

# STATISTICAL YEARBOOK 2002

TRENDS IN DISPLACEMENT, PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS

JULY, 2004





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## MAIN FINDINGS

### ➤ POPULATION OF CONCERN TO UNHCR

- BY THE END OF 2002, THE GLOBAL POPULATION OF CONCERN TO UNHCR WAS ESTIMATED AT 20.7 MILLION PERSONS, INCLUDING 10.6 MILLION REFUGEES, 941,000 ASYLUM-SEEKERS, 2.4 MILLION REFUGEES WHO RETURNED IN 2002, 4.6 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs), 1.1 MILLION IDPs WHO RETURNED IN 2002, AND 953,000 OTHERS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR.
- THE GLOBAL POPULATION OF CONCERN TO UNHCR INCREASED BY SOME 4% TO 20.7 MILLION PERSONS. THIS INCREASE WAS ENTIRELY DUE TO A RISE IN THE NUMBER OF RETURNEES: DURING 2002, 2 MILLION MORE REFUGEES AND 905,000 MORE IDPs RETURNED THAN IN 2001. THE GLOBAL REFUGEE POPULATION FELL BY 13%. AN 8% FALL WAS RECORDED AMONG IDPs UNDER UNHCR MANDATE AND AMONG OTHERS OF CONCERN. THE ASYLUM-SEEKER POPULATION REMAINED UNCHANGED.
- BY END-2002, ASIA HOSTED THE LARGEST POPULATION OF CONCERN TO UNHCR (45.3%), FOLLOWED BY AFRICA (22.2%), EUROPE (21.9%), NORTH AMERICA (5.1%), LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (5.1%), AND OCEANIA (0.4%).
- IN 2002, THE POPULATION OF CONCERN TO UNHCR INCREASED IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (+37%), AFRICA (+11%) AND ASIA (+6%), BUT FELL IN EUROPE (-9%), OCEANIA (-3%), AND NORTH AMERICA (-2%).
- THE DEVELOPING REGIONS HOSTED 7.2 MILLION REFUGEES, 68% OF THE GLOBAL REFUGEE POPULATION. THE 49 LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) PROVIDE ASYLUM TO 26% OF THE WORLD'S REFUGEES.
- THE GLOBAL REFUGEE POPULATION FELL BY 1.5 MILLION PERSONS IN 2002 (-13%).<sup>1</sup> WHILE A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WAS REPORTED FOR ASIA (-27%) AND NORTH AMERICA (-5%), SMALL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN OCEANIA (+3%), AFRICA (+2%) AND EUROPE (+1%). BY END-2002, ASIA HOSTED THE LARGEST NUMBER OF REFUGEES (39.5%), FOLLOWED BY AFRICA (31.6%), EUROPE (22.1%), NORTH AMERICA (5.8%), OCEANIA (0.7%), AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (0.4%).
- BY THE END OF 2002, THERE WERE SOME 2.5 MILLION AFGHAN REFUGEES ACCORDING TO UNHCR ESTIMATES, ACCOUNTING FOR ONE QUARTER OF THE GLOBAL REFUGEE POPULATION. BURUNDI WAS THE SECOND LARGEST COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF REFUGEES IN THE WORLD (575,000), FOLLOWED BY SUDAN (509,000), ANGOLA (435,000) AND SOMALIA (431,000).

### ➤ DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- IN 2002, MORE THAN 2.4 MILLION REFUGEES REPATRIATED TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY, THE HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 1994. AFGHANS CONSTITUTED SOME 80% (2 MILLION) OF THESE RETURNS. TWENTY-EIGHT COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN REPORTED THE RETURN OF MORE THAN 50 REFUGEES.
- UNHCR COUNTRY OFFICES IN FIRST ASYLUM COUNTRIES RESETTLED SOME 19,600 REFUGEES DURING 2002.
- IN 2002, 10 COUNTRIES RESETTLED 51,000 REFUGEES, 45% BELOW THE 2001 LEVEL. THE MAIN RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES WERE THE UNITED STATES (26,800), CANADA (10,400) AND AUSTRALIA (9,200).

### ➤ REFUGEE OUTFLOWS

- SOME 293,000 REFUGEES BECAME DISPLACED AS PART OF A MASS OUTFLOW IN 2002, THE LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 1993. ALMOST ALL NEW REFUGEE OUTFLOWS OCCURRED IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (95%).

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<sup>1</sup> This figure does not include some 4 million Palestinian refugees who fall under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).



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### ➤ ASYLUM IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

- ASYLUM CLAIMS SUBMITTED IN 38 INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES FELL BY 5%, TO 566,000 IN 2002. EUROPE RECEIVED 461,000 NEW ASYLUM CLAIMS (-4%), NORTH AMERICA RECEIVED 98,000 NEW CLAIMS (-5%), AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND RECEIVED ALMOST 7,000 ASYLUM-SEEKERS (-52%). SOME 377,000 ASYLUM REQUESTS WERE LODGED IN THE 15 COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (-3%).
- IRAQ WAS THE MAIN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES: 51,500 NEW CLAIMS WERE LODGED BY IRAQI CITIZENS IN 2002. SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO WAS THE SECOND LEADING ORIGIN OF ASYLUM-SEEKERS (33,000), FOLLOWED BY TURKEY (30,000), AFGHANISTAN (28,000) AND CHINA (27,000).
- DURING 2002, 102,000 ASYLUM-SEEKERS WERE GRANTED CONVENTION REFUGEE STATUS IN FIRST INSTANCE (73,000) AND IN APPEAL (29,000) IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. ANOTHER 51,500 ASYLUM-SEEKERS WERE ALLOWED TO REMAIN FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS IN FIRST INSTANCE (44,000) AND IN APPEAL (7,500).

### ➤ REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- DURING 2002, THE NON-INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES RECEIVED 176,000 APPLICATIONS FOR REFUGEE STATUS. SOUTH-AFRICA RECEIVED 31% OF THESE CLAIMS (55,400).
- SOME 63,600 ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS IN 2002.

### ➤ GENDER AND AGE

- AVAILABLE DATA ON 10 MILLION PERSONS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR INDICATE THAT 49% ARE FEMALE. WOMEN ARE OVER-REPRESENTED IN THE OLDER POPULATION, REFLECTING THEIR LONGER LIFE EXPECTANCY.
- MORE THAN ONE QUARTER (27%) OF THE POPULATION OF CONCERN TO UNHCR IS CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18. IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, DUE TO HIGHER BIRTH RATES, THE PROPORTION OF MINORS IS CLOSE TO 50%.

### ➤ LOCATIONS

- IN 2002, UNHCR ENUMERATED SOME 295 INDIVIDUAL CAMPS AND CENTRES WITH AN AVERAGE POPULATION SIZE OF 8,700.<sup>2</sup> ABOUT ONE QUARTER (26%) OF THESE CAMPS AND CENTRES HOSTED MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE.
- UNHCR REPORTED 270 URBAN REFUGEE LOCATIONS IN 2002. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN URBAN AREAS WAS 4,000 PERSONS. TWO THIRDS OF THE URBAN LOCATIONS (68%) HOSTED FEWER THAN 100 PERSONS.

### ➤ HOST COUNTRY CAPACITY AND CONTRIBUTION

- PAKISTAN HOSTS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PERSONS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR IN RELATION TO ITS ECONOMIC CAPACITY. DURING 1998-2002, THE COUNTRY HOSTED, ON AVERAGE, 4,500 REFUGEES PER 1 USD GDP PER CAPITA. THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO WAS THE COUNTRY WITH THE SECOND HIGHEST REFUGEE BURDEN (3,600 REFUGEES), FOLLOWED BY ETHIOPIA (3,100 REFUGEES).
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA HOSTS THE LARGEST POPULATION OF CONCERN TO UNHCR IN RELATION TO ITS NATIONAL POPULATION SIZE. DURING 1998-2002, IT HOSTED ON AVERAGE 207 DISPLACED PERSONS PER 1,000 INHABITANTS. LIBERIA WAS THE SECOND MAIN COUNTRY AFFECTED BY FORCED MOVEMENTS IN RELATION TO ITS NATIONAL POPULATION (124 PER 1,000 INHABITANTS) FOLLOWED BY SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO (111).
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ALSO HOSTS THE LARGEST POPULATION OF CONCERN TO UNHCR IN RELATION TO THE SIZE OF ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY. DURING 1998-2002, IT HOSTED ON AVERAGE ALMOST 17,000 PERSONS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR PER 1,000 SQUARE KILOMETER. RWANDA WAS THE COUNTRY WITH THE SECOND HIGHEST REFUGEE BURDEN IN RELATION TO ITS SURFACE AREA (13,000), FOLLOWED BY SRI LANKA (12,000).

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<sup>2</sup> A significant number of collective centers in Serbia and Montenegro and camps in Pakistan are not included.

## INTRODUCTION

The 2002 Statistical Yearbook assesses recent levels and trends in populations of concern to UNHCR, evaluates progress achieved in implementing durable solutions and provides up-to-date profiles of beneficiaries of UNHCR's protection and assistance activities. Indicators are included to measure the impact of refugees on host societies and to monitor the effectiveness of UNHCR's operations.

The objectives of the second edition of the Statistical Yearbook are similar to those of the first. By providing relevant, accurate and up-to-date data and analysis, the Yearbook is a tool for evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation of UNHCR activities. In addition, it seeks to contribute to informed decision-making and public discourse in an area which is often characterised by lack of information, strong views and divergent opinions. The structure of the 2002 Yearbook is generally the same as the 2001 version. To facilitate the analysis at the country level, the 2002 Yearbook has a new section, Annex II, where essential trends are captured on a regional and country basis.

The basis for UNHCR statistical activities is derived from the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees ('the 1951 Convention')<sup>3</sup> as well as the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees<sup>4</sup>. UNHCR country offices collect refugee statistics on a regular basis from the host Government. The statistics contained in the Yearbook, therefore, generally reflect the views of the host Government. In countries where UNHCR is operationally active, statistics are often jointly established between the host Government and UNHCR. In cases where national data are not available, UNHCR has provided estimates. These instances have been clearly marked in the Yearbook.

The 2002 Statistical Yearbook consists of three main parts.

The first part of the Yearbook provides a global analysis of trends. **CHAPTER I** presents a global overview of the size and changes in the population of concern to UNHCR. **CHAPTER II** focuses on the main population movements during 2002, with a particular emphasis on durable solutions and new refugee outflows. An overview of asylum applications and refugee status determination is provided in **CHAPTER III**. This Chapter is divided into two main sections: one which deals with asylum trends in industrialized countries and one which considers refugee status determination in non-industrialized countries. Gender, age and location, key variables in any refugee programme, are discussed in **CHAPTER IV**. This Chapter also provides a summary of education indicators in refugee camps. The issue of international burden sharing is addressed in **CHAPTER V**. Here, the refugee burden on host countries is assessed by considering the size and duration of stay of populations of concern to UNHCR in relation to national capacity. **CHAPTER VI**, finally, focuses on methodological issues. It considers the nature of the data, the various sources used, definitions as well as different factors influencing data quality.

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<sup>3</sup> ... 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).

<sup>4</sup> 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).

The second part of the 2002 Yearbook provides time series by subject area, which allow for an easy comparison of trends between countries for all major subject matters. Finally, the third part of the Yearbook provides 49 regional and 163 country profiles. For a good understanding of the statistical tables (part two) and profiles (part three), it is recommended to read Chapter VI on definitions, sources and data considerations.

Some of the data contained in the 2002 Statistical Yearbook may differ from statistics published previously. These differences generally result from retroactive changes or the receipt of previously unavailable data. Similarly, it is expected that some of the data contained in this Yearbook will be subject to (minor) changes in the future.

The 2002 Statistical Yearbook applies two UNHCR regional classifications. The classification by UNHCR Regional Bureaux/Operations is incorporated to allow comparisons with UNHCR budgetary and administrative information. The more detailed classification referred to as "UNHCR regions" is included to facilitate the comparison with the UNHCR Global Report.

In addition, the Yearbook includes a number of regional classifications to enhance comparability with data produced by the United Nations system. The official United Nations regional classification ("UN major areas") is used to analyse data by continent. By applying the aggregates used for the United Nations Millennium Development Indicators, the Yearbook encourages the systematic inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees and others of concern to UNHCR in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDG regional aggregates include three major regions: Developed regions, Developing regions and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). These three regions are further divided into 10 regional sub-groups. The MDG classification also comprises three special groups: Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Finally, a group of "Industrialized countries" has been defined by UNHCR to facilitate analysis and comparison of asylum practices in the more developed countries. It should be noted that while some of these regional classifications may use the same name for a region, the countries included in the regions may be different. Tables D.1 through D.5 provide comprehensive information on the regional classifications used and the countries included.

Special attention should be paid when analysing data referring to a country which has recently dissolved. In this report, statistics pertaining to the former USSR have been reported under the Russian Federation, those pertaining to the former Czechoslovakia have been recorded under the Czech Republic, whereas the data concerning the former Yugoslavia are included under Serbia and Montenegro. In most tables, the word "Democratic" in official country names has been abbreviated to "Dem.", whereas the word "Republic" is often reflected as "Rep.". The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia may be referred to as FYR Macedonia.

