



UNHCR

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

2003 Quarterly Refugee Trends: Populations and Durable Solutions

*Populations, new arrivals, repatriation and resettlement
in non-industrialized asylum countries,
1 January to 30 September 2003*

12 February 2004

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Division of Operational Support
UNHCR Geneva

<http://www.unhcr.org/statistics>

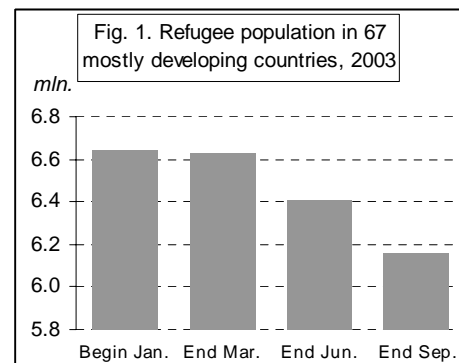
Introduction

1. This report summarizes trends in the refugee population, new arrivals and durable solutions during the period 1 January to 30 September 2003 on the basis of official quarterly statistics reported by 67 UNHCR country offices¹. Whereas the **trends** observed in these 67 countries are likely to be indicative of the global situation, the absolute **levels** of populations and movements are underestimated due to the fact that a significant number of countries are not included².

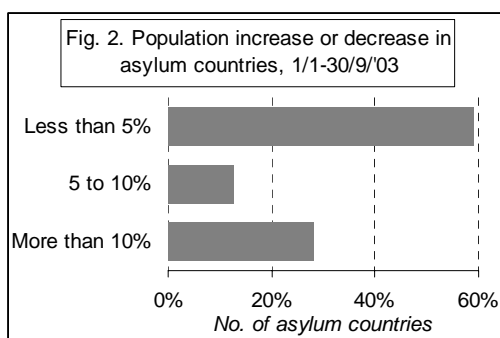
2. This report covers mostly countries where UNHCR is directly involved in protection and assistance activities. Industrialized countries are generally excluded. The data provided herewith should be considered provisional and subject to change.

I. Refugee population size and changes

3. In the 67 countries reporting statistics for the three quarterly periods of 2003, the refugee population decreased with seven per cent, from 6.6 million in early January to 6.2 million by late September³. The change during the third quarter (-4%) was slightly higher than during the second (-3%), whereas the first quarter did not record any change (see *Figure 1*).



4. Among the main asylum countries included in this report, the first nine months showed a significant decline in **Pakistan** (-8%), **Islamic Republic of Iran** (-14%), **Serbia and Montenegro** (-18%) and **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (-18%). Other countries experiencing a significant decrease in the refugee population were **Yemen** (-30%), **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (-19%), **Russian Federation** (-25%) and **Croatia** (-46%). Conversely, asylum countries reporting a steep increase in the number of refugees during the first nine months of 2003 included **Malaysia** (25%), **Ecuador** (43%), **Mauritania** (16%), and **El Salvador** (241%) (see *Table 1*).



5. Overall, the relatively minor changes in the population reflect the protracted nature of most refugee operations. During the first nine months of 2003, 60 per cent of the asylum countries experienced a change in the refugee population of less than five per cent (see *Figure 2*).

6. Most changes in the refugee population are the result of international movements, such as new outflows or returns. However, populations also change due to enumeration activities (census, registration, and verification), demographic changes (births and deaths) as well as legal considerations (e.g. recognition of asylum-

¹ Whereas the statistics generally reflect the view of the host Government, the refugee population figures for the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan are based on UNHCR estimates and may differ from those of the Government.

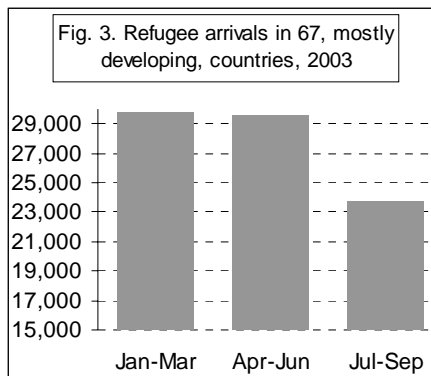
² Each year, a full overview of global trends is provided in UNHCR's annual statistics.

³ If Pakistan and the Islamic Rep. of Iran, the major asylum countries, are excluded, the decrease is limited to five per cent.

seekers, naturalization). The most salient refugee movements during the first nine months of 2003 are discussed below.

II. Refugee arrivals

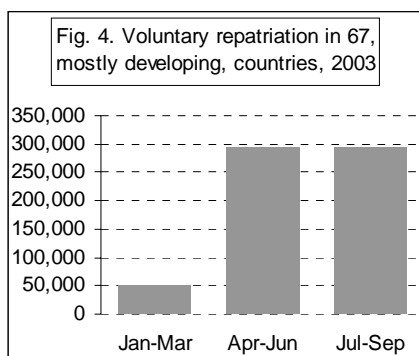
7. Despite the overall decline in the refugee population, some 83,000 new refugee arrivals were reported by the 67 asylum countries during the first nine months of 2003. New arrivals during the third quarter were slightly lower (-20%) than during the second (see Figure 3).



8. Ten of the 67 asylum countries reported refugee inflows exceeding 1,000 persons. **Guinea** reported the arrival of 28,500 refugees during the first nine months of 2003, most of whom originated from Liberia (23,200) and Cote d'Ivoire (5,300). Some 15,200 new arrivals were reported for the **United Rep. of Tanzania**, mostly from Burundi (9,100) and DR Congo (5,700). **Yemen** reported the arrival of 8,300 Somali refugees, whereas some 5,400 refugees from DR Congo arrived in **Zambia**. New arrivals were also reported by **Kenya** (4,200 Sudanese and 2,100 Somali refugees) and **Egypt** (5,400 Sudanese refugees).

9. New refugee inflows were also reported by other asylum countries for part of the reporting period. Thus, **Chad** reported the arrival of 20,800 persons from Central African Republic during the first three months, in **Cote d'Ivoire** 37,000 Liberian arrived during the first six months, **Sierra Leone** recorded the arrival of 14,400 Liberian refugees during the first six months, whereas 5,800 Sudanese refugees fled to **Uganda** during the first six months.

III. Voluntary repatriation



10. During the first nine months of 2003, the 67 asylum countries covered by this report recorded the voluntary repatriation of some 640,000 refugees, most of whom returned during the second and third quarter (see Table 2 and Figure 4)⁴. Eleven of the 67 countries reported repatriation departures involving more than 1,000 refugees. Some 78 per cent of the returns concerned Afghans repatriating from **Pakistan** (315,000) and the **Islamic Rep. of Iran** (188,000).

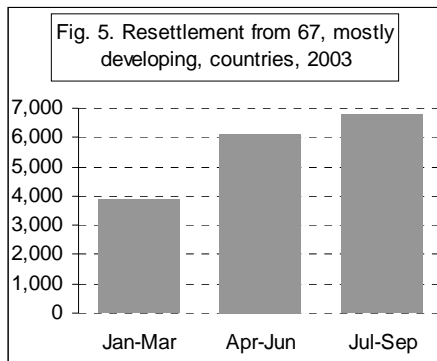
11. Other significant voluntary repatriation movements were reported by **DR Congo** (38,900, including 21,400 Angolan, 9,900 Rwandan and 4,100 Ugandan refugees), **Guinea** (28,500, mostly Sierra Leoneans), **United Rep. of Tanzania** (27,900, including 23,500 Burundi and 4,300 Rwandan refugees), **Zambia** (16,600, mostly Angolan, refugees) and **Ethiopia** (9,000 Somali refugees). Smaller numbers of refugees repatriated from **Serbia and Montenegro** (4,200, of whom 2,000 returned to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)), **Bangladesh** (2,800 returned to Myanmar) and **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (2,400, most of whom returned to Croatia).

⁴ These data are based on reporting from countries of asylum and do not include reports from countries of origin concerning spontaneous refugee returns.

12. The above data suggest that the refugee population decreased significantly during the first nine months of 2003, due to the fact that many refugees were able to return to their country of origin, whereas relatively few persons became newly displaced.

IV. Resettlement

13. From the 67 asylum countries, some 16,800 refugees were resettled during the first nine months of 2003. Quarterly resettlement departures increased from 3,900



during January to March, to 6,100 in April to June and further to 6,800 in July to September (see *Figure 5*). Among the reporting UNHCR offices, 69 per cent were engaged in resettlement activities.

14. During the first nine months of 2003, one-third (33%) of all resettlement departures took place from **Kenya** (5,610). Some 2,500 persons were resettled from **Egypt** (15%), whereas 2,300 refugees were resettled from **Turkey** (14%).

15. Refugee populations who benefited most from resettlement originated from **Sudan** (21%), **Afghanistan** (15%), **Somalia** (14%), **Ethiopia** (13%) and the **Islamic Rep. of Iran** (12%). Together, these five refugee nationalities accounted for 75 per cent of resettlement departures.

Table 1. Total refugee population, 2003								
67 countries for which complete quarterly data were available.								
Country of asylum	Total				Percentage change			
	Begin Jan.	End Mar.	End Jun.	End Sep.	Jan-Mar	Mar-Jun	Jun-Sep	Jan-Sep
Pakistan	1,227,433	1,225,520	1,171,721	1,130,697	0%	-4%	-4%	-8%
Islamic Rep. of Iran	1,306,599	1,285,135	1,201,538	1,117,220	-2%	-7%	-7%	-14%
United Rep. of Tanzania	689,373	692,492	683,861	648,184	0%	-1%	-5%	-6%
China	297,277	297,280	297,275	297,283	0%	0%	0%	0%
Serbia and Montenegro	354,402	344,463	332,999	291,732	-3%	-3%	-12%	-18%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	332,978	324,213	300,334	272,941	-3%	-7%	-9%	-18%
Saudi Arabia	245,290	245,311	245,340	244,144	0%	0%	0%	0%
Armenia	247,550	244,021	242,467	240,484	-1%	-1%	-1%	-3%
Zambia	246,765	249,921	253,554	238,910	1%	1%	-6%	-3%
Kenya	233,671	236,044	237,545	238,233	1%	1%	0%	2%
Guinea	182,163	180,198	175,207	182,336	-1%	-3%	4%	0%
Algeria	169,233	169,234	169,234	169,234	0%	0%	0%	0%
India	168,855	168,766	168,499	167,126	0%	0%	-1%	-1%
Nepal	132,436	132,753	132,984	133,421	0%	0%	0%	1%
Ethiopia	132,940	134,111	135,286	128,610	1%	1%	-5%	-3%
Thailand	112,177	113,190	114,339	117,964	1%	1%	3%	5%
Egypt	80,497	81,174	83,480	85,812	1%	3%	3%	7%
Malaysia	50,612	63,226	63,278	63,252	25%	0%	0%	25%
Cameroon	58,288	58,273	58,244	58,391	0%	0%	0%	0%
Yemen	82,803	88,063	56,568	57,896	6%	-36%	2%	-30%
Central African Rep.	50,725	50,744	51,038	48,084	0%	1%	-6%	-5%
Uzbekistan	44,936	44,924	44,815	44,763	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	28,022	27,883	27,458	22,836	0%	-2%	-17%	-19%
Djibouti	21,702	21,752	22,690	22,774	0%	4%	0%	5%
Bangladesh	22,025	22,038	20,896	19,891	0%	-5%	-5%	-10%
Turkmenistan	13,693	13,685	13,603	13,567	0%	-1%	0%	-1%
Gabon	13,473	13,529	13,312	13,082	0%	-2%	-2%	-3%
Mexico	12,962	12,954	13,120	12,976	0%	1%	-1%	0%
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	11,666	11,315	11,367	11,577	-3%	0%	2%	-1%
Russian Federation	14,969	14,201	12,640	11,273	-5%	-11%	-11%	-25%
Kyrgyzstan	7,708	7,490	8,344	7,992	-3%	11%	-4%	4%
Nigeria	7,355	7,365	7,309	7,309	0%	-1%	0%	-1%
Ecuador	3,418	3,886	4,495	4,896	14%	16%	9%	43%
Croatia	8,392	7,755	5,595	4,544	-8%	-28%	-19%	-46%
Georgia	4,192	4,203	3,830	3,833	0%	-9%	0%	-9%
Brazil	3,175	3,102	3,097	3,148	-2%	0%	2%	-1%
Botswana	2,805	2,809	2,823	2,818	0%	0%	0%	0%
Turkey	3,301	3,621	2,933	2,773	10%	-19%	-5%	-16%
Argentina	2,439	2,488	2,548	2,609	2%	2%	2%	7%
FYR Macedonia	2,816	2,704	2,635	2,607	-4%	-3%	-1%	-7%
Morocco	2,127	2,127	2,122	2,121	0%	0%	0%	0%
Kuwait	1,521	1,522	1,515	1,515	0%	0%	0%	0%
Hong Kong SAR, China	1,491	1,525	1,537	1,492	2%	1%	-3%	0%
Belize	1,049	937	937	887	-11%	0%	-5%	-15%
Cuba	1,005	986	977	849	-2%	-1%	-13%	-16%
Guatemala	733	733	733	733	0%	0%	0%	0%
Peru	688	684	683	685	-1%	0%	0%	0%
Belarus	618	625	633	648	1%	1%	2%	5%
Mauritania	405	414	442	468	2%	7%	6%	16%
Chile	413	436	440	453	6%	1%	3%	10%
Bolivia	350	353	353	353	1%	0%	0%	1%
Nicaragua	325	325	325	324	0%	0%	0%	0%
Azerbaijan	458	389	345	320	-15%	-11%	-7%	-30%
El Salvador	74	248	252	252	235%	2%	0%	241%
Cyprus	173	186	196	217	8%	5%	11%	25%
Somalia	199	206	207	203	4%	0%	-2%	2%
Colombia	205	207	213	192	1%	3%	-10%	-6%
United Arab Emirates	163	159	169	161	-2%	6%	-5%	-1%
Philippines	114	109	109	114	-4%	0%	5%	0%
Uruguay	99	99	100	92	0%	1%	-8%	-7%
Cambodia	200	114	82	86	-43%	-28%	5%	-57%
Venezuela	58	58	58	58	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sri Lanka	28	37	38	31	32%	3%	-18%	11%
Albania	17	18	21	22	6%	17%	5%	29%
Honduras	29	18	21	21	-38%	17%	0%	-28%
Paraguay	21	21	21	21	0%	0%	0%	0%
Singapore	0	1	1	1	..	0%	0%	..
Total	6,643,679	6,624,373	6,410,831	6,159,541	0%	-3%	-4%	-7%

UNHCR Bureau	Country of asylum	New arrivals				Total voluntary repatriation departures				Total resettlement departures			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Total
CA-GL	Central African Rep.	169	241	41	451	26	69	31	126	-	3	8	11
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	996	177	201	1,374	5,369	7,845	25,703	38,917	30	11	-	41
	United Rep. of Tanzania	169	-	75	244	114	229	268	611	8	11	41	60
CASWA NAME	Algeria	1	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Egypt	646	2,964	3,167	6,777	-	4	16	20	472	1,041	1,003	2,516
	Islamic Rep. of Iran	-	-	-	-	20,274	83,512	84,036	187,822	312	85	282	679
	Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	9	74	83	44	75	22	141
	Kuwait	1	-	-	1	-	6	-	6	-	1	-	1
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-	6	53	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mauritania	9	29	35	73	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
	Morocco	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Pakistan	6	15	10	31	5,589	174,208	135,664	315,461	393	439	345	1,177
	Saudi Arabia	11	2	-	13	-	-	1,235	1,235	11	19	1	31
	Turkmenistan	2	-	11	13	-	75	33	108	-	-	14	14
	United Arab Emirates	-	10	8	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
	Uzbekistan	1	9	3	13	13	5	21	39	1	14	48	63
	Yemen	5,103	2,269	938	8,310	-	-	1	1	4	-	31	35
EHA	Djibouti	-	-	-	-	-	246	-	246	-	1	-	1
	Ethiopia	797	380	1,722	2,899	1	-	9,002	9,003	43	127	227	397
	Kenya	1,332	2,138	3,012	6,482	18	179	53	250	818	2,189	2,600	5,607
	Somalia	13	1	-	14	-	-	1	1	-	5	5	10
RBAC	Argentina	24	18	41	83	7	2	-	9	-	-	-	-
	Bolivia	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Brazil	-	6	33	39	-	14	-	14	-	-	-	-
	Belize	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Chile	19	-	16	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Colombia	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Cuba	-	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	12	5	3	20
	Ecuador	486	634	601	1,721	-	-	4	4	18	25	18	61
	Guatemala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Honduras	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mexico	7	176	23	206	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
	Nicaragua	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Paraguay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Peru	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
El Salvador	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Uruguay	-	3	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Venezuela	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
RBAP	Bangladesh	1	-	30	31	197	1,336	1,310	2,843	-	-	-	-
	Cambodia	10	7	8	25	1	1	-	2	94	38	9	141
	China	2	-	7	9	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
	Hong Kong SAR, China	46	20	39	105	-	-	-	-	13	6	65	84
	India	49	61	44	154	151	163	533	847	64	166	251	481
	Sri Lanka	-	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	2	1	13	16
	Malaysia	151	90	137	378	-	-	5	5	78	39	207	324
	Nepal	-	501	261	762	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
	Philippines	-	-	9	9	3	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
	Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Thailand	54	128	383	565	-	-	-	-	111	95	164	370	
RBE	Albania	-	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Armenia	1	-	15	16	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	Azerbaijan	13	18	9	40	-	-	-	-	38	62	34	134
	Belarus	8	8	18	34	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	-	1	3	125	401	1,863	2,389	16	24	19	59
	Cyprus	17	2	16	35	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
	Georgia	-	386	-	386	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
	Croatia	-	-	-	-	313	199	191	703	91	10	3	104
	FYR Macedonia	5	-	5	10	6	53	7	66	111	16	-	127
	Russian Federation	15	23	16	54	-	-	140	140	66	103	107	276
	Turkey	737	395	684	1,816	-	-	-	-	426	1,030	821	2,277
Serbia and Montenegro	1	-	88	89	213	951	3,018	4,182	104	118	195	417	
SAO	Botswana	12	20	25	57	-	-	8	8	3	-	12	15
	Zambia	1,369	2,928	1,629	5,926	281	345	15,929	16,555	65	24	45	134
WA	Cameroon	-	-	-	-	-	23	91	114	11	20	-	31
	Guinea	6,894	12,584	9,033	28,511	8,831	17,699	1,922	28,452	273	125	53	451
	Nigeria	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	56	-	56
Total		29,783	29,576	23,717	83,076	50,736	294,443	292,984	638,163	3,863	6,137	6,782	16,782