased from 155 to 165 between 2011 and 2012. In relative terms, however, the total population for which disag-

gregated data were available decreased during that period from 24.4 million to 22.2 million, out of the total persons of concern of 35.4 million and 35.8 million, respectively. Of the 22.2 million persons of concern for whom only sex-related data were available in 2012, 10.9 million were females and the remaining 11.3 million were male.

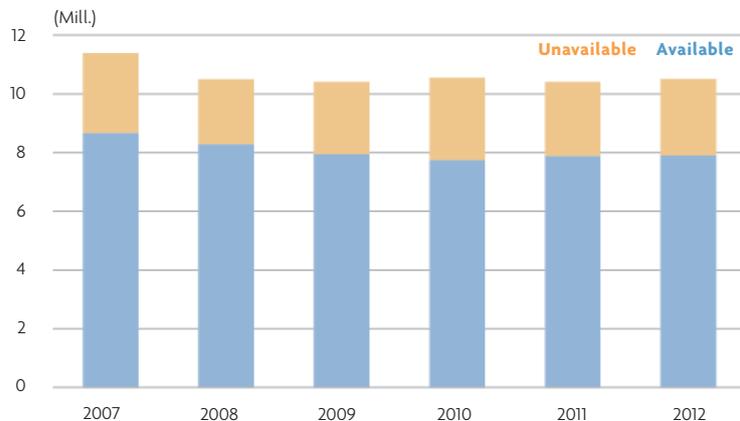
With respect to the refugee population, over the past 10 years the total number of male refugees has consistently been slightly higher than the total number of female refugees. Inter-

estingly, the percentage share of the female refugee population has remained virtually stagnant, fluctuating only between 47 per cent and 48 per cent from 2003 to 2012. In 2012, disaggregated data on sex were available for 7.9 million out of the total population of 10.5 million, representing more than 75 per cent of the data coverage. This is because, unlike the other population categories, registration of refugees is systematic and well organized in many UNHCR operations around the world.

Of the 7.9 million refugees for whom disaggregated data by sex are available, 4.1 million (52%) were male and 3.8 million (48%) were female. However, it is worth noting that with the exception of the Southern Africa region, the three other UNHCR regions in sub-Saharan Africa recorded slightly higher female than male refugee populations. For instance, the female refugee population in Central Africa and the Great Lakes stood at 52 per cent of the total in these areas in 2012, while the male refugee population was 48 per cent. The situation was similar in West Africa. In the East and Horn of Africa, the female and male refugee populations constituted 51 per cent and 49 per cent, respectively.

During 2012, the overwhelming majority of asylum-seekers were male. Of the total number of asylum-seekers⁵⁴ for whom disaggregated data were available (522,300), 62 per cent were male while the remaining 38 per cent were female. Within each of the UNHCR-classified regions, the number of male asylum-seekers was consistently higher than the number of female asylum-seekers. While this analysis is limited in terms of data coverage, it is interesting to note that females are more likely than males to fall into the category of persons under UNHCR's statelessness

Fig. 5.1 Availability of sex-disaggregated data of refugees | 2007 - 2012



mandate. The available data indicate that females are more likely than males to return to their country of origin. Since 2005, for instance, the number of returning refugee women has consistently surpassed their male counterparts, with the exceptions of 2007 and 2011. Similarly, the evidence (though limited) suggests that IDPs are more likely to be women, or at least have been over the past two years.

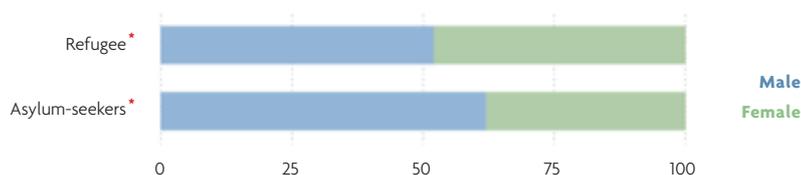
AGE

The age distribution of the population of concern to UNHCR during 2012 shows an interesting pattern. Of the 35.8 million total population of concern recorded at the end of 2012, data disaggregated by age was available for 14.9 million, representing 41 per cent. Of this, the vast majority of statistical coverage was made up of data on refugees (65%) and IDPs (27%), with these two population categories thus dominating data coverage (92% combined). Data coverage on age for many of the other population categories remains a challenge.

Regionally, Asia and the Pacific achieved the highest data coverage on age, offering data for 38 per cent of the total population of concern. The Middle East and North Africa was next with 23 per cent, followed by the East and Horn of Africa with 20 per cent. The regions that provided the least data on age were Southern Africa and the Americas, with 0.1 per cent and 1.2 per cent, respectively. If limited just to refugees, two regions – Asia and the Pacific and the East and Horn of Africa – provided the highest data coverage with 29 per cent and 26 per cent, respectively.

Unlike sex, for which data coverage on refugees has consistently been higher than 60 per cent for the past five years, data coverage on age has not crossed the 50 per cent mark during that period. Interestingly, the overall age distribution of the total population of concern has not experienced significant changes. For the past two years, for instance, the percentage of refugee children globally has remained at 46 per cent, while the adult population (age 18-59 years) and those 60 years and over have remained at 49 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively. Indeed, this last category, refugees 60 years of age and over, has remained at 5 per cent for the past 10 years, except in 2006 when it stood at 4 per cent. The age distribution between children and adults, too, has not witnessed any significant change.

Fig. 5.2 Sex distribution of refugees and asylum-seekers | end-2012 (in %)



* Data Coverage: refugees 75%; asylum-seekers 58%.

⁵⁴ Refers to individuals pending in the asylum procedure at the end of the year.

Stark differences arise when the world population aged 60 years and over is compared to the same age cohort of refugees. Globally this age group accounted for an estimated 10.8 per cent in 2009, according to the United Nations World Population Ageing Report.⁵⁵ Yet that would appear to be more than twice as high as the similar rate for refugees. In fact, with age-disaggregated data more available for refugees in developing countries, this figure should most likely be compared to the less-developed regions, where those aged 60 and over make up around 8.5 per cent of the population. Either way, however, the refugee population appears to be relatively young.

In terms of forced displacement, the total age dependency ratio⁵⁶ for the populations of concern was 117 per 100 individuals in the working-age population. For the refugee population, the corresponding value was 104 per 100. On the other hand, the aged dependency ratio for the refugee populations was relatively low (9 per 100 working-age population) compared to the total age and children-age dependency ratios, the latter of which was 95 per 100 working-age population.

Statistically speaking, children are more of a 'burden' for the labour force (meaning the productive population) than are the aged population. Between 2006 and 2009, the children-age dependency ratio in refugee populations

steadily declined, from 94 to 77 per 100 working-age population. Since 2009 this trend reversed, however, increasing steadily to reach 95 per 100 working-age-population in 2012. That would appear to be consistent with broader changes among the proportion of refugee children. This category dwindled from 47 per cent of the total population in 2006 to a low of 41 per cent in 2009, though this number has since increased to 46 per cent. Thus, these statistics would appear to suggest a direct

correlation between the proportion of refugee children and the children-age dependency ratio, the world average⁵⁷ for which is 42 per 100 working-age population. Clearly, the burden on the refugee productive population is significantly higher than the global average.

Table 5.1 shows total age dependency ratio, children-age dependency ratio, and the aged dependency ratio for refugees, together with demographic characteristics of refugees from 2006 through 2012.

TABLE 5.1 Demographic characteristics of refugees
| 2006 - 2012 (% of total population)

End-Year	Dependency ratios per 100 working-age population of refugees			Demographic characteristics of refugees (% of total population)			
	Children-age dependency ratio	Aged dependency ratio	Total dependency ratio	Women	<18 years	18-59	>60 years
2006	94	8	102	47%	47%	49%	4%
2007	92	9	101	47%	46%	49%	5%
2008	88	9	97	48%	44%	51%	5%
2009	77	10	87	47%	41%	54%	5%
2010	86	9	95	47%	44%	51%	5%
2011	92	10	102	48%	46%	49%	5%
2012	95	9	104	48%	46%	49%	5%

Note

These percentages are based on available data and exclude countries where no demographic information is available. This is particularly the case for industrialized countries.

⁵⁵ Source: UN World Population Ageing, 2009. See: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WorldPopulationAgeingReport2009.pdf>, Table A.III.2.

⁵⁶ Age dependency ratio here is strictly defined as all ages less than 18 plus all ages 60 and over divided by all ages between 18 and 59 inclusive multiplied by 100. This is an indicator to measure the pressure on the productive population. As the ratio increases, the burden on the productive population increases.

⁵⁷ Source: UN World Population Ageing, 2009. See: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WorldPopulationAgeingReport2009.pdf>, Table A.III.4

Location characteristics

During 2012, the places where populations of concern to UNHCR reported residing were broken into three categories – urban areas, rural areas, or mixed/unknown locations. Within each of these, UNHCR offices reported distinct types of accommodations. Up until 2012, UNHCR traditionally had four distinct accommodation classifications. However, in order to ensure clear understanding of the various locations where UNHCR's persons of concern live and to align to international standards, these locations have now been redefined and reclassified into five types of

accommodation: planned or managed camps, self-settled camps, collective centres, individual (private) accommodations, and reception/transit camps.⁵⁸

Similar to the demographic data for UNHCR's persons of concern, information on location data remains a challenge. In 2012, accommodation data was available for 80 per cent of the total refugee population, implying that this information was unknown for the remaining 20 per cent. From what was known, the overwhelming majority (54%) of refugees lived in individual accommodations (private) and 35 per cent

lived in planned/managed camps; these two categories topped the list of refugee accommodations at the end of 2012. It is not surprising that more than a third of the refugee populations lived in planned/managed camp, as more refugees are hosted in developing countries where refugee camps have traditionally been the key type of accommodation. The largest refugee camp, the Dadaab complex in Kenya, hosts over half a million refugees.

⁵⁸ For a definition of each category, see: <http://goo.gl/4oKn8>.

While refugees in private individual accommodations are predominantly found in urban areas, refugee camps (both planned/managed and self-settled) are mainly located in rural areas. Most refugee camps, meanwhile, are located in Africa or Asia. By the end of 2012, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia accounted for 63 per cent and 29 per cent of refugee camps in the world, respectively. There was no remarkable difference between male and female refugees in terms of the type of accommodation preference during 2012. For children, however, the accommodation situation varies substantially. Refugee

TABLE 5.2 Accommodation of refugees | end-2012

Type of accommodation	No. of refugees	Distribution	% women	% children	% Urban*
Planned/managed camp	2,955,500	35.3%	50%	56%	0.4%
Self-settled camp	542,300	6.5%	52%	58%	0.5%
Collective centre	323,500	3.9%	48%	56%	18.0%
Individual accommodation (private)	4,551,900	54.3%	46%	39%	93.4%
Reception/transit camp	2,100	0.0%	53%	60%	8.3%
Sub-total	8,375,300	100%	48%	46%	53.4%
Unknown	2,122,700				
Grand Total	10,498,000				

Note

* Percentages are based on data available for 8.1 million refugees. Calculation excludes accommodation types which are unknown.

children make up more than 50 per cent of the residents for each type of accommodations except for individual

accommodation, for which they constitute 39 per cent – a drop from 43 per cent in 2011.

Demographic developments of selected host countries and countries of origin | 2003-2012⁵⁹

– Contributed by Alphonse MacDonald –

UNHCR has a long tradition of providing annual statistical information on its activities, mostly reporting on developments that have taken place over the previous year of operations and, occasionally, on trends for specific continents, regions, or countries. The agency has a rich historical database of statistical information on the populations of its concern, a trove of data that can be further explored to assess similarities and differences between a host country's population and the refugee population within its national territory. Alternately, this database can also be used to assess trends in similarities or differences between the refugee population and the rest of the population in the country of origin.

Interest in undertaking such analysis can pose two methodological prob-

lems, one with the quality of data of the selected host countries and the countries of origin, and another with the standard for comparison. The selection of countries and their data quality will be dealt with later in this chapter. But first, to assess the validity and exactness of these demographics requires a reliable historical standard. This is available through information provided by the periodic publication of World Population Prospects, by the Demographic Division of the United Nations. Its most recent issue⁶⁰ is the 2012 revision, which provides the required information for all countries and territories. Another useful publication is Volume II of the Demographic Division's 2010 revision,⁶¹ which contains demographic profiles for all countries with a population of at least 100,000 persons.

Following a succinct presentation of the methodological issues involved in historical demographic analysis of the refugee population on the basis of the available UNHCR data, this section will present the initial results of a number of selected host countries and countries of origin. There is a fundamental difference between the mechanisms of population growth between a country's normal resident population and the refugee population it hosts. Any country's normal population growth is due mainly to the natural increase of the population, with migration typically only a minor if not insignificant element. By contrast, the growth of a refugee population is caused mainly by the arrivals and departures of refugees, with the natural population only a very minor factor.

DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTRY-FOCUSED HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHIC TREND ANALYSIS

In order to carry out a historical demographic analysis, a basic requirement is data of both good and comparable quality covering the period under consid-

eration – in this case, the 10-year period 2003 through 2012. The golden standard of demographic analysis is single years of age- and sex-disaggregated

data, which can be combined in any desired age groups. While the standard approach for demographic analysis is the use of five-year age groups, data on

⁵⁹ The views and opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

⁶⁰ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013). *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, Volume I: Comprehensive Tables ST/ESA/SER.A/336*. (UN WPP 2012). United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013). *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, Key Findings and Advance Tables. Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP.227*.

⁶¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population, Division (2011). *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision, Volume II: Demographic Profiles*. ST/ESA/SER.A/317. (UNWPP 2010).



This little boy learns about his rights during a protection workshop run for young children by Plan International, on behalf of UNHCR, at the remote town of Elias Pina, in the Dominican Republic near the border with Haiti.

the refugee population available from UNHCR do not follow this convention. Instead, they use age groups that are more responsive to the agency's administrative and operational needs.

Since 2003, the available data use four age groups: 0-4 years, 5-17 years, 18-59, and 60 years and over. Since 2006, the age group 5-17 years has been divided into two sub-groups, 5-11 and 12-17 years. Hence, it is possible to construct a series with four age groups for the period 2003 to 2012, while from 2006 onward it is possible to construct a series with five age groups. In addition to the four or five defined age groups, there is a category on 'age unknown' that is occasionally used.

The existence of this category (referring to persons without known age) affects the quality of the data and also restricts the size of the population that can be used for the analysis. Although the five-group system seems attractive, it is not easy to compare these groups with the standard demographic age groups. The four-group approach is thus preferred, because it introduces the least number of errors.

Over time, age- and sex-disaggregated information has become increasingly available for more and more populations. Nonetheless, these growing data have been uneven over the different continents, regions, and countries. North America, for instance, only provides data regularly from 2007. Further, the global percentage of data on sex and age for refugees has actually been slightly decreasing, from 76 per cent in 2003 to 74 per cent in 2012. The highest percentages of sex- and age-aggregated data were achieved in 2008 and 2009, with 81 and 83 per cent, respectively.

Africa seems to have the highest percentage of age and sex data, and since 2010 has registered rates of over 90 per cent. In Asia, the highest percentages were obtained in 2008 and 2009 (93%), but these have since declined to 67 per cent in 2012. Europe, meanwhile, shows an erratic distribution over time, with an

average percentage of 55 per cent and a decreasing rate since 2009 (82%) to 76 per cent in 2012. These different levels of availability for sex- and age-disaggregated data will affect the number of countries that can be used for the analysis.⁶²

The database also contains cases for which there are no disaggregated data on age or sex, showing instead only the total number of refugees or the

of demographic variables. Others will provide data that are only partly consistent and relevant, however, as the statistical bases for the various analyses will be different and hence the results may be inconsistent.

This limitation is a matter of the statistical rigour the analyst wishes to apply. Given that there is only a certain number of age groups for which

IN 2012, THE REFUGEE POPULATION IN KENYA IS 3.5 TIMES LARGER THAN THE 2003 FIGURE; IN YEMEN, IT IS 4.8 TIMES LARGER THAN IN 2003. [...] THESE INCREASES IMPLY ANNUAL GROWTH RATES FAR IN EXCESS OF THOSE OF THE RESIDENT POPULATIONS.

number of refugees by sex. For many countries, the database shows a mix of these three types of data, with a limited number of countries that have exclusively valid disaggregated age and sex data. Countries with 100 per cent sex- and age-disaggregated data will be able to provide the complete range

data are available, the lower limit of data availability for the calculation of demographic characteristics can be established as 80 per cent. Hence, if the percentage of the disaggregated sex and age data is between 80 and 100 per cent, the data will be used for analysis on age and sex. If the percentage is below 80 per cent, though, no such analysis will be performed. For all selected countries, the pattern of population growth can be established.

⁶² The percentages in this paragraph are based on availability of refugee data in the UNHCR demographic database. It does not necessarily represent coverage compared to the global number of refugees.

DATA ANALYSIS OF HOST COUNTRIES

Out of the 181 countries and territories that reported refugee data between 2003 and 2012, 109 have data available for the complete 10-year period. The cumulative number of refugees over that period ranges from over 15 million persons (from Pakistan) to just 78 in Timor-Leste. In addition, 21 countries had over 1 million cumulative refugees during this decade, 10 countries had between half a million and 1 million, 20 countries had between 100,000 and 500,000, and 58 countries had fewer than 100,000 cumulative refugees. As there was only a very limited number of countries with 100 per cent age- and sex-disaggregated data, it was decided to use the 21 countries with over 1 million cumulative refugees for this analysis, even if those countries did not necessarily comply with the requirement of having only sex- and age-disaggregated data.

TABLE 5.3 Population of host countries with 1 million cumulative refugees according to percentages of data | 2003 - 2012

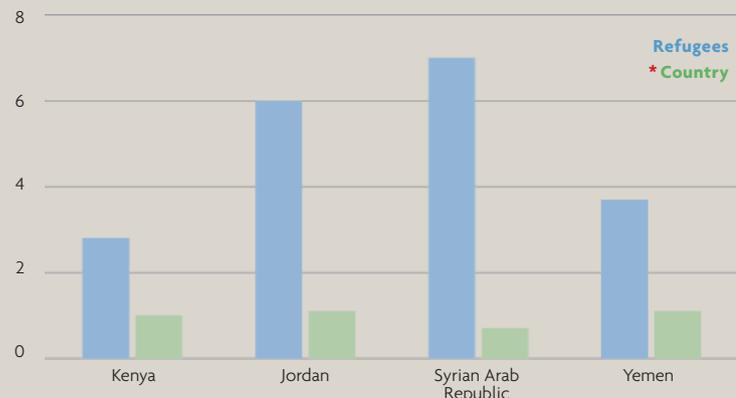
Countries of asylum	Sex and age data (%)	Sex data (%)	Grand total only (%)	Total
Kenya	100.0	0.0	0.0	3,668,400
Jordan	100.0	0.0	0.0	2,727,200
Thailand	100.0	0.0	0.0	1,230,800
Yemen	100.0	0.0	0.0	1,385,900
Syrian Arab Republic	100.0	0.0	0.0	6,020,600
Ethiopia	98.3	0.1	1.6	1,562,300
Uganda	93.0	2.3	4.6	2,089,700
Chad	88.2	4.9	6.9	3,020,400
United Rep. of Tanzania	88.1	0.0	11.9	3,338,500
Pakistan	85.8	14.1	0.1	15,042,300
Egypt	85.6	0.0	14.4	1,010,700
Nepal	81.0	15.6	3.4	1,105,000
Zambia	63.0	7.1	29.9	1,052,100
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	61.0	0.0	39.0	1,754,300
Islamic Republic of Iran	60.2	9.8	30.0	9,824,000
Sudan	56.6	36.3	7.1	1,553,100
Algeria	37.1	0.0	62.9	1,093,900
China	28.6	57.1	14.3	2,105,000
Venezuela (Boliv. Rep. of)	9.3	90.7	0.0	1,102,800
Saudi Arabia	0.6	16.6	82.9	1,448,100
France	0.0	86.8	13.2	1,549,600
Total	76.0	12.4	11.6	63,684,700

Results of host countries with complete data

There are only five countries that comply with the requirement of 100 per cent sex- and age-disaggregated data: Kenya, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, and Yemen. This data will produce reliable and consistent values for various demographic estimates, such as the annual population growth rate for the total population and its sub-groups, the percentage of females in the population, and the sex- and age-specific distribution of the population over time.

Each of these countries, with the exception of Thailand, shows positive population growth from 2003 to 2012. While the number of refugees in Thailand in 2012 is only 83 per cent of its 2003 value, the four other countries show considerable increases in comparison to the base year. In 2012, the refugee population in Kenya is 3.5 times larger than the 2003 figure; in Yemen, it is 4.8 times larger than in 2003. In Jordan this figure has increased by 38.5 times its 2003 value, while the refugee population of the Syrian Arab Republic is 103.5 times larger than in 2003. These increases imply annual growth rates far in excess of those of the resident populations. According to the estimates of the United Nations Population Division,⁶³ the annual growth rate for the period 2005-10 for Thailand was 0.7 per cent, versus Kenya (2.6%), Yemen (3.1%),

Fig. 5.3 Average annual population growth rates, refugees versus resident population in selected host countries with complete data



* Growth rates have been converted to natural logarithms. As the growth rate for the refugee population of Thailand is negative it has been excluded.

Jordan (2.9%), and the Syrian Arab Republic (2.0%).

The countries also show different forms of growth patterns. Thailand's refugee population steadily increases to reach its maximum size in 2006, before starting a steady decline towards 2012. Kenya, on the other hand, shows a continuous increase, with a slight decrease in 2008, to then continuously increase till 2012. Meanwhile, Yemen shows a classic positive growth function, while Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic show similar tendencies – a rather fast increase in numbers to reach maximum values in 2008 (in Jordan) and 2007 (in the Syrian Arab Republic)

before rapidly decreasing to the levels of 2012, which are considerably larger than the 2003 populations.

The availability of age- and sex-disaggregated data allows for a comparison to be made between the percentages of females in the refugee and resident populations of the selected host countries for two specific years, 2005 and 2010. There is considerable variation in the percentage of females in the resident populations of the selected countries. While in Kenya and Thailand the female refugee population makes up slightly more than half of the total, this figure is consistently lower in Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen. The results show that for these two years, the percentage of females in the refugee populations is consistently lower than in the broader populations of the host countries. The results also show that in 2010 the difference between the two populations was less than in 2005 (with the exception of Yemen, which presents a slight increase in the highest observed difference, from 12 to 13 per cent).

With regard to the differences in the age and sex distributions,⁶⁴ all coun-

TABLE 5.4 Differences in the percentage of females in the refugee and resident populations in selected host countries with complete data | 2005 - 2010

Country of asylum	2005 Percentage female			2010 Percentage female		
	Refugees	Country	Difference	Refugees	Country	Difference
Kenya	44.9	50.1	-5.2	48.9	50.1	-1.2
Jordan	36.8	48.7	-11.8	48.7	48.9	-0.2
Syrian Arab Republic	45.5	48.7	-3.2	47.1	49.0	-1.9
Thailand	49.7	50.9	-1.3	49.0	51.0	-2.0
Yemen	37.4	49.5	-12.1	36.8	49.6	-12.7

Note

Difference = refugee minus country

⁶³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population, Division (2011). *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision, Volume II: Demographic Profiles*. ST/ESA/SER.A/317, p. 877, 557, 957, 549 and 865, respectively.

⁶⁴ The standard demographic analysis uses five-year age groups. The UNHCR database has only four groups (0-4, 5-17, 18-59, and 60+). The first and last groups are identical to the standard demographic age groupings. To compare the other two UNHCR age groups to the standard groupings, one has to use the 5-19 age group to compare it to the 5-17 age group of UNHCR. Hence, in the text this age group will be referred to as 5-17 (19). Similarly, the UNHCR age group 18-59 years has to be compared with the 20-59 standard group, and will be referred to as 18(20)-59 years.

tries but Thailand show a lower percentage in the age groups 0-4 and 5-17 (19) for both years for the refugee population than for the resident population. While the data for Thailand show that the refugee population is consistently younger than the resident population, for the other countries the data suggest a shift in the population towards the age group 18(20)-59 years for both 2005 and 2010, although the magnitude of the differences is less in 2010.

In 2005 in Kenya, the percentage difference between the refugee population and the resident population is +9.4 in the age group 18(20)-59, meaning that there are relatively more refugee women in that age group than in the resident group. A similar result is observed for the Syrian Arab Republic (+12.9), Jordan (+14.4), and Yemen (+19.1). A similar pattern is also observed for 2010, but while the differences decrease in Kenya (+4.4), the Syrian Arab Republic (+6.6), and Jordan (+7.9), it increases for Yemen (+25.3).

Similar results are obtained for the male population, with Yemen present-

ing a consistent value of 36 per cent 'excess' male refugees compared to the resident population in the age group 18-59 years for both years.

● Results of host countries with limited data

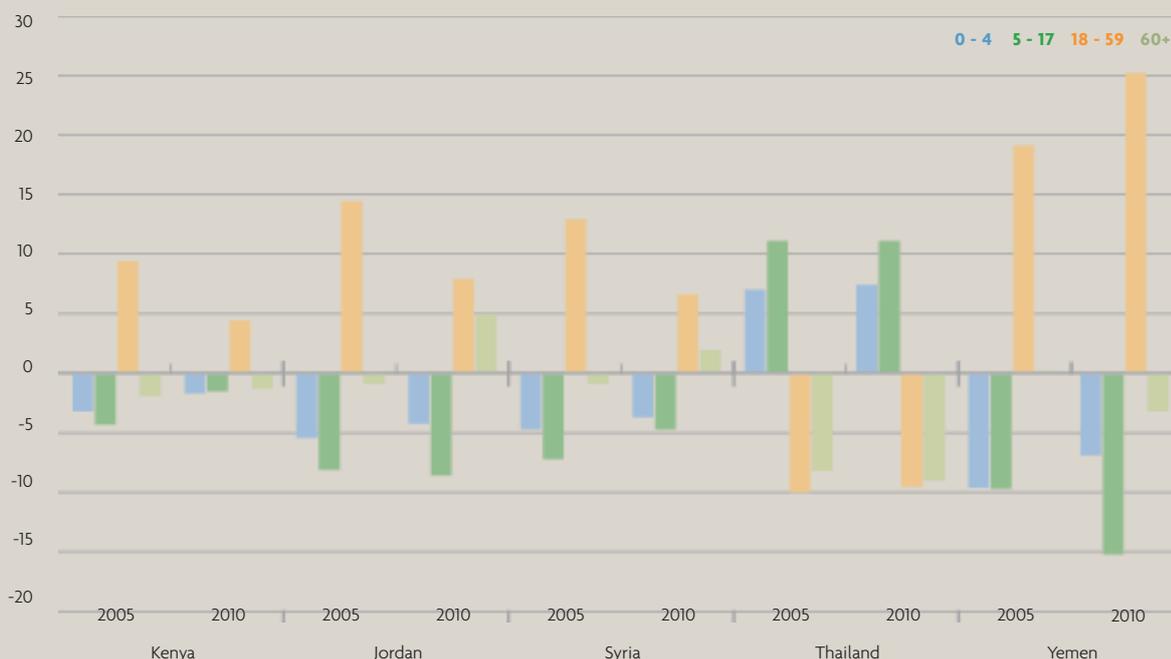
Seven countries offer percentages of sex and age data ranging from 98.3 to 81 per cent: Ethiopia, Uganda, Chad, the United Republic of Tanzania, Pakistan, Egypt, and Nepal. Analysis on population growth, percentage of females, and sex and age distribution yields similar results as for the group of five countries with 100 per cent data availability. Still, with the diminishing percentage of sex and age data, the validity of the results also goes down. This is especially the case when, in addition to the low coverage of age and sex data, there is also a considerable amount of data with 'unknown' age. As noted, the results do appear to show similar trends as the countries with complete data coverage, but a comparison between these two groups is beyond the scope of this analysis.

● Results of host countries with less reliable age and sex data

Another seven countries offer sex- and age-disaggregated data ranging from 63 to 0 per cent: Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sudan, China, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and France. All countries except China, France, Sudan, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela show a steady decline in the refugee population. However, the patterns of this decline are variable. Zambia, for instance, shows a steady decline over time; a similar pattern can be found in the Democratic Republic of the Congo but with some variation in size (though never exceeding the population recorded in 2003). The Islamic Republic of Iran, meanwhile, shows an irregular pattern with periods of increase in 2004, 2009, and 2010.

China's annual increase in the refugee population is around 0.1 per cent, less than the resident population's rate of growth. France's refugee population, on the other hand, increases at about 1 per cent, which is higher than

Fig. 5.4 Difference in the age distribution of female refugee and resident populations for selected host countries | 2005 - 2010



the resident population's 0.6 per cent growth rate. Next up is Sudan's refugee population growth rate, at 4.3 per cent. Topping each of these was the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, where the reported refugee population in 2012 is slightly over 87 times larger than that of 2003, mostly due to the inclusion of Colombians in a refugee-like situation not previously reported.

DATA ANALYSIS OF COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

The UNHCR database also contains information on the 208 countries and territories from which refugees originated during the period under analysis.

According to this data, the cumulative number of refugees varies from nearly 25 million (from Afghanistan) to just one each from Aruba and Liechtenstein. For the selection of countries for analysis, the same methodological considerations apply as for the host countries: data need to be of sufficient size and offering good coverage. Out of the 208 countries and territories listed in the database, 15 countries have a cumulative refugee population of over 1 million. Of these, 13 were selected for analysis: Liberia, Somalia, Iraq, the Central African Republic, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Angola, Colombia, and Viet Nam.

Unlike the host countries, there are no countries with 100 per cent coverage for age and sex information. Instead, the percentage of population with dis-

TABLE 5.5 Refugee population of selected countries of origin according to percentages of disaggregated data | 2003 - 2012

Countries of origin	Sex and Age data	Sex data	Grand total only	Total
Liberia	97.7	0.3	2.1	1,350,400
Somalia	97.4	0.4	2.3	5,402,900
Iraq	94.2	1.0	4.8	9,834,200
Central African Republic	92.5	4.4	3.1	1,066,700
Sudan	91.7	3.2	5.2	5,279,900
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	87.6	4.4	7.9	4,463,100
Burundi	86.6	0.3	13.1	2,453,300
Eritrea	79.1	16.8	4.0	1,529,300
Afghanistan	76.5	12.5	11.0	24,719,800
Myanmar	76.5	0.4	23.1	2,631,700
Angola	67.7	4.7	27.7	1,637,000
Colombia	39.9	52.5	7.7	1,919,800
Viet Nam	30.7	55.8	13.5	2,325,200
All countries	81.2	9.7	9.1	64,613,300

aggregated age and sex data varies from 98 for Liberia to 31 for Viet Nam. Hence, with the necessary precaution about the decreasing validity of results, age and sex analysis can be carried out on seven countries with a percentage of over 80 per cent. For the remaining six countries, only growth analysis will be carried out.

● Results of countries of origin with limited data

Analysis of these trends shows that the refugee populations originating from Liberia and Burundi decrease over time, declining by 10.5 per cent for Liberia and 8.8 per cent for Burundi. This indicates a net return to their country of origin. The decline in the number of refugees from Liberia shows a stea-

dy decrease, while that of Burundi is slightly irregular. Meanwhile, Liberia's resident population shows an annual increase of 4.5 per cent, while that of Burundi grows by 3.9 per cent.

UNHCR's demographic database suggests a very small increase in the number of refugees originating from Sudan for the years under study, with an annual rate of increase of just 0.3 per cent. The refugee population originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo likewise shows just a modest increase of 1.6 per cent annually. These rates of growth are well below those of the resident populations in both Sudan (2.5%) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2.8%).

By contrast, the refugee populations originating from Somalia, Iraq, and the Central African Republic show annual growth rates well in excess of those of the resident populations. Somalia, for instance, shows refugee growth rates of 30.3 per cent, compared to just 2.2 per cent for the resident population, while similar imbalances can be seen in Iraq (32.5% versus 2.9%) and the Central African Republic (40.7% versus 1.8%). The refugee populations originating from these countries in 2012 are about four to five times the number of those who were refugees in 2003.

In terms of sex differential between populations, the results are quite variable. In 2005, there are more women among the refugees from Liberia, Sudan, and the Central African Republic

TABLE 5.6 End-of-year refugee population for selected years and average annual growth rates for the refugee and resident populations for selected countries of origin | 2003 - 2012

Origin	End of year refugee pop.			Annual growth	
	2003	2007	2012	Refugees	Country*
Liberia	340,270	85,260	20,010	-10.5	4.5
Somalia	282,290	385,460	1,053,070	30.3	2.2
Iraq	175,300	2,171,620	688,290	32.5	2.9
Central African Republic	35,620	99,110	166,120	40.7	1.8
Sudan	549,600	526,380	562,650	0.3	2.5
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	455,400	369,970	522,590	1.6	2.8
Burundi	357,880	374,160	75,080	-8.8	2.9

Note

* UN WPP 2010: Liberia, p. 585, Somalia, p.829, Iraq, p. 525, Central African Republic, p.309, Sudan, p. 845, Democratic Republic of the Congo, p. 377, and Burundi, p. 289

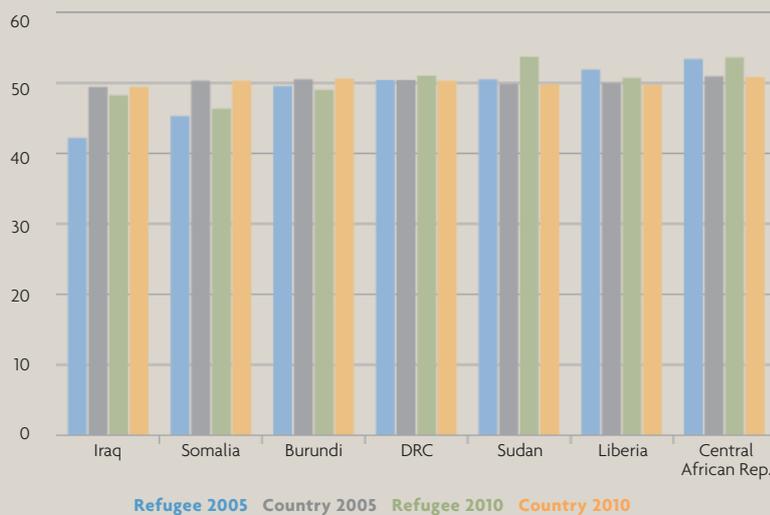
than among the resident populations. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on the other hand, there are no differences between these two groups. Finally, in Iraq, Somalia, and Burundi there are lower percentages of women among the refugee population. This

pattern repeats itself for 2010, though with some inconsistent changes in the percentages among the countries.

Two distinct groups of countries emerge when the age- and sex-disaggregated information is analysed for this time period. In Liberia, Somalia, and

Iraq, there tend to be fewer young persons in the refugee groups than in the resident populations, but at the same time there are also considerably more of those aged 18 to 59 years than among the resident population. This pattern is similar for females and males for both 2005 and 2010. By contrast, refugees leaving from the Central African Republic, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Burundi include relatively higher percentages of infants than the resident populations. Yet while this was quite evident in 2005, this pattern is less pronounced in 2010.

Fig. 5.5 Difference in the percentage of females in the refugee and resident populations of selected countries of origin | 2005 - 2010



Results of the countries with less reliable age and sex data

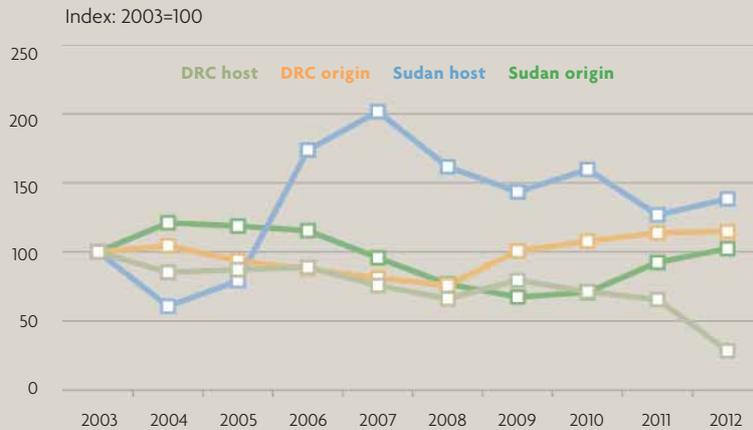
For the six countries of origin with less reliable age and sex data (Eritrea, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Angola, Colombia, and Viet Nam), only the growth analysis was carried out. From this, Angola shows a steady decline in the number of refugees originating from that country, with an annual rate of decrease of -10.7 per cent, while the

Fig. 5.6 Difference in age distribution of the female refugee and resident populations for selected countries of origin | 2005 - 2010 (in %)



Fig. 5.7

Comparison of the population development patterns of the resident refugee population in the DRC and Sudan with those of the refugees originating from those countries | 2003 - 2012



resident population grew at an annual rate of 2.9 per cent. The other five countries show an increase in the number of refugees leaving their country of origin. In the case of Viet Nam, for instance, the annual increase in the refugee population (0.8%) is slightly less than the 1.1 per cent rate of increase among the resident population. Among the Afghan refugee population, the rate of change is 3.2 per cent, higher than the national growth rate of 2.6 per cent.

For other countries, this differential is more pronounced. For Eritreans,

the increase in the refugee growth rate (11.4%) is about four times the national population growth rate (3.2%). In Myanmar, the rate of refugees leaving the country has considerably increased since 2010, and the annual refugee growth rate of 20.8 per cent is about 30 times larger than the national population increase of 0.7 per cent. Finally, the increase in refugees leaving Colombia over the 10-year period has increased significantly. While the number of refugees leaving the country till 2006 was about 15,000 per year, this suddenly in-

creased to 111,000 in 2007. Thereafter it increased again to about 305,000 in 2008 and continued to increase steadily to about 374,000 in 2012.⁶⁵

The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan have also been selected as refugee host countries. The population development in these countries shows interesting patterns when considered as host country or as country of origin. The refugee population in the Democratic Republic of the Congo steadily declines over time. Similarly, the number of refugees originating from this country initially also shows a decline, though this lasts only up to about 2008. Thereafter, the numbers start increasing, to reach a population that is about 14 per cent larger than the 2003 population.

The refugee population in the Sudan, meanwhile, initially shows a decline. But from 2004 it increases considerably till 2007, when the refugee population is twice as large as in 2003. From then, the refugee population starts an erratic decline, to eventually reach a population size about 38 per cent larger than that of 2003. At the same time, the number of refugees originating from Sudan initially increases, then declines between 2004 and 2009, and finally increases again to reach a size slightly larger than that of 2003.

REFUGEE POPULATIONS tend to remain within their continent of origin, especially in Africa and Asia, and travel primarily to neighbouring countries, most likely with populations of similar ethnic, social, and cultural characteristics. The composition of the refugee population by country of origin and the relative importance of each country can have a decisive effect on whether there are similarities between the refugee population and that of the host country. The nature of the process of seeking refuge in a foreign country inherently limits the capability of all population age and sex groups to em-

bark equally on such an undertaking. Considerations of mobility and safety play an important role, as do the border-control mechanisms and the policies of the host countries for allowing entry.

Although no clear patterns of difference have been found between refugee populations with increasing or decreasing patterns, it seems that there is an increasing concordance between the refugee population, their country of origin, and the host countries in terms of age and sex distributions. Nevertheless, there are incidences where the growth rate of the refugee population greatly exceeds that of the resident population.

It is important to note, again, that undertaking to analyse the historical development of refugee populations, national host populations, and the populations of countries of origin requires high-quality data for the period under consideration. The analysis presented in this section shows that it is possible to carry out valid comparisons between the populations concerned in spite of severe limitations in the availability of detailed disaggregated data on age and sex. Yet further analysis is required to expand understanding of the factors that determine the composition of the refugee population, and hence its degree of similarity with the population of the host nation. ■

⁶⁵ Rather than reflecting major outflows of refugees, a significant portion of this increase can be explained by the inclusion of Colombians in a refugee-like situation in Ecuador and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela during this period.