



**UNHCR**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

# TRENDS IN UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, 2001-2003

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POPULATION DATA UNIT/PGDS  
DIVISION OF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

*IN CONSULTATION WITH*

BUREAU FOR EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES  
GENEVA

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## INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

“Unaccompanied children” (also referred to as “unaccompanied minors”) are children under 18 years of age who have been separated from both parents and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible to do so.<sup>2</sup> However, recent experience has highlighted that, especially in emergency situations, not all children are found to be unaccompanied as defined above, even though many have been separated from their previous legal or customary caregiver. Such children, although living with extended family members, may face risks similar to those encountered by unaccompanied refugee children. Consequently, UNHCR encourages the usage of the term “separated children” to draw attention to the potential protection needs of this group. “Separated children” are thus defined as children under 18 years of age who are separated from both parents or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver.<sup>3</sup>

In practice, however, few states have adopted the expanded international definition of “separated children” and continue to refer to “unaccompanied minors” in their asylum legislation and statistics. Therefore, the term “unaccompanied and separated children” is applied throughout this note.

## DATA CONSIDERATIONS

Identifying unaccompanied and separated children among those seeking asylum is of critical importance due to the special protection and assistance needs of this group. Over the past few years, Governments in Europe have made substantial progress in establishing systems that enable them to distinguish unaccompanied and separated children from other asylum-seekers. In 1998, only 18 industrialized countries were included in a UNHCR report on unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum. By 2003, this number has risen to 28. Some important asylum countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, France and Italy, however, are not included in this report because data was not available, incomplete or not comparable enough to be included.

Although most countries refer to “unaccompanied minors” in their asylum legislation, there are significant differences with respect to national definitions and recording practices. In Germany, for instance, the age limit to be considered as an unaccompanied or separated child by the authorities is 16 years compared to 18 years in the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In Spain, children aged 17 and 18 are not included in the statistics on unaccompanied and separated children even though the official age limit for this group is 18 years. Conversely, the Dutch statistics include some unaccompanied and separated children who are older than 18 years.

Age assessment of unaccompanied and separated children lodging asylum claims might prove to be difficult in some cases. As a consequence, some countries have introduced x-ray

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<sup>1</sup> This report provides an update of the report *Trends in unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum in Europe, 2000* (November 2001; Population Data Unit, UNHCR, Geneva; see <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics>, “Special reports”).

<sup>2</sup> *Refugee Children: Guidelines on Protection and Care*, UNHCR Geneva, 1994.

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Secretary-General to the United Nations General Assembly on *Protection and assistance to unaccompanied and separated refugee children*, 7 September 2001 (A/56/333).

examinations of collarbones, hands or wrists to estimate the age of the applicant. These procedures, however, cannot be considered as absolutely conclusive and thus bear a certain level of uncertainty. In some countries, a combination of age assessment methods is applied. In Belgium, for instance, the Aliens' Office performs wrist x-ray examinations whereas the Office of the General Commissioner for Refugees and Stateless persons relies on visual assessment. Few data are available on the results of age assessments, however. In one country, over 40 per cent of the applicants whose age was tested were found to be over 18 years.

Another source of uncertainty is whether nationally collected data are being updated after the child's arrival. In Spain, for instance, once the authorities have decided on an asylum application lodged by an unaccompanied or separated child, this claim is removed from the statistics, which explains the very low number of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum in Spain. Similarly, if a person is found to be above 18 years of age, some countries adjust their statistics retroactively while others do not. If an unaccompanied or separated child is reunited with a relative or caregiver, the record of the child should be updated. This practice is not applied in all countries, however.

Statistics are a function of the quality of registration. A relatively high number of unaccompanied and separated children might indicate that a good registration procedure is in place. Similarly, a low level of unaccompanied and separated children applying for asylum may be due to substandard registration and identification procedures rather than a low level of claims only. Even with a good registration procedure, it might be difficult to trace unaccompanied and separated children after they have lodged their asylum claim. In Slovenia, for instance, out of the 171 claims submitted by unaccompanied and separated children during the period 2001-2003, only four have been granted refugee status whereas most of the others left the country before the interview could take place. Due to the difficulties in monitoring decisions on claims lodged by unaccompanied and separated children, this report is limited to the number of initial applications only.

The data in this report were reported by Governments and compiled by UNHCR. Due to the different national definitions and recording practices outlined above, this report should be considered as indicative of the levels and trends of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum in industrialized countries.

### **TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS LODGED BY UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPERATED CHILDREN**

In 2003, some 12,800 unaccompanied and separated children applied for asylum in 28 industrialized countries with available data. The major receiving countries were the United Kingdom (2,800, cases only<sup>4</sup>), Austria (2,050), Switzerland (1,330), the Netherlands (1,220), Germany (980) and Norway (920). Together, these five asylum countries accounted for 73 per cent of all claims lodged by unaccompanied and separated children.

The number of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum peaked in 2001. Among the 21 countries for which data are available since 2000, the annual level of

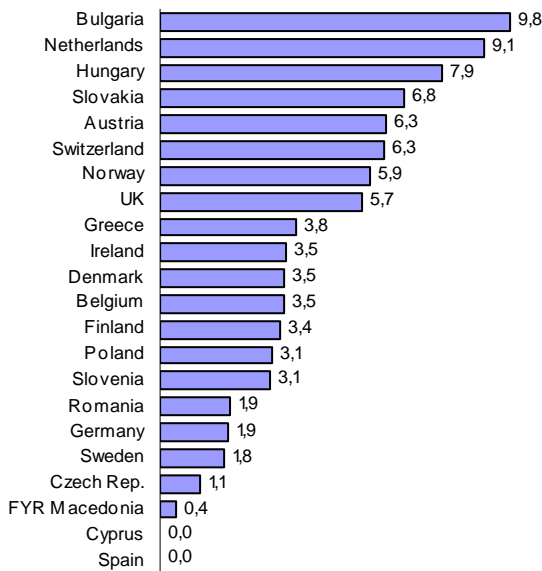
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<sup>4</sup> In this report, the figures reported for the United Kingdom refer to the number of asylum cases. However, the average number of persons per case for unaccompanied and seperated children is expected to be quite low.

applications fell from 2001 to 2002 (-11%), whereas a sharp drop was recorded from 2002 to 2003 (-40%) (see Table 1).

While the absolute number of claims lodged by unaccompanied and separated children appears to be relatively high in some countries, their overall share in total number of claims is limited.

Fig. 1 Percentage of unaccompanied and separated children asylum claims in total claims, 2003

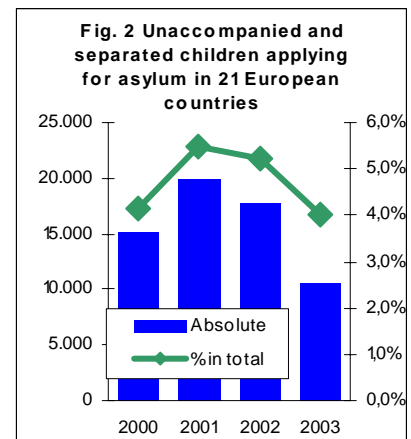


In 2003, unaccompanied and separated children lodged about 4 per cent of the 303,400 new asylum applications submitted in the 28 countries. Among the 22 countries receiving 1,000 or more asylum claims during 2003, the highest number of unaccompanied and separated children asylum claims was lodged in Bulgaria (10%) and the Netherlands (9%), followed by Hungary (8%) and Slovakia (7%). In Germany<sup>5</sup> and Sweden unaccompanied and separated children accounted for less than 2 per cent of all applications submitted only. Three out of the four countries receiving the highest proportion of asylum claims from unaccompanied and separated children are located in Central Europe (see Figure 1).

In the 21 European countries with comparable data, 63,500 unaccompanied and separated children applied for asylum during 2000-2003, constituting 5 per cent of the 1.3 million new asylum applications lodged in these countries during this period. Following a significant increase in 2001 (+32%), the number of new claims lodged by unaccompanied and separated children dropped by 11 per cent in 2002 and by another 40 per cent in 2003.

The decline in minors seeking asylum is largely a reflection of the drop in the total number of asylum claims. Since 2000, the share of unaccompanied and separated children claiming asylum in the total number of applications has declined only slightly, from over 5 per cent in 2001 and 2002 to 4 per cent in 2003 (see Figure 2).

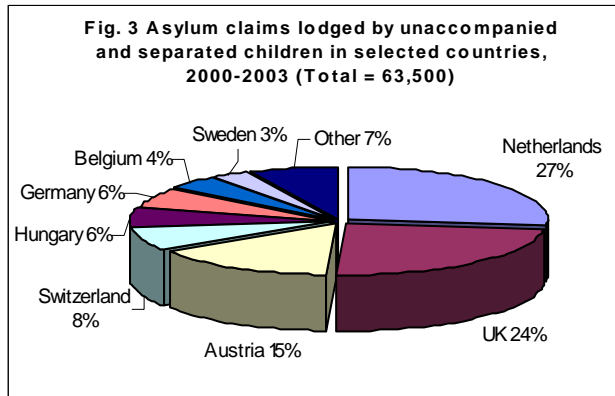
Although the overall proportion of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum in Europe has remained fairly stable, asylum flows to individual asylum countries have changed during the period under review. In 2000, unaccompanied and separated children accounted for 15 per cent of all claims submitted in the Netherlands and Hungary. Following an increase to 21 per cent in Hungary and 18 per cent in the Netherlands during 2001, the proportion of unaccompanied and separated children fell to less than 10 per cent in 2003. At the same time,



<sup>5</sup> According to German law, children above the age of 16 have the right to file an asylum application independently (Section 12, Asylum Procedure Act). These children are not included in the number of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum in Germany. Applications lodged by unaccompanied and separated children aged 16 and above are three to four times higher than of those aged below 16 years. The actual figure would therefore amount to approximately 3,000-4,000 applications lodged by unaccompanied and separated children, constituting some 7 per cent of the total number of claims.

the United Kingdom and Switzerland recorded an increase in the proportion of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum from around 3.5-4 per cent in 2000 to some 6 per cent in 2003.

During 2000-2003, the Netherlands received the largest number of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum (17,100 claims or 27%), followed by the United Kingdom (15,200 or 24%) and Austria (9,200 or 15%) (*see Figure 3*).



### ORIGIN OF UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM

Patterns of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum differ significantly between the receiving countries. In some cases, the destination country of unaccompanied and separated children is similar to that of other asylum-seekers. More often, significant

differences exist between the origin and destination of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum as compared to other asylum-seekers.

During 2001-2003, Afghanistan was the main country of origin of unaccompanied and separated children applying for asylum in 20 European countries with comparable data, accounting for 5,380 of the 39,900 applications lodged (13%). However, Afghanistan was not the major source of all asylum applicants: the total number of Afghan nationals applying for asylum in these 20 countries accounted for only 7 per cent of all claims submitted. Iraqi nationals, who ranked the highest among all asylum-seekers during this period (12%), ranked only third in the case of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum (8%) (*see Table 3, "Total-20"*).

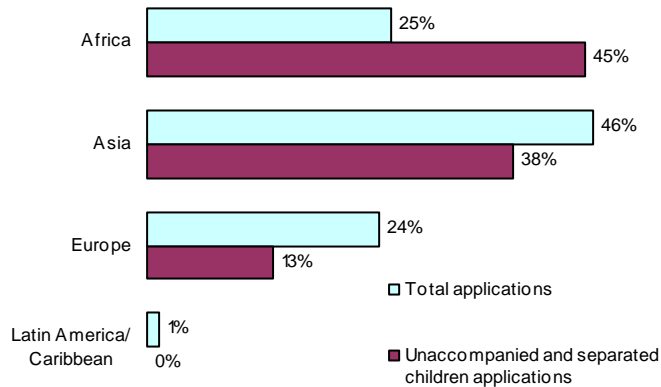
The difference between overall asylum flows and those of unaccompanied and separated children is even greater in the case of Angola. Whereas unaccompanied and separated children from Angola were the second largest nationality claiming asylum (10%), Angolans constituted only 2 per cent of all asylum-seekers in these 20 countries. Consequently, 27 per cent of all Angolan asylum claims were submitted by unaccompanied and separated children. Other major groups of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum during 2001-2003 were from Somalia (2,030), Sierra Leone (2,020), Serbia and Montenegro (2,020), Guinea (1,870), China (1,380), Democratic Republic of the Congo (1,130) and Nigeria (1,110) (*see Table 3, "Total-20"*).

A country-by-country analysis further illustrates the differences in asylum flows between asylum-seekers in general and unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum. In Poland, unaccompanied and separated children from Afghanistan constituted 40 per cent of all unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum during 2001-2003, whereas the share of Afghan nationals in the total number of asylum claims was limited to 8 per cent.

Asylum flows to most countries in Central and Western Europe have been dominated by children from Asia (Afghanistan, Iraq). Some countries in Western Europe have reported

important inflows of children from Africa, in particular Belgium (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda), Ireland (Nigeria), the Netherlands (Angola, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) and Switzerland (Guinea). Unaccompanied and separated children from Somalia predominantly seek asylum in the Nordic countries (*see Table 3*).

Fig. 4 Asylum applications lodged in 20 countries<sup>5</sup>  
by major region of origin, 2001-2003  
(Total = 824,400; UAC/SC = 39,900)



The regional origin of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum confirms the pattern highlighted above. Among the 20 countries with comparable data, almost half (45%) of the children seeking asylum originated from Africa whereas Africans accounted for only 25 per cent among all asylum-seekers. Whereas Africa is thus overrepresented in the asylum flows trend of unaccompanied and separated children, the reverse is true for children from Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. Out of the 39,900 unaccompanied and

separated children seeking asylum during 2001-2003 in the 20 European countries with comparable data, only 13 per cent originated from Europe, compared to 24 per cent for all asylum-seekers (*see Figure 4*).

### AGE AND GENDER OF UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM

While essential for programme intervention and response, data on the gender and in particular the age of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum is less widely available than information on their country of origin. In 2003, the gender of unaccompanied and separated children was reported by 21 asylum countries compared to only 16 countries in 2001.

The available data suggest that the vast majority of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum is male. Of the 9,130 unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum in 2003, only 28 per cent were female. This pattern is generally in line with the gender composition of all asylum-seekers. Notable exceptions are Ireland, where girls lodged 33 to 54 per cent of all claims submitted by unaccompanied and separated children since

Country of asylum	2001			2002			2003		
	0-15	16-17	Total	0-15	16-17	Total	0-15	16-17	Total
	%	%	number	%	%	number	%	%	number
Belgium	..	..	..	..	..	..	31,0	69,0	419
Bulgaria	..	..	..	23,8	76,2	105	45,4	54,6	152
FYR Macedonia	..	..	..	100,0	0,0	1	90,0	10,0	10
Germany	94,9	5,1	1.075	51,0	49,0	873	45,8	54,2	977
Ireland	21,2	78,8	600	22,2	77,8	288	15,5	84,5	277
Malta	0,0	100,0	1	35,7	64,3	14	12,5	87,5	16
Netherlands	50,5	49,5	5.215	50,4	49,6	2.653	45,7	54,3	1.068
New Zealand	38,5	61,5	65	63,6	36,4	11	60,0	40,0	5
Portugal	44,4	55,6	9	38,9	61,1	18	16,7	83,3	6
Switzerland	21,2	78,8	1.238	16,3	83,7	1.518	13,5	86,5	1.531
United Kingdom	..	..	..	36,7	63,3	6.135	40,1	59,9	2.730
Total	49,7	50,3	8.203	37,8	62,2	11.616	34,7	65,3	7.191

Two dots (..) indicate that the figure is not available.  
 Netherlands: 736 (2001), 579 (2002) and 148 (2003) are 18 years or older.  
 Belgium (2003): 171 unaccompanied and separated children are between 18-19.  
 UK: unknown age for 65 (2002) and 70 (2003) unaccompanied and separated children.  
 Germany: unaccompanied and separated children defined as 0-16 years only.

2000, Finland (32-38%) and Sweden (30-35%). In Switzerland, the third largest receiving country in 2003, only 15 per cent of all unaccompanied and separated children claims were lodged by girls. Very few girls seek asylum in Central Europe, particularly in Bulgaria (1-5%), Hungary (3-9%), Poland (11%) and Slovakia (2-5%) (*see Table 2*).

Although the age breakdown of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum is available for some countries, a comparative review is hindered by different reporting formats and difficulties in age assessment.

Among the 11 countries with comparable data for 2003, about one-third of the unaccompanied and separated children are below 15 years of age, whereas two-third is 16 or 17 years. The percentage of older unaccompanied and separated children varies significantly between asylum countries. In the eight countries with comparable data for 2001-2003, it is interesting to note that the average age of unaccompanied and separated children applying for asylum has increased. In 2001, 50 per cent was younger than 16 years compared to 39 and 30 per cent in 2002 and 2003 respectively (*see table on page 6*).

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report has indicated that the size, direction and basic composition of flows of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum in industrialized countries is often different from that of asylum-seekers in general.

Unaccompanied and separated children applying for asylum in Europe tend to be predominantly male, are likely to be 16 or 17 years old and mostly from Afghanistan and Iraq. It was also highlighted that unaccompanied and separated children are almost twice as likely to come from Africa as compared to asylum-seekers in general. Some African nationalities are highly concentrated in one or two Western European countries. In Central Europe, the proportion of males among unaccompanied and separated children was significantly higher than in Western Europe.

This report has highlighted that progress has been made in the collection of data on unaccompanied and separated children applying for asylum with an increasing number of asylum countries being able to provide basic data. Gaps, however, persist in the reporting of many countries. While some countries have established solid statistical systems to trace unaccompanied and separated children, others are not in a position to provide basic information such as the total number of persons seeking asylum, their origin, age or gender. It is recommended that industrialized asylum countries which are not included in some or all of the tables in this report liaise closely with UNHCR to improve their monitoring and reporting systems for unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum.

This report does not cover the adjudication decisions taken regarding the asylum applications lodged by unaccompanied and separated children. Limited evidence suggests however that an international comparison of such data would be extremely difficult considering the paucity of data and the differences between national procedures and reporting formats.

Overall, it can be concluded that national definitions of unaccompanied and separated children vary significantly across countries and are often not in line with international recommendations. As a result, comparative analysis at international level is hindered.

Harmonization of national definitions and reporting formats is required in order to fully understand the scope and nature of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum in industrialized countries and to adequately address their protection needs.



**TRENDS IN UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM  
IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, 2001-2003, UNHCR GENEVA JULY 2004**

**Table 1. Asylum applications lodged in 28 industrialized countries: total and by unaccompanied and separated children (UAC/SC), 2000-2003**

All figures generally refer to first/new applications only. Data for 2003 is provisional and subject to change.

Country of asylum	2000			2001			2002			2003		
	Total applications	of which: UAC/SC		Total applications	of which: UAC/SC		Total applications	of which: UAC/SC		Total applications	of which: UAC/SC	
		Total	%		Total	%		Total	%		Total	%
Austria	18.284	553	3,0	30.135	3.484	11,6	39.354	3.163	8,0	32.342	2.049	6,3
Belgium	42.691	848	2,0	24.549	747	3,0	18.805	603	3,2	16.940	589	3,5
Bulgaria	1.755	44	2,5	2.428	..	-	2.888	205	7,1	1.549	152	9,8
Croatia	24	0	-	85	2	2,4	100	4	4,0	63	6	9,5
Cyprus	651	1	0,2	1.766	0	-	951	0	-	4.411	2	0,0
Czech Rep.	8.788	298	3,4	18.087	280	1,5	8.481	216	2,5	11.396	129	1,1
Denmark	12.200	219	1,8	12.512	239	1,9	6.068	137	2,3	4.557	159	3,5
Finland	3.170	94	3,0	1.651	35	2,1	3.443	68	2,0	3.221	108	3,4
FYR Macedonia	8	0	-	195	0	-	118	1	0,8	2.283	10	0,4
Germany	78.564	946	1,2	88.287	1.068	1,2	71.127	873	1,2	50.563	977	1,9
Greece	3.083	..	-	5.499	206	3,7	5.664	247	4,4	8.178	314	3,8
Hungary	7.801	1.170	15,0	9.554	2.018	21,1	6.412	658	10,3	2.401	190	7,9
Ireland	11.096	300	2,7	10.325	600	5,8	11.634	288	2,5	7.900	277	3,5
Latvia	4	0	-	14	0	-	30	0	-	5	0	-
Liechtenstein	11	..	-	112	2	1,8	96	3	3,1	101	3	3,0
Malta	71	..	-	116	1	0,9	350	14	4,0	568	16	2,8
Netherlands	43.895	6.705	15,3	32.579	5.951	18,3	18.667	3.232	17,3	13.402	1.216	9,1
New Zealand	1.551	..	-	1.601	65	4,1	997	11	1,1	819	5	0,6
Norway	10.842	566	5,2	14.782	..	-	17.480	894	5,1	15.614	916	5,9
Poland	4.589	69	1,5	4.506	80	1,8	5.153	213	4,1	6.921	217	3,1
Portugal	224	10	4,5	234	9	3,8	245	18	7,3	107	6	5,6
Romania	1.366	34	2,5	2.431	121	5,0	1.151	53	4,6	1.077	21	1,9
Slovakia	1.556	145	9,3	8.151	..	-	9.700	1.058	10,9	10.323	704	6,8
Slovenia	9.244	45	0,5	1.511	113	7,5	702	24	3,4	1.100	34	3,1
Spain	7.926	4	0,1	9.489	2	0,0	6.309	1	0,0	5.767	1	0,0
Sweden	16.303	350	2,1	23.515	461	2,0	33.016	550	1,7	31.355	561	1,8
Switzerland	17.611	727	4,1	20.633	1.238	6,0	26.125	1.518	5,8	21.051	1.324	6,3
United Kingdom	80.315	2.730	3,4	71.025	3.470	4,9	84.130	6.200	7,4	49.370	2.800	5,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>383.623</b>	<b>15.858</b>	<b>4,1</b>	<b>395.772</b>	<b>20.192</b>	<b>5,1</b>	<b>379.196</b>	<b>20.252</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>303.384</b>	<b>12.786</b>	<b>4,2</b>
-Europe-21	364.754	15.103	4,1	363.083	19.918	5,5	342.021	17.820	5,2	266.232	10.676	4,0
-EU-12	256.776	11.358	4,4	255.116	12.041	4,7	240.303	11.614	4,8	174.420	6.419	3,7
-Central Europe	35.103	1.805	5,1	46.682	2.612	5,6	34.517	2.427	7,0	34.772	1.447	4,2

**Notes**

A dash (-) indicates that the value is zero. Two dots (..) indicate that the value is not available.

Austria: 2000 figure concerns those who are registered in Vienna only. 2001 figure extrapolated based on July-December data.

Belgium: Source: Aliens' Office.

Croatia: Government procedure only.

Cyprus: UNHCR estimate.

Denmark: all data gross application figure.

Finland (2000) and Slovenia (2000): estimated figures.

Germany: Unaccompanied and separated children are persons below the age of 16 without at least one parent.

United Kingdom: number of cases.

Europe-21: All countries listed except Bulgaria, Greece, Liechtenstein, Malta, New Zealand, Norway and Slovakia.

EU-12: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK.

Central Europe: Bulgaria, Czech Rep., Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Source: Governments. Compiled by UNHCR, Population Data Unit, Geneva.

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IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, 2001-2003, UNHCR GENEVA JULY 2004**

**Table 2. Asylum applications lodged by unaccompanied and separated children by gender, 2000-2003**

All figures generally refer to first/new applications only. Data for 2003 is provisional and subject to change.

Country of asylum	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Total	% Female	Total	% Female	Total	% Female	Total	% Female
Belgium	848	..	747	24,0	603	32,0	589	37,0
Bulgaria	44	4,5	..	..	205	-	152	0,7
Croatia	0	..	2	-	4	-	6	-
Denmark	219	10,0	239	25,1	137	16,1	159	19,5
Finland	94	..	35	31,4	68	38,2	108	32,4
FYR Macedonia	0	..	0	..	1	100,0	10	50,0
Germany	946	25,7	1.068	26,5	873	35,9	977	36,1
Hungary	1.170	..	2.018	5,0	658	8,7	190	3,2
Ireland	300	33,0	600	37,8	288	42,0	277	53,8
Liechtenstein	..	..	2	-	3	-	3	-
Malta	..	..	1	-	14	57,1	16	-
Netherlands	6.705	28,0	5.951	..	3.232	31,2	1.216	31,6
New Zealand	..	..	65	13,8	11	72,7	5	40,0
Poland	69	..	80	..	213	11,3	217	..
Portugal	10	..	9	44,4	18	27,8	6	16,7
Romania	34	-	121	0,8	53	-	21	14,3
Slovakia	145	..	..	..	1.058	1,5	704	5,1
Slovenia	45	..	113	18,6	24	29,2	34	8,8
Spain	4	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
Sweden	350	30,3	461	29,9	550	34,2	561	34,8
Switzerland	727	17,5	1.238	13,7	1.518	13,4	1.324	15,4
United Kingdom	2.730	..	3.470	..	6.200	22,7	2.800	32,9

**Notes**

A dash (-) indicates that the value is zero. Two dots (..) indicate that the value is not available.

Belgium: Source: Aliens' Office.

Croatia: Government procedure only.

Denmark: all data gross application figure.

Finland (2000) and Slovenia (2000): estimated figures.

Germany: Unaccompanied and separated children are persons below the age of 16 without at least one parent.

Netherlands: the gender of 16 (2002) and 14 (2003) unaccompanied and separated children is unknown.

United Kingdom: number of cases.

**Source:** Governments. Compiled by UNHCR, Population Data Unit, Geneva.

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**Table 3. Asylum applications lodged in Europe and New Zealand by origin, 2001-2003**

Data for 2003 are provisional and subject to change. Figures between 1 and 4 have been replaced with an asterisk.  
See footnotes in Table 1.

Total-20*						Europe-19**					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%	Total	%	
Afghanistan	56.222	7	5.378	13	10%	Afghanistan	56.197	7	5.334	13	9%
Angola	14.754	2	3.983	10	27%	Angola	14.754	2	3.983	10	27%
Iraq	99.213	12	3.267	8	3%	Iraq	99.074	12	3.266	8	3%
Somalia	30.772	4	2.030	5	7%	Somalia	30.723	4	2.027	5	7%
Sierra Leone	13.023	2	2.023	5	16%	Sierra Leone	13.017	2	2.023	5	16%
Serbia and M.	64.121	8	2.021	5	3%	Serbia and M.	64.114	8	2.021	5	3%
Guinea	7.297	1	1.865	5	26%	Guinea	7.297	1	1.865	5	26%
China	19.899	2	1.376	3	7%	China	19.480	2	1.374	3	7%
DR of Congo	17.187	2	1.133	3	7%	DR of Congo	17.179	2	1.133	3	7%
Nigeria	21.817	3	1.108	3	5%	Nigeria	21.778	3	1.107	3	5%
Other	480.487	58	15.714	39	3%	Other	477.740	58	15.684	39	3%
Total	824.792	100	39.898	100	5%	Total	821.353	100	39.817	100	5%
* Includes all countries listed below.						** Includes all countries listed below excluding New Zealand.					
Belgium						Croatia (Government procedure)					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%	Total	%	
DR of Congo	4.938	8	304	16	6%	Iraq	26	10	6	50	23%
Rwanda	1.554	3	151	8	10%	Sri Lanka	5	2	*	17	40%
Albania	1.642	3	135	7	8%	Russian Fed.	10	4	*	17	20%
Angola	1.064	2	127	7	12%	Afghanistan	13	5	*	8	8%
Serbia and M.	4.735	8	126	6	3%	Cameroon	*	1	*	8	50%
Guinea	1.363	2	98	5	7%						
Afghanistan	1.159	2	78	4	7%						
Russian Fed.	5.260	9	67	3	1%						
India	864	1	62	3	7%						
Turkey	2.488	4	52	3	2%						
Other	35.227	58	739	38	2%	Other	192	77	-	-	0%
Total	60.294	100	1.939	100	3%	Total	248	100	12	100	5%
Denmark						Finland					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%	Total	%	
Afghanistan	5.599	27	123	23	2%	Somalia	163	2	61	29	37%
Somalia	1.327	6	71	13	5%	Iraq	368	4	22	10	6%
Iraq	3.586	17	66	12	2%	Angola	114	1	22	10	19%
Serbia and M.	2.347	11	36	7	2%	DR of Congo	114	1	16	8	14%
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	599	3	23	4	4%	Sierra Leone	29	0	12	6	41%
Sri Lanka	126	1	19	4	15%	China	42	1	9	4	21%
Occup. Palest. Terr.	504	2	18	3	4%	Serbia and M.	1.113	13	7	3	1%
Algeria	178	1	16	3	9%	Turkey	476	6	6	3	1%
China	168	1	10	2	6%	Romania	741	9	6	3	1%
Guinea	44	0	9	2	20%	Afghanistan	103	1	*	2	4%
Other	6.452	31	144	27	2%	Other	5.052	61	47	22	1%
Total	20.930	100	535	100	3%	Total	8.315	100	212	100	3%
FYR Macedonia						Germany					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%	Total	%	
Serbia and M.	2.582	99	11	100	0%	Afghanistan	10.082	5	382	13	4%
						Viet Nam	8.157	4	335	11	4%
						Turkey	26.745	13	191	7	1%
						Iraq	31.259	15	168	6	1%
						Angola	1.409	1	162	6	11%
						Ethiopia	1.282	1	142	5	11%
						Serbia and M.	19.346	9	137	5	1%
						Syrian Arab Rep.	5.253	3	106	4	2%
						Guinea	1.251	1	97	3	8%
						India	6.633	3	90	3	1%
Other	14	1	-	-	0%	Other	98.560	47	1.115	38	1%
Total	2.596	100	11	100	0%	Total	209.977	100	2.925	100	1%

**TRENDS IN UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM  
IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, 2001-2003, UNHCR GENEVA JULY 2004**

**Table 3. Asylum applications lodged in Europe and New Zealand by origin, 2001-2003**

Data for 2003 are provisional and subject to change. Figures between 1 and 4 have been replaced with an asterisk.  
See footnotes in Table 1.

Greece						Hungary					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%	Total	%	
Afghanistan	3.258	17	309	40	9%	Afghanistan	7.128	39	1.878	66	26%
Iraq	7.370	38	203	26	3%	Bangladesh	1.897	10	320	11	17%
Nigeria	661	3	48	6	7%	Iraq	3.370	18	138	5	4%
Myanmar	420	2	32	4	8%	Sierra Leone	337	2	124	4	37%
Turkey	1.207	6	29	4	2%	Somalia	624	3	123	4	20%
Pakistan	1.183	6	25	3	2%	Nigeria	310	2	56	2	18%
Somalia	472	2	22	3	5%	China	274	1	36	1	13%
Occup. Palest. Terr.	271	1	16	2	6%	India	350	2	32	1	9%
Sierra Leone	322	2	11	1	3%	Pakistan	250	1	24	1	10%
Bangladesh	300	2	11	1	4%	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	474	3	24	1	5%
Other	3.877	20	61	8	2%	Other	3.353	18	111	4	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.341</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>18.367</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.866</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16%</b>
Ireland						Liechtenstein					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%	Total	%	
Nigeria	10.621	36	455	39	4%	Serbia and M.	90	29	*	50	4%
Romania	3.716	12	55	5	1%	Russian Fed.	22	7	*	25	9%
DR of Congo	807	3	49	4	6%	Kazakhstan	6	2	*	13	17%
Angola	384	1	46	4	12%	Tajikistan	*	0	*	13	100%
Rep. of Moldova	1.329	4	46	4	3%						
Sierra Leone	265	1	43	4	16%						
Somalia	330	1	33	3	10%						
Georgia	333	1	27	2	8%						
Cameroon	456	2	20	2	4%						
Ghana	621	2	19	2	3%						
Other	10.997	37	372	32	3%	Other	191	34	-	-	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.859</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.165</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3%</b>
Malta						Netherlands					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%	Total	%	
Ethiopia	58	6	8	26	14%	Angola	6.361	10	2.991	29	47%
Eritrea	136	13	7	23	5%	Sierra Leone	4.334	7	1.181	11	27%
Sudan	107	10	*	13	4%	Guinea	2.141	3	937	9	44%
Liberia	83	8	*	10	4%	China	1.538	2	640	6	42%
Congo	5	0	*	6	40%	Afghanistan	5.173	8	410	4	8%
Chad	11	1	*	6	18%	Somalia	2.082	3	410	4	20%
Afghanistan	11	1	*	3	9%	Togo	917	1	315	3	34%
Somalia	229	22	*	3	0%	Iraq	5.822	9	281	3	5%
Iraq	66	6	*	3	2%	DR of Congo	1.216	2	262	3	22%
Libyan Arab Jamah.	17	2	*	3	6%	Nigeria	1.365	2	153	1	11%
Other	311	30	*	3	0%	Other	33.699	52	2.819	27	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.034</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>64.648</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10.399</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16%</b>
New Zealand						Poland					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%	Total	%	
Afghanistan	25	1	44	54	176%	Afghanistan	1.261	8	205	40	16%
Thailand	932	27	7	9	1%	Russian Fed.	10.119	61	174	34	2%
Sri Lanka	172	5	5	6	3%	India	474	3	28	6	6%
Zimbabwe	256	7	5	6	2%	Iraq	320	2	14	3	4%
Chile	67	2	*	5	6%	Pakistan	237	1	12	2	5%
Somalia	49	1	*	4	6%	Romania	321	2	11	2	3%
Fiji	85	2	*	4	4%	Sri Lanka	91	1	10	2	11%
China	149	4	*	2	1%	China	78	0	7	1	9%
South Africa	31	1	*	2	6%	Armenia	962	6	7	1	1%
Iraq	139	4	*	1	1%	Sierra Leone	16	0	*	1	19%
Other	1.534	45	5	6	0%	Other	2.701	16	36	7	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.439</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>16.580</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3%</b>

**TRENDS IN UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM  
IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, 2001-2003, UNHCR GENEVA JULY 2004**

**Table 3. Asylum applications lodged in Europe and New Zealand by origin, 2001-2003**

Data for 2003 are provisional and subject to change. Figures between 1 and 4 have been replaced with an asterisk.  
See footnotes in Table 1.

Portugal						Romania					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%			
Sierra Leone	76	13	20	63	26%	Afghanistan	838	18	106	54	13%
Angola	101	18	5	16	5%	Somalia	269	6	29	15	11%
Rep. of Moldova	*	1	*	6	50%	Iraq	1.408	30	19	10	1%
Nigeria	8	1	*	3	13%	India	443	10	16	8	4%
China	*	0	*	3	100%	Bangladesh	113	2	15	8	13%
DR of Congo	19	3	*	3	5%	Sierra Leone	39	1	5	3	13%
Côte d'Ivoire	-	0	*	3	0%	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	242	5	*	1	1%
Colombia	14	2	*	3	7%	Sudan	111	2	*	1	2%
						Egypt	35	1	*	1	3%
Other	342	61	-	-	0%	Other	1.161	25	-	-	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4.659</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4%</b>
Slovenia						Sweden					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%			
Sierra Leone	68	2	36	21	53%	Iraq	14.352	16	398	25	3%
Turkey	644	19	18	11	3%	Somalia	4.701	5	242	15	5%
Bangladesh	37	1	15	9	41%	Serbia and M.	14.259	16	134	9	1%
Iraq	537	16	13	8	2%	Afghanistan	1.931	2	132	8	7%
Afghanistan	75	2	12	7	16%	Russian Fed.	3.698	4	44	3	1%
Serbia and M.	507	15	12	7	2%	Bosnia and H.	7.057	8	44	3	1%
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	421	13	10	6	2%	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	2.329	3	42	3	2%
Rep. of Moldova	55	2	8	5	15%	Eritrea	1.058	1	37	2	3%
Algeria	176	5	7	4	4%	Turkey	1.887	2	26	2	1%
FYR Macedonia	189	6	7	4	4%	Stateless	3.184	4	23	1	1%
Other	604	18	33	19	5%	Other	33.423	38	450	29	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.313</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>87.879</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.572</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2%</b>
Switzerland						United Kingdom (number of cases)					
Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total	Origin	Total		UAC/SC		UAC/SC in Total
	Total	%	Total	%			Total	%			
Guinea	2.082	3	651	16	31%	Iraq	25.320	12	1.710	14	7%
Nigeria	1.831	3	223	5	12%	Afghanistan	18.500	9	1.630	13	9%
Iraq	3.827	6	193	5	5%	Serbia and M.	6.350	3	1.380	11	22%
Sierra Leone	1.151	2	190	5	17%	Somalia	18.100	9	800	6	4%
Algeria	2.684	4	181	4	7%	China	9.510	5	540	4	6%
Somalia	1.227	2	171	4	14%	Albania	2.810	1	530	4	19%
Angola	1.797	3	147	4	8%	Angola	3.300	2	470	4	14%
Serbia and M.	10.038	15	126	3	1%	Eritrea	2.750	1	460	4	17%
Ethiopia	933	1	119	3	13%	Viet Nam	1.970	1	390	3	20%
DR of Congo	1.869	3	109	3	6%	Ethiopia	1.950	1	380	3	19%
Other	40.125	59	1.970	48	5%	Other	114.310	56	4.110	33	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.564</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4.080</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>204.870</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12.400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6%</b>

**TRENDS IN UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM  
IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, 2001-2003, UNHCR GENEVA JULY 2004**

<b>Table 4. Asylum applications lodged by unaccompanied and separated children (UAC/SC) in Europe and New Zealand by 25 major origins, 2001-2003</b>								
* See Table 3 for countries included.								
<b>Total-20*</b>								
Origin	UAC/SC applications				Share (%)			
	2001	2002	2003	Total	2001	2002	2003	Total
Afghanistan	2.943	1.725	710	5.378	18	12	8	13
Angola	2.296	1.282	405	3.983	14	9	5	10
Iraq	755	1.855	657	3.267	5	13	7	8
Somalia	698	686	646	2.030	4	5	7	5
Sierra Leone	1.205	658	160	2.023	7	4	2	5
Serbia and M.	680	916	425	2.021	4	6	5	5
Guinea	1.000	491	374	1.865	6	3	4	5
China	549	496	331	1.376	3	3	4	3
DR of Congo	346	456	331	1.133	2	3	4	3
Nigeria	387	429	292	1.108	2	3	3	3
Viet Nam	222	317	308	847	1	2	3	2
Ethiopia	310	312	216	838	2	2	2	2
Albania	217	420	200	837	1	3	2	2
Turkey	309	209	231	749	2	1	3	2
Eritrea	178	310	198	686	1	2	2	2
Russian Federation	182	161	256	599	1	1	3	2
Bangladesh	299	150	82	531	2	1	1	1
India	150	188	164	502	1	1	2	1
Sri Lanka	236	195	46	477	1	1	1	1
Rep. of Moldova	109	216	116	441	1	1	1	1
Algeria	150	147	141	438	1	1	2	1
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	144	145	142	431	1	1	2	1
Romania	131	167	100	398	1	1	1	1
Togo	169	166	43	378	1	1	0	1
Burundi	101	113	135	349	1	1	2	1
Other	2.591	2.503	2.119	7.213	16	17	24	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.357</b>	<b>14.713</b>	<b>8.828</b>	<b>39.898</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Europe-19*</b>								
Origin	UAC/SC applications				Share (%)			
	2001	2002	2003	Total	2001	2002	2003	Total
Afghanistan	2.899	1.725	710	5.334	18	12	8	13
Angola	2.296	1.282	405	3.983	14	9	5	10
Iraq	755	1.854	657	3.266	5	13	7	8
Somalia	697	684	646	2.027	4	5	7	5
Sierra Leone	1.205	658	160	2.023	7	4	2	5
Serbia and M.	680	916	425	2.021	4	6	5	5
Guinea	1.000	491	374	1.865	6	3	4	5
China	547	496	331	1.374	3	3	4	3
DR of Congo	346	456	331	1.133	2	3	4	3
Nigeria	386	429	292	1.107	2	3	3	3
Viet Nam	222	317	308	847	1	2	3	2
Ethiopia	310	312	216	838	2	2	2	2
Albania	217	420	200	837	1	3	2	2
Turkey	309	209	231	749	2	1	3	2
Eritrea	178	310	198	686	1	2	2	2
Russian Federation	182	161	256	599	1	1	3	2
Bangladesh	299	150	82	531	2	1	1	1
India	150	188	163	501	1	1	2	1
Sri Lanka	234	192	46	472	1	1	1	1
Rep. of Moldova	109	216	116	441	1	1	1	1
Algeria	150	147	141	438	1	1	2	1
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	144	145	141	430	1	1	2	1
Romania	131	167	100	398	1	1	1	1
Togo	169	166	43	378	1	1	0	1
Burundi	101	113	135	349	1	1	2	1
Other	2.576	2.498	2.116	7.190	16	17	24	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.292</b>	<b>14.702</b>	<b>8.823</b>	<b>39.817</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>