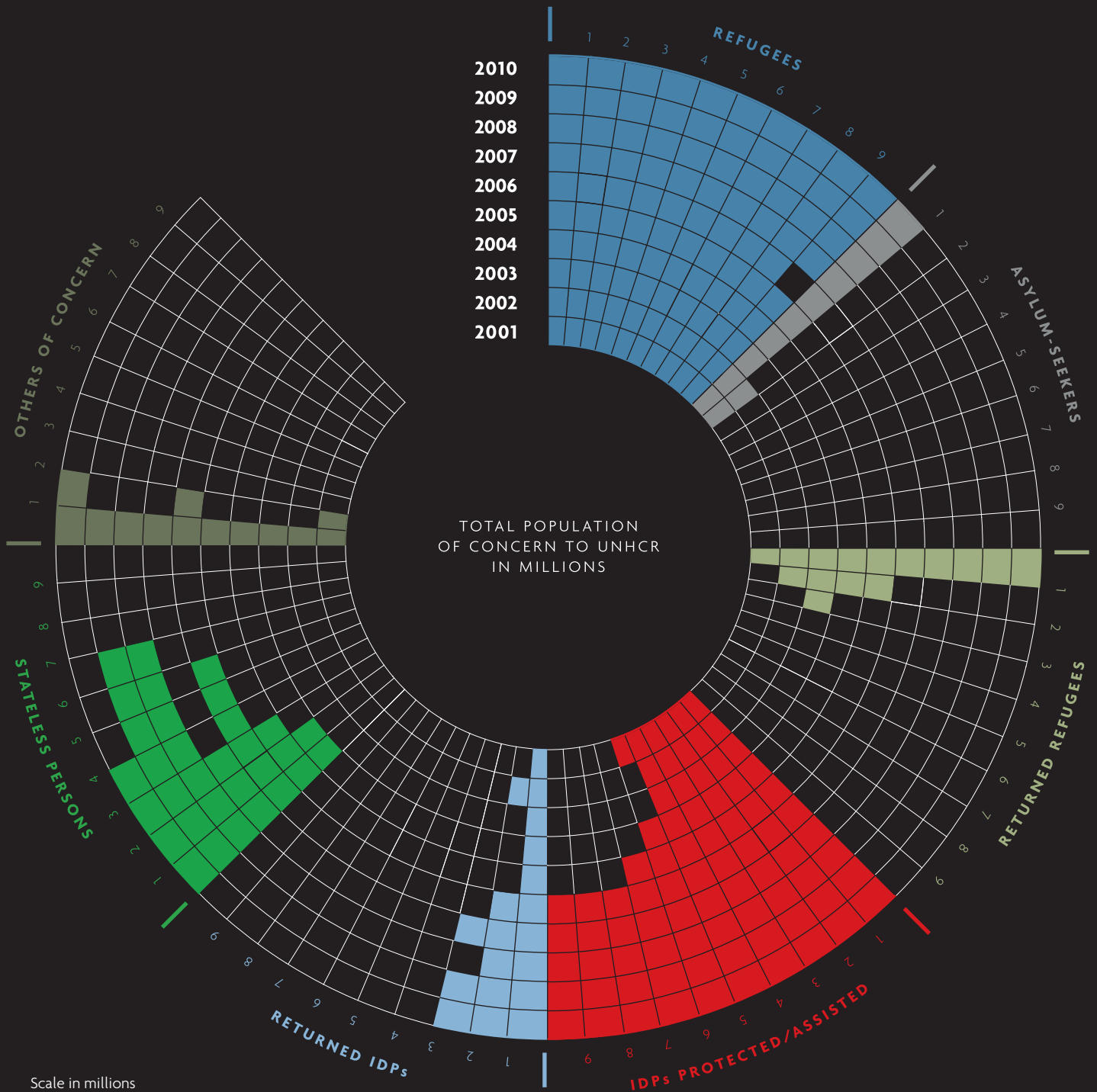
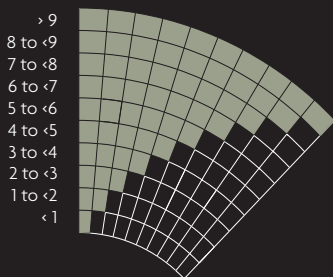


# TEN YEARS OF STATISTICS



Scale in millions



Note: See Table 23 for numbers.



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# Main Findings

This section provides an overview of the major statistical developments in 2010 and a summary of key findings. More detailed analyses, including the definitions used and limitations of the data, are to be found in Chapters I to VI.

## TOTAL POPULATION OF CONCERN

7

The 2010 Statistical Yearbook identifies seven population categories:

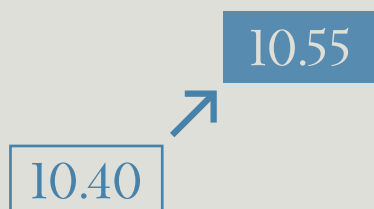
1. REFUGEES;
2. ASYLUM-SEEKERS;
3. INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) PROTECTED/ASSISTED BY UNHCR;
4. STATELESS PERSONS;
5. RETURNED REFUGEES;
6. RETURNED IDPs;
7. OTHERS OF CONCERN

These categories are collectively referred to as “total population of concern” or “persons of concern”.<sup>1</sup>

33.9 MILLION

By the end of 2010, **the total population of concern to UNHCR** was estimated at 33.9 million people, broken down as follows: 10.55 million refugees;<sup>2</sup> 837,500 asylum-seekers; 197,600 refugees who had repatriated during 2010; 14.7 million IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR; 2.9 million IDPs who had returned to their place of origin in 2010; 3.5 million stateless persons; and 1.3 million others of concern.

## REFUGEES



The number of refugees at end 2010 was **10.55 million**, including 597,300 people considered by UNHCR to be in a refugee-like situation. The previous year, the figure was 10.4 million.

1.9 MILLION

**Pakistan**, with 1.9 million refugees, **hosted the highest number of refugees** at the end of 2010. Other major countries of asylum included the Islamic Republic of Iran (1.1 million), the Syrian Arab Republic (1 million; Government estimate), Germany (594,000), Jordan (451,000; Government estimate), and Kenya (403,000).

By the end of 2010, developing countries hosted **8.5 million refugees**, or 80 per cent of the global refugee population. Asia hosted over half of the global refugee population (54%), followed by Africa (23%), Europe (15%), North America (4%), Latin America and the Caribbean (4%), and Oceania (0.3%).<sup>3</sup>

54%

29%

By the end of 2010, according to UNHCR's global estimates, there were **3.05 million Afghan refugees**, accounting for 29 per cent of the global refugee population under UNHCR's responsibility. Iraq was the second largest country of origin of refugees (1.7 million)<sup>4</sup>, followed by Somalia (770,000), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (477,000), and Myanmar (416,000).

<sup>1</sup> For definitions of the various population categories, see Chapter I.

<sup>2</sup> The 4.8 million Palestinian refugees who fall under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) are not included in UNHCR's statistics.

<sup>3</sup> The geographical regions used are those of the United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>).

<sup>4</sup> This includes governmental estimates for Iraqi refugees in Jordan (450,000) and in the Syrian Arab Republic (1 million).

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR's work with IDPs is based on the cluster approach, adopted in 2005 (see footnote 24).

<sup>6</sup> Close to 73,300 refugees were resettled to the United States of America during US Fiscal Year 2010.



14.7  
MILLION

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

↗ 24 COUNTRIES

The number of internally displaced persons, including those in IDP-like situations, benefiting from UNHCR's protection and assistance activities was **14.7 million** at the end of 2010. This was down by 930,000 from 2009, but nonetheless the second highest figure in UNHCR's history, and more than double the figure of 2005 (6.6 million).<sup>5</sup>

UNHCR's statistics included IDP populations in 24 countries. Its offices reported at least **1.3 million IDPs** who were newly displaced in 2010, while at least **2.9 million IDPs** were able to return home during the same period.

## STATELESS PERSONS

↗ 65 COUNTRIES

By the end of 2010, UNHCR identified some **3.5 million** stateless persons in 65 countries. However, the actual number of stateless persons worldwide was estimated at up to **12 million**.

## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

↘ 21%

In 2010, **197,600 refugees repatriated voluntarily** to their home country, 21 per cent less than in 2009 (251,500). **Afghans constituted more than half** (118,000) of all returnees during 2010. Other major countries of return in 2010 were the Democratic Republic of the Congo (16,600), Rwanda (10,900), Sudan (7,100), and Sri Lanka (5,100). Overall, nine countries of origin each reported the return of more than 1,000 refugees.

↗ 98,800

According to government statistics provided to UNHCR, **22 industrialized countries** reported the admission of 98,800 resettled refugees during 2010. This was some 13,600 people less than in 2009 (112,400). The countries resettling most refugees during 2010 were the United States of America (71,400),<sup>6</sup> Canada (12,100), Australia (8,500), Sweden (1,800), and Norway (1,100).

+9%

In 2010, UNHCR submitted more than **108,000 individual cases** for resettlement consideration by States. Nine per cent of all resettlement submissions were for women and girls at risk, the highest percentage over the last five years. During the year, 73,000 refugees departed for resettlement countries with UNHCR's assistance. The highest numbers of refugees were resettled from Nepal (14,800), Thailand (11,400), Malaysia (8,000), the Syrian Arab Republic (7,200), and Turkey (5,300).

↗ 19,400

By nationality, the **main beneficiaries** of resettlement programmes facilitated by UNHCR were refugees from Myanmar (19,400), Iraq (16,000), Bhutan (14,800), Somalia (5,400), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (4,500), and Eritrea (3,300).



## REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION

# 223,000

Some **223,000 asylum-seekers** were either recognized as refugees (175,200) or granted a complementary form of protection (47,800) during 2010. This number includes an estimated 22,700 individuals who initially received negative decisions subsequently overturned at the appeal or review stage.

# 728,000

An estimated 728,000 were initial applications lodged in **first instance procedures**, while **122,200 claims** were submitted on appeal, including to courts.<sup>7</sup>

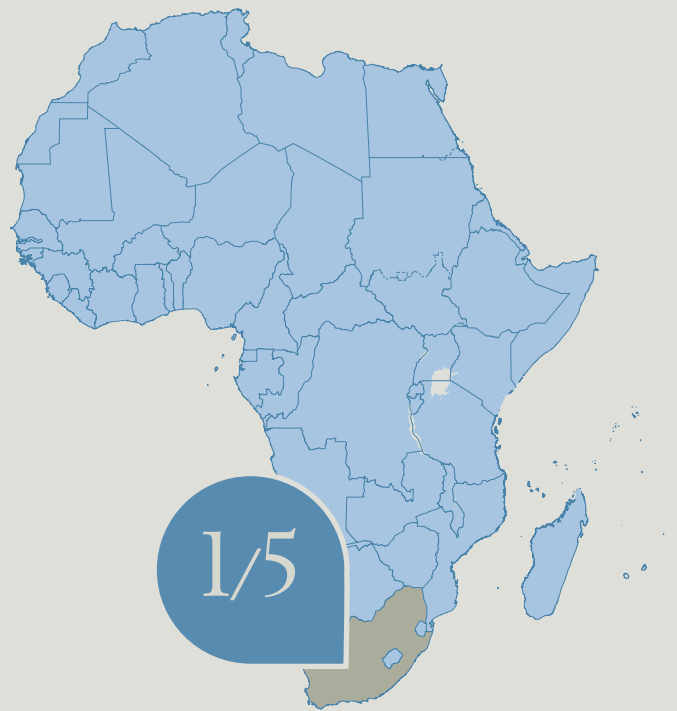
# ↘10%

During 2010, at least **850,200 individual applications** for asylum or refugee status were submitted to governments and UNHCR offices in **167 countries** or territories. This was a 10 per cent decrease compared to the previous year (948,400 claims) and the first drop after three consecutive annual increases. UNHCR offices registered some **96,800 applications**, equivalent to 11 per cent of all applications.

# 373,700

With **373,700 asylum claims** registered during the year, **Europe** remained the primary destination for people applying for asylum on an individual basis, followed by Africa (270,000). The Americas and Asia recorded 117,400 and 77,600 claims respectively, while Oceania received 11,500.

By the end of the year, some **837,500 individuals** were reported to be awaiting a decision on their **asylum claims**.



**South Africa** was an important destination for asylum-seekers with **180,600 new asylum claims** registered in 2010, one fifth of individual applications globally. The United States of America was the second most sought-after destination for new asylum-seekers in 2010, with an estimated 54,300 asylum applications, followed by France (48,100), Germany (41,300), Sweden (31,800), Ecuador (31,400), and Malaysia (25,600).

**1951 Convention refugee status** was granted in 30 per cent of decisions in 2010. This was significantly lower than the year before (38%). With the addition of complementary forms of protection, 39 per cent of all substantive asylum decisions taken in 2010 were positive.

# 30%

# 149,400

**Zimbabwe** was the **largest single country of origin** of asylum-seekers in 2010, with **149,400 new applications** submitted by Zimbabwean nationals during the year. Somalia was the second largest country of origin of asylum-seekers (37,500) in 2010, followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (35,600), Afghanistan (33,500), Colombia (32,300), Serbia (and Kosovo: Security Council resolution 1244 (1999))<sup>8</sup>, (30,500), and Myanmar (27,900).

<sup>7</sup> Statistical information on outcomes of asylum appeals and court proceedings is under-reported in UNHCR statistics, as this type of data is often either not collected by States or not published separately.

<sup>8</sup> Henceforth referred to in this document as "Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999))".



## SEX AND AGE

# 21.0 MILLION

Of the 33.9 million people of concern to UNHCR in 2010, data on **sex** and **age** are available respectively for **21 million people** (60%), and for **14.1 million** (42%). The available disaggregated information by sex revealed that 49 per cent were female: 47 per cent of refugees, 50 per cent of IDPs and returned refugees, and 53 per cent of stateless persons<sup>9</sup>.

# 47%

The disaggregated information on age showed children under the age of 18 to represent an average of some **47 per cent**, of whom **11 per cent were under the age of five**. Close to half of the population were between the ages of 18 and 59 years, whereas 5 per cent were 60 years or older.

# ↗ 292,000

The largest refugee camp in the world was **Hagadera camp in Dadaab, Kenya**, with 101,500 inhabitants at the end of 2010. This camp, along with the Dagahaley and Ifo camps, are part of the Dadaab complex with a total population of more than 292,000 refugees by the end of 2010.

## LOCATIONS

# 11.8 MILLION

In 2010, the **type of location** was reported for some 11.8 million persons of concern, residing mainly in non-industrialized countries.<sup>10</sup> The available data revealed that IDPs (including returned IDPs) predominantly resided in rural areas, refugees and asylum-seekers were more often established in urban areas, and returned refugees were evenly divided between the two.

For the **10.55 million refugees**, the type of accommodation was known for 8.2 million (78%). Approximately one-third were scattered (33%), or residing in camps (30%) or in individual accommodation (29%).

# 33%

# 30%

# 29%

# 44%

Among refugees and people in refugee-like situations, children constituted **44 per cent of the population**. The proportion was significantly higher among refugees who returned home in 2010 (55%).

## HOST COUNTRY CAPACITIES

# 710

**Pakistan** had the largest number of refugees in relation to its economic capacity, **hosting 710 refugees per 1 USD Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (PPP)**<sup>11</sup> per capita.

# 475

**The Democratic Republic of the Congo** was the country with the second largest number of **refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP)** per capita (475 refugees), followed by Kenya (247 refugees), and Chad (225 refugees). The largest refugee-hosting developed country was Germany in 25<sup>th</sup> place, with 17 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita.

<sup>9</sup> Data coverage for this category was limited to 26 per cent. Returned IDPs were excluded due to lack of data.

<sup>10</sup> Although UNHCR offices reported information on the location for a total of 28.4 million persons of concern, the location type for 16.6 million persons (mostly IDPs) was either unclear or a mixture of types.

<sup>11</sup> Purchasing Power Parity. Source for Gross Domestic Product (PPP): International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2011 (accessed 25 April 2011). Source for national populations: United Nations, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*, New York, 2011.



**Some of the newly arrived** Somali refugees in Dadaab, Kenya stay in temporary shelters until being moved to a camp. More than 73,000 Somali refugees arrived in Kenya in 2010.



UNHCR / S. HOIBAK



## Introduction

**F**OR MORE THAN SIXTY YEARS, countries have been providing information to UNHCR concerning the number and conditions of refugees in their territories. Statistics are key to enabling the international community to assess the true dimension of

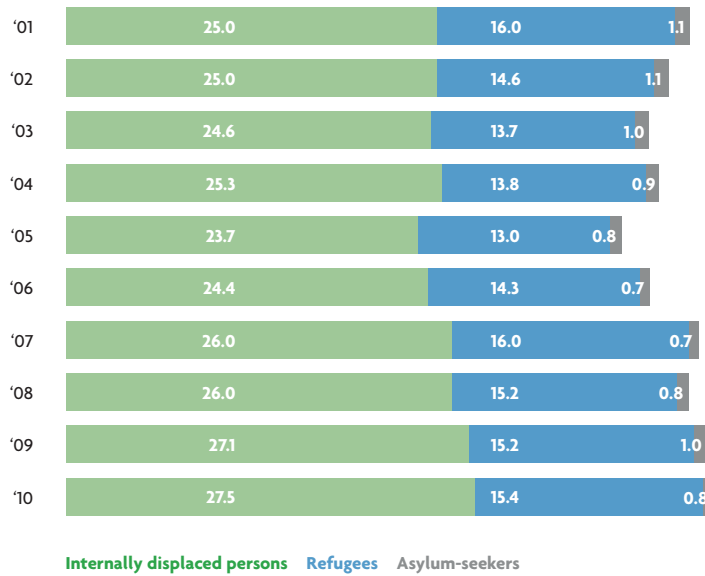
global forced displacement. They also illustrate the many challenges that face countries and UNHCR in protecting refugees and other displaced persons, and in finding solutions to their plight. With the aim of providing a clearer picture of the number and categories of persons in need of

protection, UNHCR has gradually stepped up its statistical activities in recent years.

At a time when UNHCR commemorates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduc-



Fig. 1 Global forced displacement | 2001-2010 (end-year, in millions)



tion of Statelessness, the findings of the tenth edition of the Statistical Yearbook demonstrate the continued relevance of forced displacement and statelessness issues to the international agenda. More importantly, UNHCR's statistics have become invaluable in monitoring the scope and nature of its protection activities, in measuring progress towards achieving durable solutions, designing programmes on the basis of demographic profiles, and in analysing trends in asylum and refugee admission. Users include governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media, academia and the public at large.

The scope of the 2010 Yearbook remains unchanged from previous years. Since the introduction in 2006 of special features on specific topics within regions, the Yearbook has aimed to provide more analytical information designed to facilitate decision-making. In addition to reviewing global statistical trends and shifts in the populations of concern to UNHCR between January and December 2010, the Yearbook provides a number of case studies that examine issues such as health or IDP profiling.

At the end of 2010, an estimated 43.3 million people worldwide were

forcibly displaced due to conflict and persecution, the highest number in more than 15 years. This included 15.4 million refugees,<sup>12</sup> 27.5 million IDPs<sup>13</sup> and close to one million individuals whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated.

The number of returning refugees has decreased continuously since 2004, with 2010 being the lowest level (197,600) in more than two decades. In contrast, the number of returned IDPs

(2.9 million) was the highest in more than a decade. In addition, UNHCR estimated that up to 12 million people were stateless, with reliable statistics for 3.5 million of them.

Information on the demographic composition and location of the popu-

lations falling under UNHCR's responsibility is crucial for planning and monitoring activities. In 2010, more than 15,500 unaccompanied or separated children, mainly from Afghanistan and Somalia, filed asylum applications. According to UNHCR data, more than 72,000 unaccompanied or separated children have lodged asylum claims over the past five years.<sup>14</sup> The many protection risks facing Afghan unaccompanied children have been highlighted in a recent UNHCR evaluation report.<sup>15</sup>

In addition to conflict-generated displacement, UNHCR has responded to several humanitarian needs arising from natural disasters. An estimated two million people benefited from UNHCR's interventions in natural disasters in 2010, including those in Benin, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Uganda. However, natural disaster-related statistics are beyond the scope of this Yearbook. Likewise, although global migration has important implications for the institution of asylum, the Yearbook does not address mixed migration flows, mainly due to the lack of reliable and precise statistical data on this phenomenon.

For the most part, statistics reflected in this Yearbook are those reported by UNHCR country offices drawn ei-

## AN ESTIMATED 43.3 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE WERE FORCIBLY DISPLACED DUE TO CONFLICT AND PERSECUTION

ther from their own data or those of the government. The use of estimates is clearly indicated.

The 2010 Statistical Yearbook comprises a **Global Analysis** and a series of tables in the **Annex**. The Global Analysis includes six chapters, five the-

<sup>12</sup> This figure includes 4.82 million Palestinian refugees who fall under the responsibility of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

<sup>13</sup> Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

<sup>14</sup> In 2006, UNHCR began a systematic collection of data on unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum.

<sup>15</sup> *Trees only move in the wind: A study of unaccompanied children in Europe*, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4c1229669.html>



An internally displaced person is leaving Kalma camp in south Darfur to return to his village in west Darfur, Sudan. UNHCR and OCHA distributed non-food items including blankets, jerry cans and sleeping mats to each household ahead of their journey.

matic or regional boxes and five maps, providing a detailed insight into global trends, levels and patterns in populations under UNHCR's mandate. **Chapter I** describes data sources and methodology. Its purpose is to present the meta-data needed to understand and interpret UNHCR's published data, focusing on basic concepts and definitions, data collection and estimation methods, and issues of data quality. **Chapter II** presents a global overview of the size, main origins and destinations of the populations of concern to UNHCR in 2010. **Chapter III** focuses on the main population movements during 2010, with particular emphasis on durable solutions and new refugee outflows. **Chapter IV** provides an overview of asylum applications and components of the refugee status deter-

mination process. Demographic characteristics (sex and age) are discussed in **Chapter V**, which also provides information on the types of locations of populations. **Chapter VI** illustrates the potential use of available data for evidence-based decision-making, providing case studies on selected public health trends of refugees, the needs assessment survey of IDPs in Serbia, and the specific situation of people displaced in the East and Horn of Africa.

The five boxes provide a brief overview of a variety of topics that include capacity-building activities for UNHCR staff, the Operational Data Management Learning Programme (ODMLP), and the demographic profile of unaccompanied and separated children who have sought asylum in 2010. In addition, some of the latest

statistics are presented in the form of five world maps.

The tables appearing in the Annex provide additional detailed data for 2010. Statistical data on historical trends that allow an easy global comparison of trends by region and by country for all major themes can be found on UNHCR's statistical website ([www.unhcr.org/statistics](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics)) and downloaded from UNHCR's Statistical Online Population Database at [www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase).

Some data contained in this publication may differ from those published earlier due to retroactive adjustments or the inclusion of previously unavailable data. It is expected that the data contained in the 2010 Yearbook will likewise be subject to minor future adjustments. ■



**Internally displaced persons in a camp** near the city of Sukker in Sindh, Pakistan. This family, together with millions of other Pakistanis, was affected by severe flooding.



# Sources, Methods and Data Considerations

**B**OTH THE 1951 CONVENTION Relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>16</sup> and the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees<sup>17</sup> refer to the responsibility of States to provide statistical data to UNHCR. This includes statistics on the number and condition of refugees, asylum-seekers and other people of concern to the Office. UNHCR also collects and disseminates information on internally displaced persons (IDPs) that include statistics on their numbers and profiles.

By monitoring returnees (both refugees and IDPs) UNHCR endeavours to determine the magnitude and sustainability of returns. It engages with governments and partners within the humanitarian community both to provide comprehensive assessments of the numbers involved, and to identify protection gaps and needs of refugees, IDPs, stateless persons, returnees and other populations of concern

to the Office. Complex factors influence the availability, timeliness, quality and comparability of the statistics, and complicate the task of providing these assessments.

The main purpose of this chapter is to present the basic concepts underlying the data presented in this Yearbook. These include definitions, classifications, estimation methods and other aspects of data quality. Most of the statistics have been collected through UNHCR's Annual Statistical Reports<sup>18</sup>, and generally reflect the definition and data collection methods of governments, except in countries where only UNHCR registration systems are used.

## DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE

UNHCR identifies seven population categories, collectively referred to as “persons of concern”: (1) refugees; (2) asylum-seekers; (3) internally displaced persons; (4) refugees who have returned home (returnees); (5) IDPs

who have returned home; (6) stateless persons; and (7) other people who do not fall under any of the above categories but to whom the Office extends protection. In 2007, two sub-categories were introduced: (a) people in refugee-like situations (included under refugees); and (b) people in IDP-like situations (included under IDPs).

**Refugees** include individuals recognized under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; individuals recognized under the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; those recognized in accordance with the UNHCR Statute; individuals granted complementary forms of protection<sup>19</sup> and those enjoying “temporary protection”<sup>20</sup>. The refugee category also includes people in a refugee-like situation.<sup>21</sup>

**Asylum-seekers** (“pending cases”) are individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not yet

<sup>16</sup> “...the Contracting States undertake to provide them 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>17</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).

<sup>18</sup> The Annual Statistical Report is the official data collection form completed by all UNHCR country offices.

<sup>19</sup> Complementary protection refers to protection provided under national, regional or international law to people who do not qualify for refugee protection under refugee law instruments but are in need of international protection because they are at risk of serious harm.

<sup>20</sup> Temporary protection refers to arrangements developed to offer protection of a temporary nature until such time the situation in the country of origin improves and allows for a safe and dignified return or individual refugee or complementary protection status determination can be carried out.

<sup>21</sup> The term is descriptive in nature and includes groups of people who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.

been determined. Those covered in this report refer to claimants whose individual applications were pending at the end of 2010, irrespective of when they may have been lodged.

**Internally displaced persons (IDPs)** are people or groups of individuals who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural/man-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international border.<sup>22</sup>

UNHCR is involved in situations of internal displacement in a number of countries. The populations reported in its statistics are limited to conflict-generated IDPs, or persons in an IDP-like situation<sup>23</sup>, to whom the Office extends protection or assistance. UNHCR's IDP statistics do not therefore necessarily reflect the entire IDP population in a given country, but only those who are protected and/or assisted by the Office. Moreover, under the cluster approach<sup>24</sup> UNHCR provides support to both IDPs and other affected persons, whereas the latter are not included in the statistics. Hence, UNHCR's statistics do not provide a comprehensive picture of global internal displacement, nor of total numbers assisted by the Office in such situations.<sup>25</sup>

**Returned refugees** (returnees) refer to refugees who have returned voluntarily to their countries of origin or habitual residence. For purposes of this report, only refugees who returned between January and December 2010 are included. In practice, operations may assist returnees for longer periods.

**Returned IDPs** refer to those IDPs who were beneficiaries of UNHCR's protection and assistance activities and who returned to their areas of ori-

gin or habitual residence between January and December 2010. In practice, operations may assist IDP returnees for longer periods.

**Stateless persons** are defined under international law as persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. In other words, they do not possess the nationality of any State. UNHCR statistics mainly refer to persons who fall under the international definition of a stateless person, but data from some countries also include *de facto* stateless persons, as well as persons who are unable to establish their nationality. UNHCR has been given a global mandate by the United Nations General Assembly to contribute to the prevention and reduction of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons. The Office also has specific functions under Article 11 of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness to receive claims from persons who may benefit from the safeguards contained in that Convention and to assist them and the States concerned to resolve those claims. UNHCR's Executive Com-

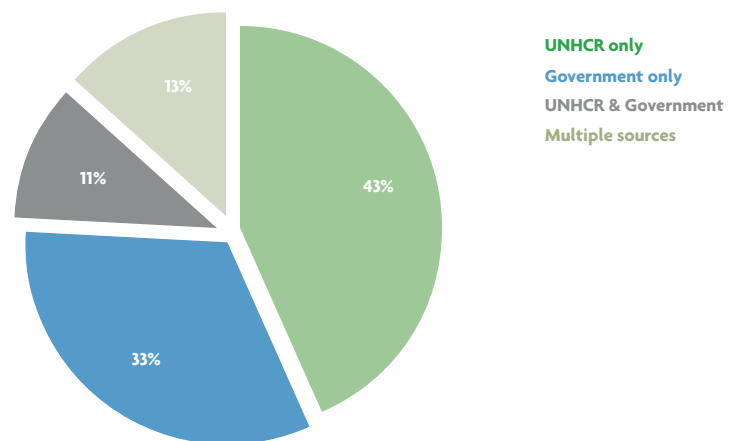
mittee has requested the Office to report regularly on the magnitude of the phenomenon.

**Other groups or people of concern** refer to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of the groups above, but to whom UNHCR has extended its protection and/or assistance services, based on humanitarian or other special grounds.

## SOURCES OF REFUGEE DATA

States bear the main responsibility to provide refugee data to UNHCR. Nevertheless, the number of data sources used to establish the size and characteristics of a refugee population varies within and among countries. Governmental agencies and UNHCR offices are the main data providers, either separately or jointly. NGOs are also key providers of refugee data in a number of countries. These three sources have accounted for more than 90 per cent of UNHCR's refugee statistics. Censuses, registration, surveys, or estimation were the main methods used to determine the figures in 2010. Although one source may provide all

Fig. 1.1 Sources of refugee data | 2010



<sup>22</sup> See: *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Addendum to the Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission (on Human Rights) Resolution 1997/39, E/CN.4/1998/53/Add2 (1998).*

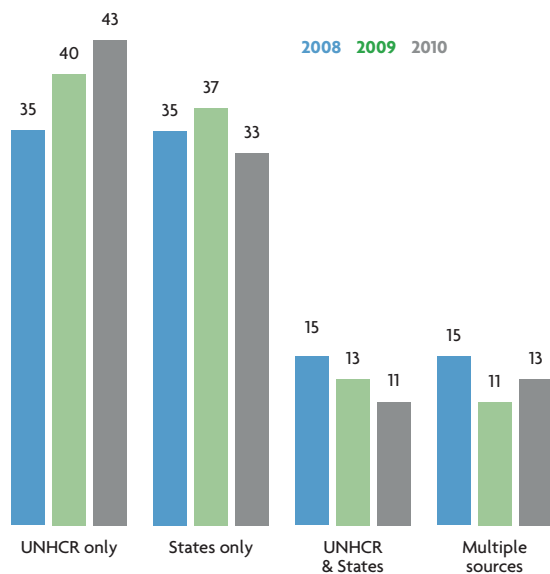
<sup>23</sup> The term is descriptive in nature and includes groups of people who are inside their country of nationality or habitual residence, and who face protection risks similar to IDPs but who, for practical or other reasons, could not be reported as such.

<sup>24</sup> In December 2005, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee endorsed the "cluster" approach for handling situations of internal displacement. Under this arrangement, UNHCR assumes leadership responsibility and accountability for three of the nine clusters, namely: protection; emergency shelter; and camp coordination and camp management.

<sup>25</sup> Global IDP estimates are provided by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), available at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).



**Fig. 1.2 Trends in sources of refugee data (%)**  
| 2008-2010



the data within a given country, more commonly more than one source is used to obtain data on refugees.

In 2010, information on data sources was provided by 175 countries and territories. Joint governmental and UNHCR statistics were quoted as the single source or one of the main sources in over 150 countries. The host government was the sole data provider of refugee statistics in 57 countries (33%). This represented a small decrease compared to 2009 (37%), and resulted from the inclusion of a number of Pacific and Caribbean islands where UNHCR was in many cases the primary source of information.

Despite UNHCR's efforts to transfer responsibility for data collection to States, the capacity of a number of countries to provide refugee statistics is limited, and this responsibility remains with UNHCR. At the end of 2010, the Office was reported as the single source of refugee statistics in 76 countries (43%), 3 per cent more than the previous year. Together, States and UNHCR accounted for 76 per cent of global refugee data as compared to 60 per cent in 2006. The number of countries where UNHCR and the government were jointly re-

sponsible for refugee statistics has decreased in recent years. At the end of 2010, in only 19 countries (11%) the collection and provision of statistics was reported as a combined undertaking whereas in 2006, one in four countries (25%) reported a joint responsibility for refugee statistics.

Multiple sources that can include UNHCR, governments, NGOs and others, were reported in 23 countries (13%). Forty-two countries reported receiving data from more than one source.

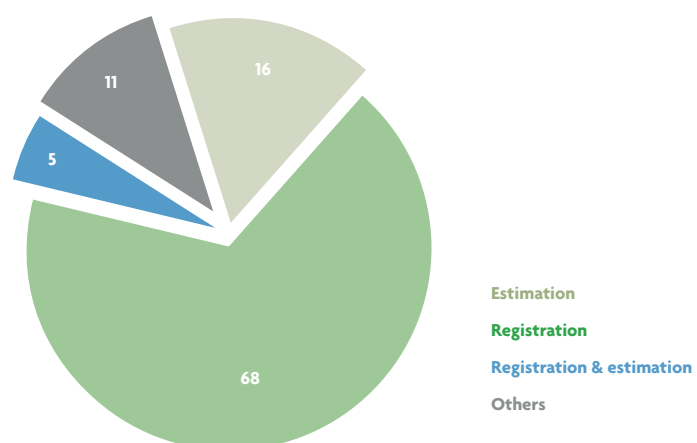
#### DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Together with its partners, UNHCR uses a wide range of data collection methods such as registration/registers, surveys, censuses, and estimations, to provide a comprehensive picture of persons of concern to the Office. Each method has its own strengths and limitations. To ensure the comparability of data across population categories and countries, UNHCR ensures that statistics from all these sources are triangulated.

Registration is a vital source of statistics for planning and management purposes. It often establishes a legal or administrative record, as evidence of legal status, or provides the basis for the delivery of entitlements and services. For protection to be effective and comprehensive, reliable registration is therefore imperative. UNHCR's registration software *proGres*<sup>26</sup> has helped provide meaningful, consistent and up-to-date statistics. In 2010, this software was used in 82 countries, including its application by governments in six countries.

During the registration process, data are collected, verified and updated for each individual or household. They include name, sex, date of birth, country of origin, relationships within the household, marital status, place of displacement and specific needs. The data are normally stored

**Fig. 1.3 Basis of refugee data | 2010**



<sup>26</sup> Profile Global Registration System.



## Sources, Methods and Data Considerations

in *proGres*, complemented as needed by paper files or additional case management tools.

Periodic registration exercises often lead to a revision of population estimates. Refugee statistics are generally based on individual registration records kept either by the host government, by UNHCR, or jointly. Although registration is a government responsibility, UNHCR may assist or undertake registration activities if the government is unable to perform this task.

Registration was the method of data collection most frequently used in 2010, and represented the only method in 116 of the 172 countries and territories (67%) that reported on data collection methods. Although registration is the most reliable source of refugee data, many refugees are not able or willing to be registered. For this reason, in 22 other countries (13%) registration was combined with estimation or other methods to obtain overall refugee figures.

Estimation is the second main data collection method used by UNHCR and partners. In most industrialized countries, which do not provide information on the number of refugees, UNHCR estimates this number using official data on the number of asylum-seekers recognized over a 10-year period. In 2010, estimation as the sole source was used in 24 countries (16%), most of them industrialized. It was combined with registration and other methods in 12 other countries.<sup>27</sup>

The example of Poland (*see right box*) illustrates the estimation process in industrialized countries. Ten years are assumed to be the average time required for a refugee to acquire the nationality of his/her host country.

Estimation methods are also often used to gather IDP statistics. In view of the operational and legal difficulties involved in registering IDPs on

### Example: Poland

- Asylum-seekers granted Convention refugee status, 2001-2010: **2,538**
- Asylum-seekers granted a complementary form of protection, subsidiary protection and/or allowed to remain in the country for humanitarian reasons, 2001-2010: **13,017**
- UNHCR estimate of the refugee population in Poland, end of 2010: **15,555**.

an individual basis,<sup>28</sup> most humanitarian agencies rely on IDP profiling. This allows them to obtain a more accurate picture of IDP populations, and to identify where they are located, what are the difficulties of dis-

<sup>27</sup> Since many countries now have access to *proGres*, estimation is rarely used in non-industrialized countries.

<sup>28</sup> See [www.humanitarianreform.org](http://www.humanitarianreform.org)



## Improving data management in UNHCR

**Strengthening UNHCR's capacity** for evidence-based planning and results-based management depends heavily on good operational data. Proper data management can help reinforce the monitoring systems in operations, helping UNHCR and partners conduct needs assessment, undertake protection case management activities and deliver assistance. To this effect, UNHCR launched the Operational Data Management Learning Programme (ODMLP) in 2007. The principle goal of the ODMLP was to train UNHCR staff to be able to design, operate and maintain robust monitoring systems, and to interpret

the resulting information in order to support good programme decisions.

**The ODMLP is a cross-sectional** learning programme that has been developed to improve data collection and management capacity in UNHCR operations. The data collection and management principles taught in the curriculum apply to all displaced populations equally well and use examples from all UNHCR activities including registration, child protection, health, and durable solutions.

**The ODMLP starts with** a six-month self-study phase followed

by hands-on training. The programme requires participants to apply what they have learned in their operation, with direct and positive impact on operations and on the population of concern. Projects have included developing Standard Operating Procedures on how assistance is recorded in UNHCR's registration software *proGres* to avoid duplication of assistance; designing a process flow for fraud reporting; GIS project mapping to make graphical representation of camps; tools for earmarking resources, and training initiatives that focus on population tracking, data confidentiality and

data collection methods and analysis. Participants have developed tools that track reintegration projects, and monitor returns. Over 220 staff members have been trained since 2007 with an average 89 per cent completion rate in the self-study phase, and an average 82 per cent completion rate in the graduation phase.

**These projects have assisted operations** to directly address weaknesses in their information systems, while allowing staff to apply the concepts and principles from the ODMLP to real-life operational situations. ●



UNHCR / S. KRITSANAVARIN

**Refugee children in Nayapara camp, Bangladesh play on swings in the refugee camp.**

tinguishing IDPs from host communities, and to compile baseline information for protection, programming and advocacy purposes.<sup>29</sup>

In some countries, more than two methods have been used, making data comparability difficult. UNHCR has thus ensured that statistics from all sources were triangulated to increase the reliability and quality of the data. This has required regular interaction with the stakeholders involved in collecting and compiling statistics.

#### OTHER DATA QUALITY ISSUES

Historical data pertaining to the former USSR are reported under the Russian Federation, while those for the former Czechoslovakia are reported under the Czech Republic. Data for the former Yugoslavia as well as Serbia and Montenegro have been reported under Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)). In most tables in the Annex, the word “Democratic” has been abbreviated to “Dem.”, whereas the word “Republic” is often reflected as “Rep.”

Figures below 1,000 are generally rounded to the nearest 10; figures between 1,000 and 10,000 are rounded to the nearest 100; figures between 10,000 and 100,000 are rounded to the nearest 1,000; figures between 100,000 and 1 million are rounded to the nearest 10,000; and figures above 1 million are rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Unless specified, the 2010 Statistical Yearbook does not refer to events occurring after 31 December 2010. ■

<sup>29</sup> See [www.IDP-profiling.org](http://www.IDP-profiling.org)



**A Palestinian asylum-seeker** with his children in front of a reception centre in the town of Banya, Bulgaria.



# 2 Population Levels and Trends

**T**HIS CHAPTER describes the major trends and developments in population figures between January and December 2010, reviewing changes in the size, origin and flows of refugees, returnees, stateless persons and certain internally displaced persons - collectively referred to as “persons of concern” to UNHCR. Palestinian refugees who fall under the mandate of UNRWA are not included. Likewise,

this chapter only covers IDPs generated by conflict, and who benefited directly or indirectly from UNHCR’s protection and/or assistance activities.

With UNHCR commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, stateless persons feature prominently in this chapter, including the results of major surveys undertaken in Serbia and Myanmar to identify protection and assistance gaps.

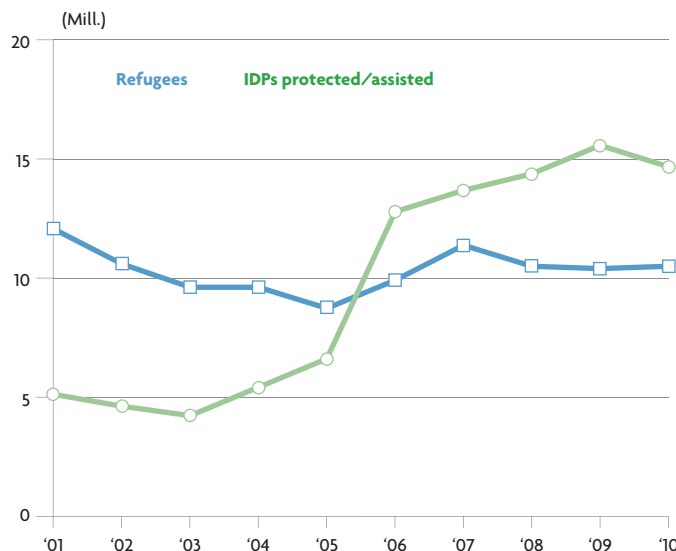
### OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL TRENDS

By the end of 2010, the total population under UNHCR’s responsibility stood at 33.9 million. This figure takes account of new displacements, durable solutions, legal and demographic changes, improved availability of data, and revised estimates. The analysis presented in the Yearbook is based on individual population groups.

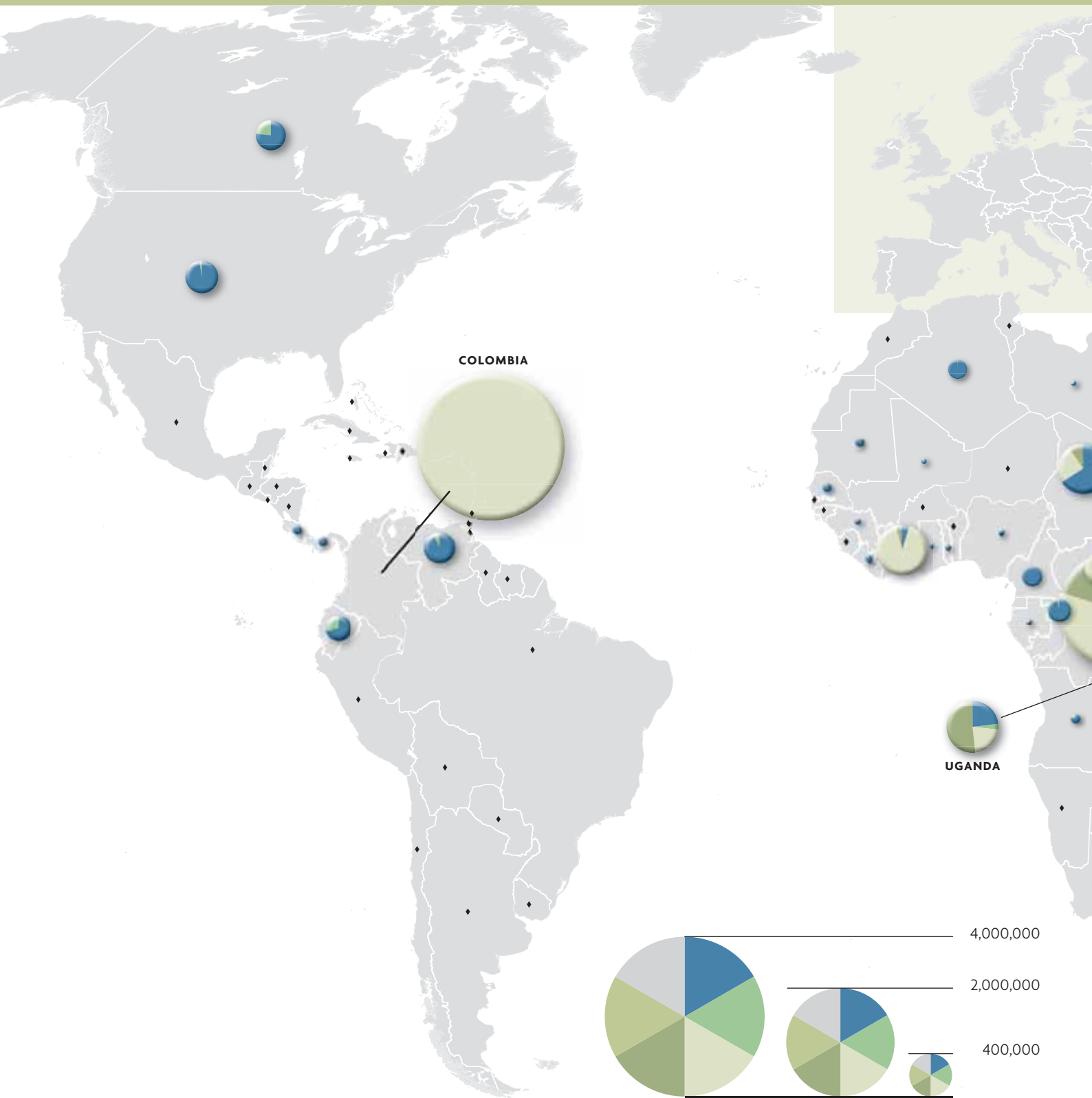
By the end of 2010, there were more than 10.55 million refugees under UNHCR’s responsibility, including some 597,000 people in refugee-like situations.<sup>30</sup> A total of 14.7 million IDPs, including more than 242,000 people in IDP-like situations, were receiving humanitarian assistance under arrangements in which UNHCR was either the lead agency or a key partner. This was the second highest figure on record.

While an estimated 2.9 million IDPs were able to return home during the year, the highest level in at least a decade, only 197,600 refugees repatriated voluntarily, the lowest number in more than 20 years. The asylum-seeker population, composed of persons whose asylum applications had not been adjudicated by the end of 2010 was estimated at

**Fig. II.1** Refugees and IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR | 2001-2010 (end-year)



<sup>30</sup> Of whom four-fifths are located in Bangladesh, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).



- Refugees<sup>(1)</sup>
- Asylum-seekers (pending cases)
- IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR<sup>(2)</sup>
- Returned refugees, returned IDPs
- Stateless persons
- Others of concern

◆ Total population below 10,000  
 1 Including people in refugee-like situations  
 2 Including people in IDP-like situations



IRAQ

837,500. During 2010, UNHCR identified 3.5 million stateless persons in 65 countries and estimated the total number of stateless persons worldwide at three times higher that number, or up to 12 million people.<sup>31</sup> In addition, some 1.3 million individuals (qualified as “other groups or people of concern”) did not fall into any of the above categories, but received protection and/or assistance from UNHCR based on humanitarian or other special grounds.

### REFUGEES

#### Regions and countries of asylum

The number of refugees under UNHCR’s mandate at the end of 2010 was 10.55 million, an increase of 153,000 refugees (+1.5%) compared to 2009. The continued deterioration of the situation in Somalia accounted for most of this increase, as more than 119,000 Somalis sought refuge in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Yemen during the year. Overall, increases in refugee numbers in certain countries were largely offset by the voluntary return of 197,600 refugees, mainly to Afghanistan.

By the end of 2010, women and girls constituted slightly less than half (47%) of all refugees globally.<sup>32</sup> Developing countries hosted 8.5 million refugees, or four-fifths of the global refugee population. The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to almost 2 million refugees (19%).<sup>33</sup>

Table II.1 (below) shows that more than one-third (38%) of all refugees were residing in countries covered by UNHCR’s Asia and Pacific region, and that 2.9 million or three-quarters of them were Afghans. Sub-Saharan Africa was host to one-fifth of all refugees, primarily from Somalia (482,500), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (442,200), and Sudan (351,600). The Middle East and North Africa region hosted 18 per cent of the world’s refugees, mainly from Iraq (almost 1.5 million according to Government estimates), while Europe hosted 15 per cent. The largest refugee groups in Europe were from Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)) (180,400), Iraq (152,600), and Turkey (125,800). The Americas region hosted the smallest share of refugees (8%), with Colombians (391,900)<sup>34</sup> constituting the largest number in this region.

A decrease in the number of refugees was observed in the Middle East and North Africa region, where figures dropped by 3 per cent during the year. This decrease was primarily

## Most refugees flee to neighbouring countries

**Available statistical evidence** demonstrates that most refugees remain in their region of origin, rather than seeking refuge elsewhere. By the end of 2010, three quarters of the world’s refugees were residing in a country neighbouring their own.

### The major refugee-generating regions

hosted on average between 76 and 92 per cent of refugees from within the same region. UNHCR estimated that in 2010 some 1.7 million refugees (17% out of the total of 10.55 million) lived outside their region of origin. ●

the result of revised estimates. The Syrian Government figure for Iraqi refugees was revised downward by 50,000, based on the assumption that a number of Iraqis had left during the year either to return to Iraq or to move onward to other countries. Similarly, the number of Iraqi refugees in Lebanon was revised from 50,000 to 7,600.<sup>35</sup> Conversely, 18,400 Somali refugees arrived in Yemen during the year.

<sup>31</sup> Excluding refugees and asylum-seekers who were also stateless, whose numbers are reflected in the figures for the relevant refugee and asylum-seeker groups.

<sup>32</sup> See Chapter V for more details on the demographic composition of refugees.

<sup>33</sup> See <http://www.unohrrls.org> for countries included.

<sup>34</sup> Including 285,400 Colombians considered to be in a refugee-like situation.

<sup>35</sup> This number reflects a notable decrease from that recorded for 2009, which was based on outdated estimates. Recent field assessments concluded that the more accurate figure is that of refugees registered with UNHCR. These conclusions have not been refuted.

TABLE II.1 Refugee population by UNHCR regions | 2010

UNHCR regions	Start-2010			End-2010			Change (total)	
	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total refugees	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total refugees	Increase/Decrease	%
Central Africa and Great Lakes	945,200	24,100	969,300	976,300	-	976,300	7,000	0.7%
East and Horn of Africa	779,200	33,900	813,100	858,900	34,300	893,200	80,100	9.9%
Southern Africa	143,400	-	143,400	146,200	-	146,200	2,800	2.0%
West Africa	149,000	-	149,000	168,300	-	168,300	19,300	13.0%
Africa* Subtotal	2,016,800	58,000	2,074,800	2,149,700	34,300	2,184,000	109,200	5.3%
Americas	520,000	293,200	813,200	513,500	290,500	804,000	-9,200	-1.1%
Asia and Pacific	2,666,000	1,189,400	3,855,400	3,793,900	220,200	4,014,100	158,700	4.1%
Europe	1,641,700	5,600	1,647,300	1,605,600	1,000	1,606,600	-40,700	-2.5%
Middle East and North Africa	1,962,300	43,500	2,005,800	1,889,700	51,300	1,941,000	-64,800	-3.2%
Total	8,806,800	1,589,700	10,396,500	9,952,400	597,300	10,549,700	153,200	1.5%

#### Note

\* Excluding North Africa.



In sub-Saharan Africa, the number of refugees had declined for the previous nine consecutive years. However, in 2010 this trend was reversed due to renewed or ongoing conflicts in various parts of the continent. By end 2010, there were close to 2.2 million refugees in sub-Saharan Africa, roughly 110,000 more than at the start of the year. Nevertheless, this figure remained far below the figure 10 years ago, in 2000, when more than 3.4 million people were displaced in sub-Saharan Africa.

Due to violence in southern and central Somalia and the effects of drought, more than 119,000 Somalis left their homes during the year and sought refuge abroad, mainly in Kenya (73,700) and Ethiopia (24,100). Armed conflict and human rights violations in Côte d'Ivoire,<sup>36</sup> the Central

African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, led to new refugee outflows and the movement of 47,000 people, primarily to the Republic of the Congo (21,000), Liberia (18,100), and Uganda (4,000). Nevertheless, some 43,000 refugees across sub-Saharan Africa returned home voluntarily, notably to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (16,600), Rwanda (10,900), Sudan (7,100), and Burundi (4,800).

In the Americas, the refugee population decreased marginally (-1.1%). UNHCR revised downwards, by 10,900, its estimate for the refugee population in the United States of America.<sup>37</sup> Some 7,900 Colombians were granted refugee status in Ecuador while the number of Colombians in Ecuador assessed to be in a refugee-like situation was adjusted from

71,400 to 68,300, as a result of an enhanced registration exercise.<sup>38</sup>

In the Asia and Pacific region, the total number of refugees, including people in a refugee-like situation, was estimated at 4 million at the end of 2010, an increase of 4 per cent during the year. This was due in part to the revision of the estimated number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan from 1.7 to 1.9 million.<sup>39</sup>

In Europe, the refugee population decreased by 40,700 people (-2.5%) to 1.6 million at end of 2010. The drop was mainly a result of registration and verification exercises conducted in the Balkans. In Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)), the number of Bosnian and Croatian refugees decreased by nearly 13,000 people when figures were adjusted following a consolidation of refugee databases, which revealed that many who had achieved a durable solution either in Serbia or Croatia were still registered as refugees in Serbia. Likewise, the Government of Montenegro adjusted refugee figures from 24,000 to 16,400, following a comprehensive registration ex-

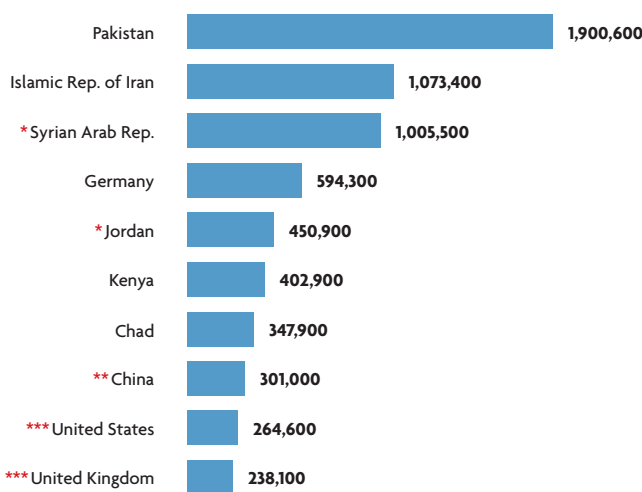
<sup>36</sup> At the peak of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, the number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia and other countries in the region surpassed 200,000.

<sup>37</sup> In the absence of official refugee statistics, UNHCR is required to estimate refugee populations in 24 industrialized countries.

<sup>38</sup> Following a comprehensive survey carried out by the Government and UNHCR in 2007-2008, to determine the magnitude and the profile of the Colombian population, and to assess the main protection gaps.

<sup>39</sup> This is an estimate of the number of Afghan refugees registered with the Government of Pakistan, and is subject to change after completion of the verification exercise ongoing at the time of reporting.

Fig. 11.2 Major refugee hosting countries | end-2010



\* Government estimate.

\*\* The 300,000 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.

\*\*\* UNHCR estimate based on 10 years of individual recognition of asylum-seekers. Figures exclude resettled refugees.

## Protracted refugee situations

**UNHCR defines** a protracted refugee situation as one in which 25,000 or more refugees of the same nationality have been in exile for five years or longer in a given asylum country. Based on this definition, it is estimated that some 7.2 million refugees were in a protracted situation by end 2010. This was the highest number since 2001. Iraqi refugees in Jordan and in the Syrian Arab Republic are now considered to be in a protracted situation. The 7.2 million refugees living in 24 host countries accounted for a total of 29 protracted situations globally.

**For more information on** the different ways used to calculate protracted refugee situations, see the 2007 *Statistical Yearbook*, pp. 41-44, UNHCR, Geneva. ●

ercise among refugees from several Balkan states.

The 10 major refugee-hosting countries in 2010 were the same as in 2009, all of them maintaining their individual rankings. Together these 10 countries accounted for 62 per cent of all refugees under UNHCR's mandate (see *Figure II.2*). As in 2009, Pakistan was the country with the largest number of refugees (1.9 million) globally, nearly all from Afghanistan, with an increase of 160,000 in the total refugee population of the country. The Islamic Republic of Iran hosted slightly over 1 million refugees, again almost all Afghans, whose number remained virtually unchanged from 2009. According to Government estimates, the Syrian Arab Republic was host to one million Iraqi refugees, making it the third largest refugee-hosting country, despite a downward revision of 5 per cent (-49,000 people) based on an assumption that a number of Iraqis had departed the country. Germany and Jordan<sup>40</sup> reported 594,300 and 450,900 refugees, respectively, at the end of the year.

Kenya was the sixth largest hosting country at the end of 2010, with almost 403,000 refugees. The overall figure increased by 44,000 people during the year (+12%), mainly as a result of new arrivals from Somalia. In 2009 and 2010, Kenya witnessed the arrival of over 150,000 Somali refugees, stretching the capacity of the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps to a maximum. In Chad, the refugee population increased to 347,900 by the end of 2010 (+3%) due to new arrivals from the Central African Republic and Sudan.

In 2008, Ethiopia was host to 83,600 refugees and the 27<sup>th</sup> largest refugee-hosting country in the world. This was the lowest level for Ethiopia in almost three decades. Since 2008

however, refugee figures nearly doubled with the arrival of tens of thousands of Eritrean and Somali refugees. By the end of 2010, the refugee population had grown to 154,300, making Ethiopia host to the 19<sup>th</sup> largest refugee population globally.

### Capacities and contributions of host countries

Ideally, the impact of hosting refugees should be quantifiable in terms of the national and international protection and assistance refugees receive, as well as the contributions they make to the host country. In practice, however, comprehensive and comparable data are not available to allow this.

Countries with strong economies are more likely to be capable of absorbing and supporting refugees. For comparative purposes, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (PPP)<sup>41</sup> per capita<sup>42</sup> is widely used to measure and compare levels of relative wealth and development. However, GDP (PPP) does not reflect the sometimes very unequal distribution of wealth, nor adequately reflect the informal economy, which is often sizeable in developing countries.

Nonetheless, comparing the refugee population size with the average income level of a country according to the GDP (PPP) per capita, a measure can be obtained of the relative impact of hosting refugees. If the number of

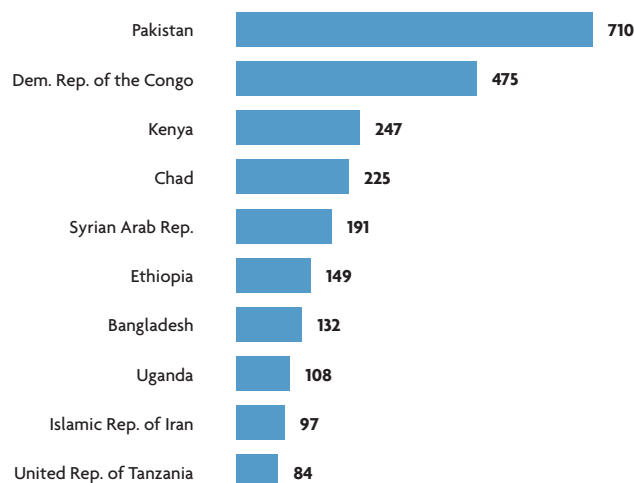
refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita is high, the relative contribution of countries compared to their national economy can be considered as high. The 20 countries with the highest number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita are all developing countries, including 12 Least Developed Countries. Moreover, more than 4.4 million refugees, representing 42 per cent of the world's refugees, resided in countries whose GDP (PPP) per capita was below USD 3,000.

At the end of 2010, Pakistan had the highest number of refugees compared to its national economy (see *Figure II.3*), hosting 710 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was second with 475 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita, followed by Kenya (247), Chad (225), the Syrian Arab Republic (191), and Ethiopia (149). The first developed country was Germany, in 25<sup>th</sup> place, with 17 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita.

### Origins

With more than 3 million refugees in 75 countries, Afghanistan remained the leading country of origin of refugees in 2010. On average, three out of ten refugees in the world were from Afghanistan, 96 per cent of them located in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iraqis were the se-

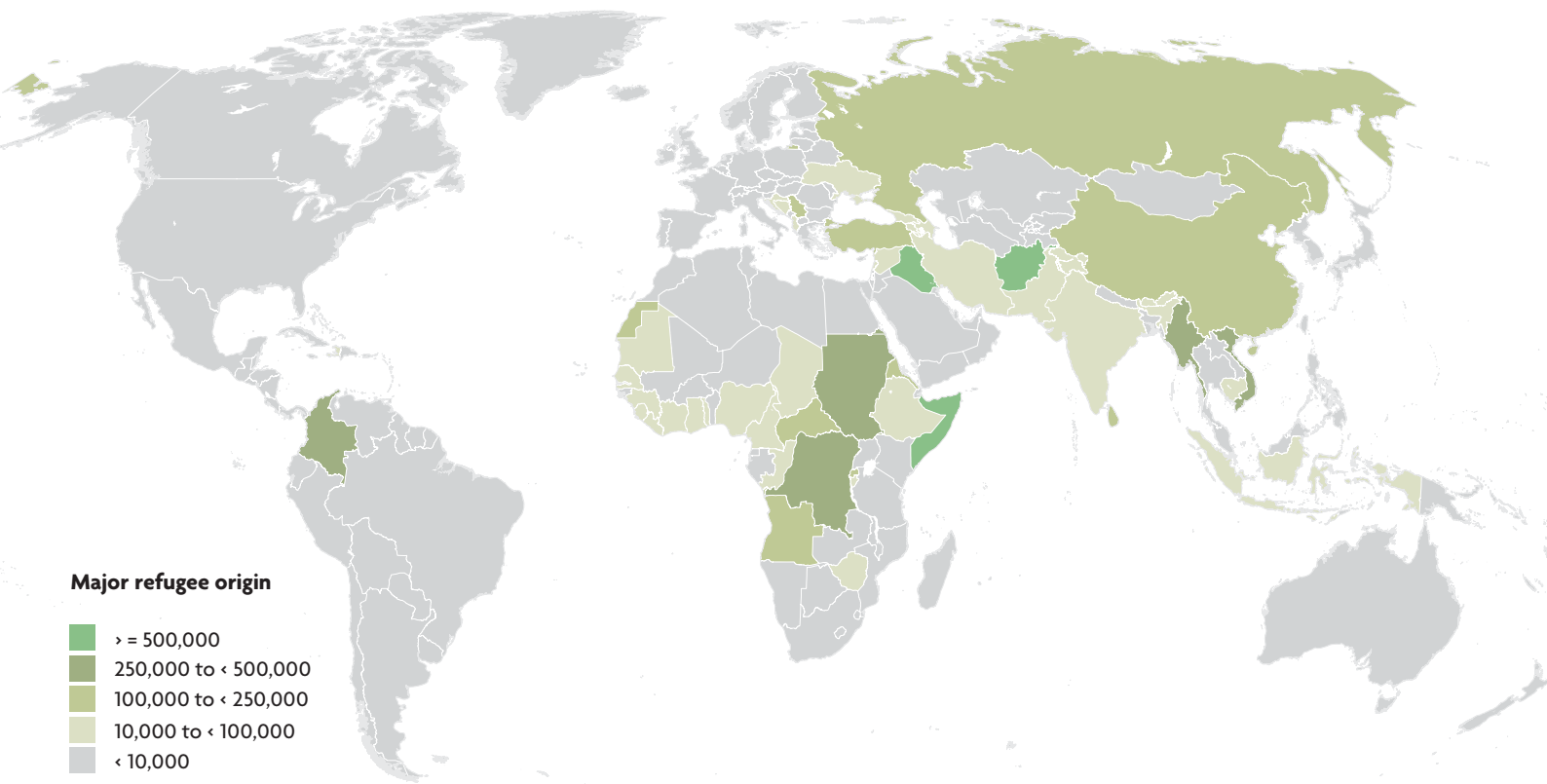
**Fig. II.3** Number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita | 2010



<sup>40</sup> Number of Iraqis in Jordan as estimated by the Government.

<sup>41</sup> Source for GDP (PPP): International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2011 (accessed 25 April 2011).

<sup>42</sup> Source for national populations: United Nations, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*, New York, 2011.



cond largest group, with an estimated 1.7 million mainly in neighbouring countries. Afghan and Iraqi refugees accounted for almost half (45%) of all refugees under UNHCR's responsibility worldwide (see Map 2 above).

Somalis constituted the third largest refugee group under UNHCR's responsibility, with 770,200 persons at the end of 2010, twice as many as in 2005. Compared to 2009, the number of Somali refugees increased by nearly 92,000 people (+14%). In recent years conditions in Somalia have deteriorated, particularly in the central and southern areas of the country, creating difficulties for UNHCR and other organizations to reach populations in need of assistance. More than 119,000 Somalis fled their country during 2010, primarily to Kenya (73,700), Ethiopia (24,100), Yemen (18,400), and Djibouti (3,300). In addition, tens of thousands were newly displaced within Somalia during the year.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo was the fourth largest country of origin, with 476,700 refugees under UNHCR's mandate at the end of 2010. An estimated 25,000 people fled the country during 2010, mainly to the Republic of the Congo and Uganda. Over the past decade, more than

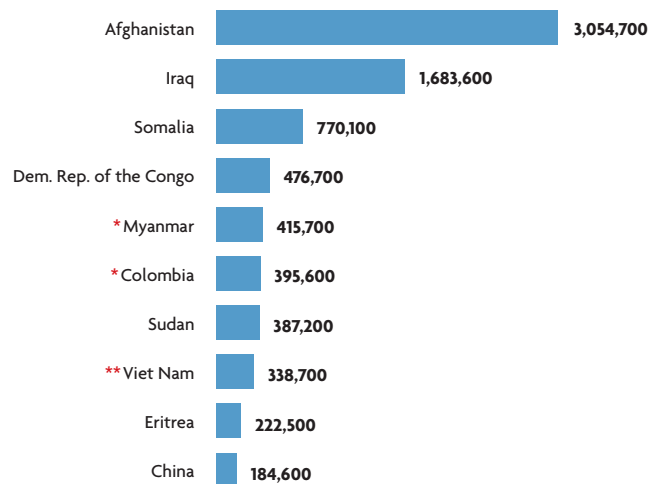
400,000 Congolese from the Democratic Republic of the Congo have fled to neighbouring countries to escape violence and armed conflict.

Other major countries of origin were Myanmar (415,700), Colombia (395,600), and Sudan (387,200). In the case of refugees from Myanmar, the figure includes an estimated 200,000 unregistered people in Bangladesh. In the case of Colombians, the fig-

ure includes 113,200 refugees as well 282,400 people in a refugee-like situation in Ecuador, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and other countries in the region.

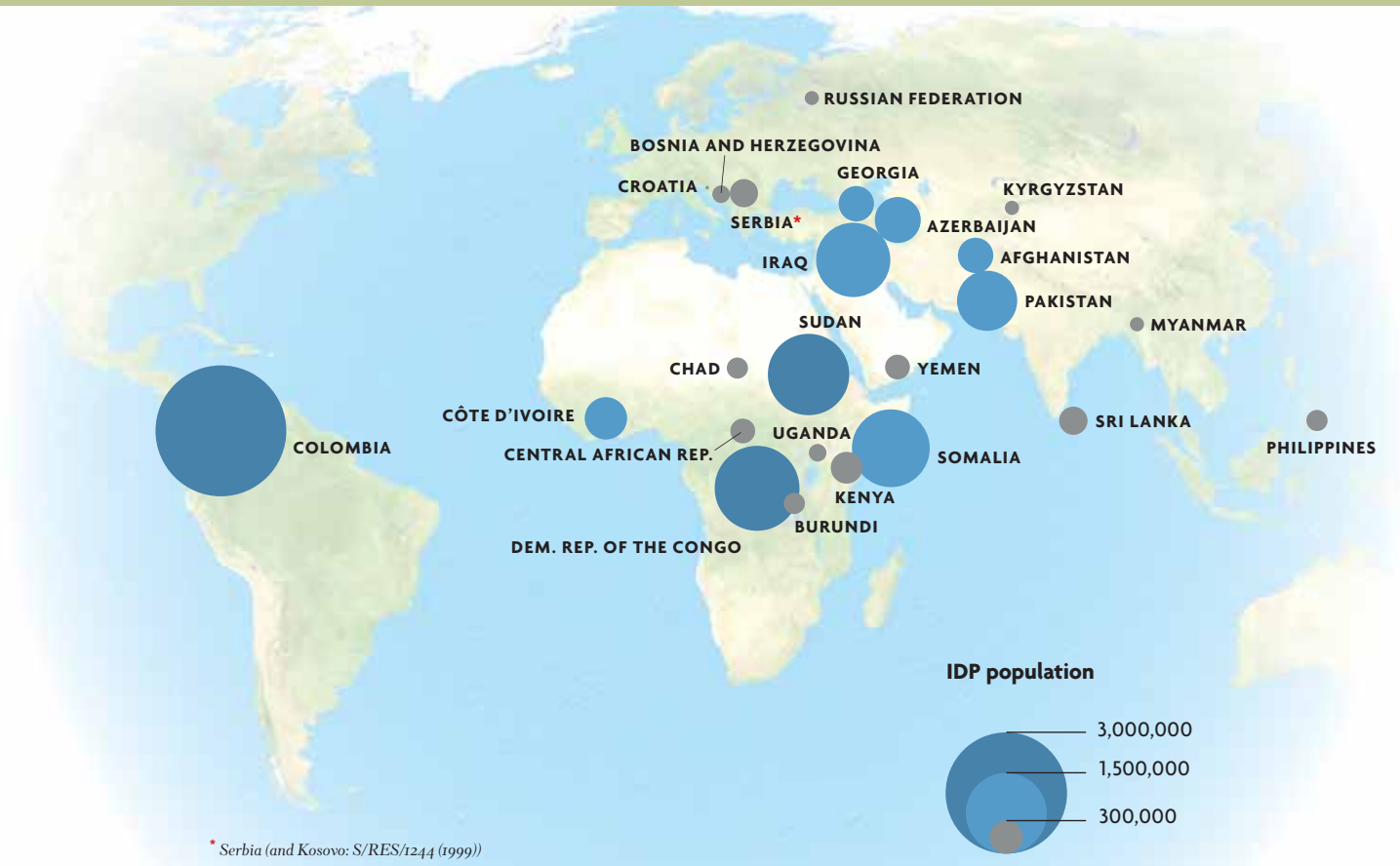
The number of Sudanese refugees has decreased for five consecutive years following the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries to southern Sudan. However, in 2010 the numbers

Fig. 11.4 Major source countries of refugees | end-2010



\* Includes people in a refugee-like situation.

\*\* The 300,000 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.



of Sudanese refugees increased by some 19,000 people compared to 2009, mainly due to the situation in Darfur and southern Sudan.

**ASYLUM-SEEKERS**

The asylum-seekers included in the total population of concern to UNHCR are people whose applications for asylum or refugee status are awaiting a final decision. The figures in this chapter refer to claimants whose applications were pending as of the end of 2010, irrespective of when they were lodged, and may include undecided or pending cases from previous years.<sup>43</sup>

Worldwide, at least 837,000 individuals were still awaiting a decision on their asylum claims by the end of 2010. They included people at all stages of the asylum procedure. Despite improved reporting over the past few

years, the global number of undecided cases presented here is incomplete as some countries, particularly in the industrialized world, do not report these figures.

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**

UNHCR does not have the capacity to protect and assist all conflict-generated IDPs, globally estimated at some 27.5 million at the end of 2010.<sup>44</sup> Since the introduction of the inter-agency cluster approach in January 2006, however, UNHCR had become increasingly involved with IDPs as part of a broader effort of the United Nations system and of other participating organizations. In 2010, in the context of its responsibilities within the cluster approach, UNHCR expressed its willingness to increase its engagement to protect per-

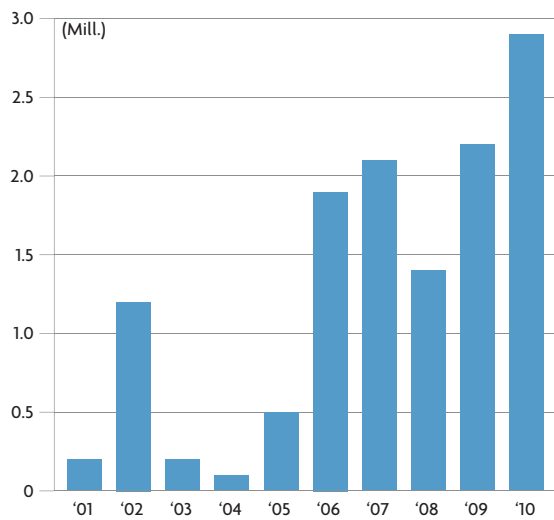
sons displaced by natural disasters.

The number of IDPs, including people in IDP-like situations who benefited from UNHCR's protection and assistance activities stood at 14.7 million at the end of 2010.<sup>45</sup> This was down by 930,000 from 2009, but nonetheless the second highest figure in UNHCR's history, and double the number since the application of the cluster approach in 2005 (6.6 million). The decrease was mainly due to IDP returns in Pakistan (1.2 million)<sup>46</sup> and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (461,000). Overall, more than 2.9 million IDPs returned home during the reporting period, the highest number in almost 15 years. At the same time, UNHCR offices reported at least 1.3 million newly-displaced people in 2010. UNHCR statistics include IDP populations in 24 countries (see Annex, Table 6).

In Colombia, where Government IDP registration began in 1997, there were 3.6 million registered IDPs reported at the end of the year.<sup>47</sup> Renewed armed conflict in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo displaced more than 130,000

<sup>43</sup> For details on the number of new asylum claims submitted as well as decisions taken, see Chapter IV.  
<sup>44</sup> For detailed statistics on global internal displacement, see the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) website of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).  
<sup>45</sup> People in IDP-like situations include those in Georgia (124,000), Kyrgyzstan (20,000), the Russian Federation (22,200), and Sudan (76,100).  
<sup>46</sup> This figure includes spontaneous returns in 2009 that could only be verified in 2010.  
<sup>47</sup> Accumulated figure dating back to 1997. The Government has highlighted an under-registration of 21 per cent (see Report by the National Government to the Constitutional Court, Judgment T-025/2004).

**Fig. 11.5** IDP returns protected/assisted by UNHCR | 2001-2011



people in 2010. By the end of the year, the number of IDPs was estimated at 1.7 million, down from 2.1 million the previous year, following the return of several hundreds of thousands. Pakistan witnessed the return of almost 1.2 million IDPs in 2010, bringing the estimate of IDPs to 952,000. Over the past two years, in Pakistan about 2.3 million IDPs have returned home. As the situation in central and southern Somalia deteriorated further, hundreds of thousands of people were newly displaced in 2010. The estimated number of IDPs in Somalia was about 1.5 million by year's end.

In Sudan, the number of IDPs protected or assisted by UNHCR was approximately 1.6 million by the end of the year.<sup>48</sup> Since the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement in January 2005 between the Sudanese Government in Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Army, some 2 million displaced people returned to their communities in southern Sudan and the so-called 'Three Areas' of Abyei, Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan. A large number of southerners living in the North, including an unknown number of IDPs, made their way to southern Sudan during the course

of the year, ahead of the referendum on independence which took place in January 2011.

In Iraq, an estimated 1.3 million remained displaced within the country at the end of the year. Some 303,000 IDPs in Uganda were able to return to their villages in the course of the year, reducing the IDP population remaining in camps and transit sites to 126,000. Both IDPs and IDP returnees in Uganda continued to benefit from UNHCR's protection and assistance activities under the cluster approach in efforts to ensure that all individuals, especially the extremely vulnerable, could find a durable solution in the course of 2011.

Kyrgyzstan witnessed extensive new internal displacement in mid-

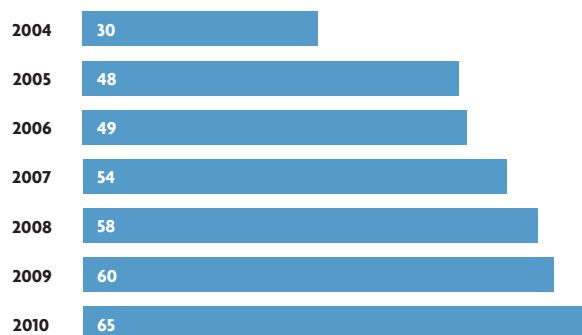
2010. At the peak of the crisis, UNHCR estimated that up to 400,000 people were affected. By the end of the year, an estimated 80,000 persons remained internally displaced in Kyrgyzstan, including 20,000 people in an IDP-like situation.

**STATELESS PERSONS**

Identifying stateless persons remains key to addressing their problems and to discharging the responsibility entrusted to UNHCR for this population. This responsibility is not limited to the prevention and reduction of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons, but also involves raising awareness among the international community of the magnitude of the problem. Measuring statelessness is complicated by the fact that stateless people often live in precarious situations on the margins of society, frequently lacking documentation, lawful residence and access to national institutions that are principle sources of information as to their numbers and well-being.

Only a minority of countries have procedures in place for the identification, registration and documentation of stateless persons, which facilitate gathering precise data. The statistics in this report therefore only include data on countries for which reliable official statistics or estimates of stateless populations were available. Nonetheless, Annex Table 7 also includes some countries (marked with an asterisk) that had significant stateless populations but for which no reliable

**Fig. 11.6** Number of countries reporting statistics on stateless persons



<sup>48</sup> According to IDMC estimates, the number of IDPs in Sudan is estimated at up to 5.2 million.

figures were provided. They include Côte d'Ivoire, India and Indonesia.

The data on statelessness in 2010 showed a continuation of the gradual expansion in UNHCR's knowledge of and engagement with stateless persons. By the end of 2010, statistics on statelessness were thus available for 65 countries, five more than in 2009. This compared to 30 countries in 2004, the year when UNHCR started collecting statistics on stateless populations in a more systematic way. It reflected sustained efforts by UNHCR offices to gather better data on statelessness. These efforts were bolstered by an increasing awareness of statelessness in a number of countries around the world.

For 2010, the number of identified stateless individuals stood at some 3.5 million persons, as compared to 6.6 million at the end of 2009. The decrease mainly reflected methodological changes in counting stateless persons, rather than an actual reduction in statelessness.

Nonetheless, there was a significant drop in the number of stateless persons, owing to acquisition or confirmation of nationality by stateless persons. Approximately 137,500 stateless per-

sons acquired nationality, mainly in 12 countries. Almost half of this figure was a result of progress to resolve the situation of Faili Kurds in Iraq.

Despite improvements in the number of countries reporting, and in the reliability of population figures, UNHCR was not in a position to provide comprehensive statistics on the number of stateless persons in all countries around the world. As a result, there was a discrepancy between reliable country-level data reported by UNHCR and the total number of stateless persons worldwide, estimated at up to 12 million people. Increased data coverage will gradually narrow this gap.

### RETURNEES (REFUGEES AND IDPS)<sup>49</sup>

Voluntary repatriation (for refugees) and voluntary return (for IDPs) remain the durable solution sought by the largest numbers of persons displaced by conflict. An estimated 197,600 refugees and 2.9 million IDPs returned in 2010. For refugees this was the lowest number of returns in more than 20 years - significantly less than the 251,500 refugees who retur-

<sup>49</sup> See Chapter III for more details on durable solutions.

ned home in 2009. By contrast, the number of IDP returns was the second highest in more than a decade.

### OTHER GROUPS OR PEOPLE OF CONCERN

UNHCR also extends protection or assistance to individuals whom it considers of concern, but who do not fall into any of the population categories listed above. These activities are based on humanitarian or other special grounds, and include asylum-seekers rejected by States whom UNHCR deems to be in need of humanitarian assistance, or otherwise of concern to the Office.

The number of people in this category tripled from 412,000 at the start of 2010 to more than 1.2 million at year's end. The increase was primarily due to the inclusion of 838,000 people in Afghanistan. These were former refugees who had returned to Afghanistan prior to 2010, but who had not been able to reintegrate due among other reasons to economic difficulties, a lack of comprehensive reintegration measures, and security concerns. Many of these individuals thus continued to benefit from UNHCR's assistance.

## In focus:

### Identifying stateless persons: case studies Serbia and Myanmar

#### SERBIA: SURVEY OF THE ROMA, ASHKALI AND EGYPTIAN POPULATION

The problem of statelessness, or risk of statelessness, in Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)) disproportionately affects the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) population. Due to marginalization and discrimination, these people were often unable or incapable of obtaining access to birth registration and/or personal documents. As a result, they were unable to establish/prove their nationality and effectively enjoy basic social, economic, cultural and political rights.

The conflicts in the Balkans in the 1990s and the forced displacement

that followed exacerbated this problem, through loss of key certificates during flight and the destruction of registries. Moreover, subsequent re-registrations and other administrative obstacles (registering residence) in Serbia further hindered the marginalized communities from obtaining documents and respecting the associated administrative procedures. Failure to comply with such procedures under the Serbian Law on Registry Books led in turn to arbitrary decisions, and inconsistent interpretations of procedures and requirements of proof. Ad-

#### Survey in Serbia

To strengthen its advocacy and provide concrete evidence of problems being experienced, UNHCR conducted a survey designed to:

1. Establish the number of persons who are at risk of statelessness and facing serious obstacles in obtaining personal documents;
2. Identify and map locations where these persons mainly live;
3. Determine their awareness as to the need to possess personal identification documents and citizenship; and
4. Record or identify the cause of their lack of personal documents.

ditional obstacles included fees and costs of travel to obtain documentary proof for the vulnerable group of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population. In view of the prevailing legal uncertainties, it was difficult for UNHCR to persuade the authorities that these procedural hurdles might have led to statelessness in Serbia.

The survey was conducted in October 2010, by IPSOS Strategic Marketing. The findings were released in June 2011.<sup>50</sup> The report presented basic information on the situation of households and persons at risk of becoming stateless.

While it was not possible to determine the exact number of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population in Serbia, various estimates were made available. In the Government of Serbia's response to the EC Questionnaire,<sup>51</sup> the authorities indicated that "in 593 settlements there were 201,353 domiciled and 46,238 internally displaced Roma" and that "most of the researchers estimate that there are 450,000 Roma residing in Serbia". The results of the UNHCR/IPSOS survey were based on an estimate of the natural growth, made by the Serbian Statistical Office and the United Nations Development Programme following the 2002 population census. According to the natural growth rates, by 2010 there were an estimated 130,000 RAE in Serbia. The 2011 population census is expected to provide accurate data and permit a more precise estimation of the number of persons at risk of statelessness.

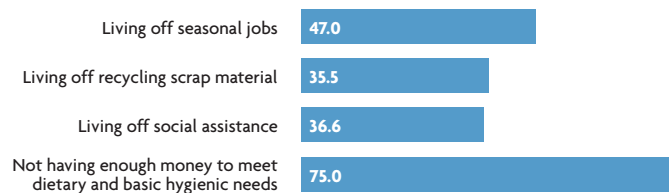
The 2010 survey was carried out throughout the territory of Serbia (excluding Kosovo) among households with at least one member declared as being part of the Roma, Ashkali or Egyptian population. The sample was a two-stage stratified random sample. Primary selection units were constituencies in settlements with RAE population, selected proportionally to the size of the estimated Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population. A list of all

settlements was provided by UNHCR. In the second stage, households were chosen with equal probabilities, and selected by the method of random start and equal random walk. The sampling interval was three. The sample covered 1,930 households and 9,568 individuals. The data was collected through face-to-face interviews. A weighted sample was used in the analysis according to region, type of settlements, gender, age and education.

Possession of documents was surveyed in several ways. The first step established whether household members had valid identity cards, passports and personal identification number for minors, followed by more detailed research in those households where there were members lacking some of the basic documents.

The survey results confirmed the problems faced by the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population. The main characteristics of those at risk of statelessness are described below.

### Fig. 11.7 Socio-economic characteristics of persons at risk of statelessness in Serbia (in %)



Some 6.8 per cent of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population in Serbia were at risk of being stateless. Based on their estimated overall number, this could represent up to 30,000 persons of whom one fifth (21%) were minors, and about one quarter (26%) were displaced from Kosovo (disproportionably high in relation to the domiciled population). More than half (54%) of those at risk of statelessness lived in illegal settlements.

The socio-economic status of persons at risk of statelessness was striking: almost half lived off seasonal jobs, with almost four out of ten de-

#### Survey in Serbia

The survey examined aspects related to personal documentation:

1. Possession of basic documents;
2. Reasons for the non-possession of documents;
3. Attempts to obtain documents and reasons for failure;
4. Access to rights by persons at risk of statelessness;
5. Discrimination;
6. Assistance in obtaining documents.

<sup>50</sup> See [www.unhcr.rs](http://www.unhcr.rs) for further information.

<sup>51</sup> See <http://www.seio.gov.rs/documents/agreements-with-eu.69.html>

pending on social assistance. More than 80 per cent had no money to pay bills, meet basic health care needs, or cover expenses related to education (see Figure II.7).

The lack of documentation among persons at risk of statelessness was of acute concern to UNHCR. Some 5.4 per cent had no identity cards, crucial for accessing rights and services. Based on estimates quoted by the Serbian Government, the number could be up to 24,300 persons. Furthermore, some 1.5 per cent of children and adults of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian

In accordance with a main objective of the survey, the study informed the Serbian authorities as to the extent and causes of the problem of statelessness among the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population. Following the publication of the survey report and strong advocacy activities together with EU and civil society in the country, the Serbian authorities agreed to work together with UNHCR and the civil society to resolve the problem of persons at risk of stateless-

ness. Actions would include training and sensitization, simplification and uniformity of documentary requirements, and direct reach-out to persons of concern by providing assistance to the marginalized populations.

With the cooperation of the authorities and with appropriate funding, the problems of persons at risk of statelessness among the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population in Serbia could be resolved within a period of two to three years.

### Survey in Serbia

The survey revealed a number of possible reasons why the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population lacked documents, including:

- **Lack of birth registration** and/or lack of possession of birth certificate, and consequently other necessary documents;
- **High costs** of obtaining documents;
- **Complicated procedures** (many did not understand the relevant processes);
- **Rejection by institutions** due to incomplete documentation;
- **Extreme social marginalization** of a growing number of RAE resulting in ignorance of legal procedures, fear of coming forward, and a belief that the authorities would not assist them.

population have not been registered at birth (6,750 persons based on the estimates of the Serbian Government).

Around 3 per cent had no registered permanent or habitual residence, depriving them of access to identity cards and rights, possibly affecting up to 13,500 persons. According to the survey, 2.3 per cent (up to 10,350 persons) were not registered in citizens' registries.

### MYANMAR: SURVEY OF MUSLIM RESIDENTS IN NORTHERN RAKHINE STATE

When a new nationality law was passed in Myanmar in 1982, the Muslim residents of northern Rakhine State (NRS) were not included among the 135 recognized "national races". However, they were later issued with Temporary Registration Certificates (TRCs) confirming their lawful residence and providing eligibility to vote in national elections.

Large refugee outflows of the Muslim population first took place from NRS into Bangladesh in 1978. This was followed by a second wave in 1991 and 1992, when approximately 250,000 people left the country. Repatriation began in 1992 as a result of a bilateral agreement between the Bangladeshi and Myanmar Governments. By the end of the decade, more

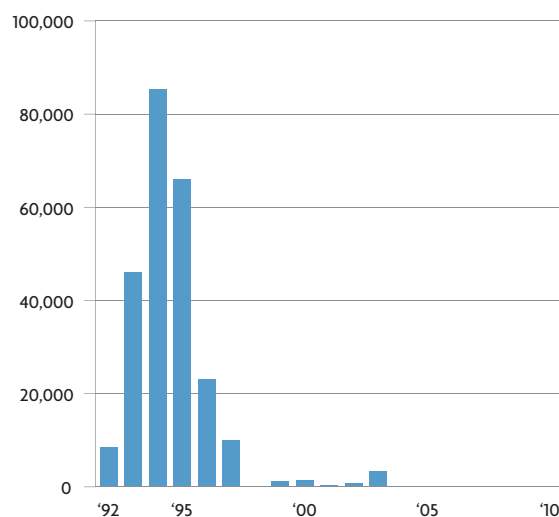
than 240,000 people had returned to Myanmar (see Figure II.8).

UNHCR first established its presence in Myanmar in 1994 to facilitate the repatriation and reintegration of the returnees. On completion of the repatriation and reintegration operation, UNHCR continued to maintain a presence in NRS to encourage the Myanmar authorities to improve the legal status of Muslim residents of NRS. In 2006, UNHCR conducted a household survey comparing the returnee and non-returnee population in terms of overall living conditions.<sup>52</sup>

No recent census data are available for NRS. With the shift of focus from a returnee towards a statelessness operation, the systematic collection of registration and other protection fig-

Fig. II.8

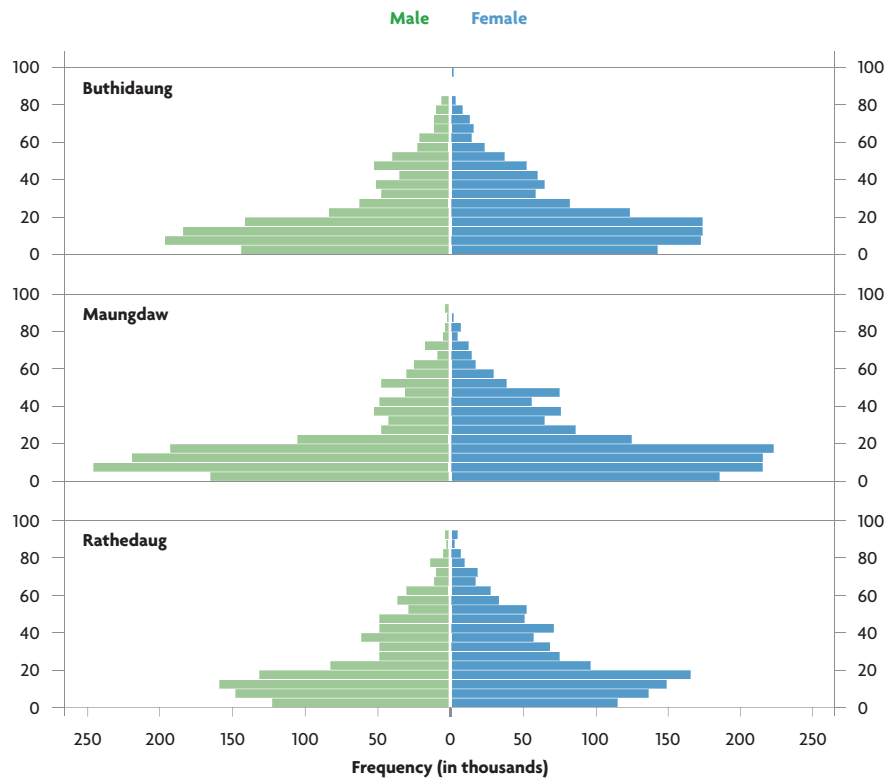
### Voluntary repatriation of refugees to Myanmar | 1992-2010



<sup>52</sup> Northern Rakhine State Household Survey 2006. UNHCR Myanmar, May 2006 (unpublished).



**Fig. II.9** Age pyramid by township | 2010



ures was considered crucial. Furthermore, donors and other partners in Myanmar were urging agencies of the United Nations to accompany funding submissions with substantiated baseline data, in the absence of essential registration figures.

In 2010, UNHCR therefore conducted a comprehensive survey and analysis of demographic data in NRS. The aim of this survey was to update registration and protection figures, as well as obtain new information on household characteristics such as access to safe drinking water and sanitation, health care, education, shelter, land and other livelihoods. Its scope reflected the aims and activities of UNHCR in NRS so as to inform ongoing planning and monitoring activities, and to allow an analysis of progress achieved since the 2006 survey.

The 2010 household survey also hoped to identify areas in Myanmar where populations were particularly vulnerable. In contrast to the 2006 survey, when the returnees and non-returnees were mainly compared, the

2010 household survey was designed to allow comparisons between citizens and the stateless population.

A sampling scheme was chosen to allow for comparisons between Myanmar citizens who mainly live in Rathedaung Township, and Muslims residents without citizenship, residing primarily in Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships. A sample size of 400 households was set for each township, for an overall sample size of 1,200 households. A two-staged sample design was applied. First, 40 villages were selected using probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling,

with the estimated number of households by villages used as a weight. Segmentation and household listing were done by UNHCR field staff for the 40 villages thus selected. The size of the segment was not strictly fixed, but was generally around 100 households. This was followed by a selection of a sample of 10 households within those villages using systematic random sampling. The sampling frame consisted of the household and population count by village and/or village tract in the three townships. Information on villages and estimated population figures were taken from the popula-

**TABLE II.2** Dependency ratios by type of dependency and township (in %)

Townships	Young (under 15)	Aged (60+)	Total
Buthidaung	81.63	8.33	89.96
Maungdaw	91.78	8.62	100.40
Rathedaung	68.66	12.50	81.16
National (FRHS)	44.92	13.81	58.67
Rakhine (FRHS)	62.33	11.28	73.61

## 2 Population Levels and Trends

tion estimates jointly collected with the other agencies and NGO partners in 2006. UNHCR's field staff in NRS verified and updated the estimates in early 2010. Villages with less than 20 households were combined with the physically adjacent village to form one primary stage sampling unit.<sup>53</sup>

Rakhine is a multi-ethnic region, home to a majority Muslim population of 70 per cent, many of whom fled to Bangladesh and have since returned. Of these, 13.5 per cent considered themselves returnees. Maungdaw, one of the three townships that constitute NRS was home to 97 per cent of the Muslim population and accounted for 24 per cent of returnees.

The NRS population was relatively young with only 4.9 per cent of the population over the age of 60, and 44.1 per cent under the age of 15. In comparison with other states in Myanmar, there was a high dependency ratio with relatively few adults responsible for high numbers of minors.

Conditions vary significantly between Buthidaung, Maungdaw and Rathedaung Townships. Maungdaw township had the youngest age structure compared to Buthidaung and Rathedaung, resulting in a high dependency ratio potentially contributing to the relatively high poverty rate. The dependency ratios were higher than the national average (58.67 or about 1.7 working age adult for each dependent child or elderly person).<sup>54</sup> Particularly in Maungdaw, very young children had dropped out from school in order to support the families through income-generating activities. Less than half of the 12-18 year old were enrolled in school. School drop-out rates were particularly high for girls in Maungdaw Township, where only 34 per cent of girls of above the age of 12 years were enrolled in school. Gender was also a predominant factor in the self-assessed literacy rates. For example, in Maungdaw only 4.2 per cent of



women could speak and write the Myanmar language compared to 15 per cent of the male population. In Rathedaung Township, home to the highest number of Rakhines considered as Myanmar citizens, 48 per cent males and 38 per cent females were literate in the Myanmar language.

Furthermore, the demographic data indicated that there had been no increase in life expectancy since 2006, and only a minor decrease in fertility.

UNHCR had advocated for and supported the authorities in issuing Temporary Registration Cards (TRCs) to Muslim residents of NRS as a way to provide protection, and as

a step to improve the legal status of this population, eventually leading to citizenship. Unfortunately, nearly 40 per cent of Muslim residents of the area had yet to receive individual identity documents.

The survey results showed that TRC holders did not benefit from any privileges other than the right to participate in elections. Restrictions on freedom of movement, education, child registration and marriage rights continued. Journeys outside the village tract of residence systematically required the permission of local authorities for TRC holders, with no ease of travel restrictions since 2006.

<sup>53</sup> In a small number of instances, no population estimates could be obtained for individual villages. In these instances, the entire village tract was used for the sampling frame. Where village tracts were included in the first stage sample, individual villages from within these village tracts were selected at random.

<sup>54</sup> *Fertility and Reproductive Health Survey (FHRS) (2007)*, available at [http://www.prb.org/pdf09/09wpds\\_eng.pdf](http://www.prb.org/pdf09/09wpds_eng.pdf)



**Refugees from Kyrgyzstan** who fled violence during 2010 and took refuge in Uzbekistan return home.

UNHCR / S. SCHULMAN

The 13.5 per cent of the NRS population that considered themselves returnees did not report more protection challenges than those of non-returnee Muslims, congruent with observations of the 2006 survey.<sup>55</sup> In regard to the overall living conditions, no major differences were observed between the two groups.

The 2010 household survey indicated that general conditions in NRS remained precarious, requiring assistance in the areas of education, infrastructure, health, water, sanitation, and livelihood. The comparison with other studies<sup>56</sup> showed that NRS reported smaller landholding sizes relative compared to the known national

average. In addition, NRS had the country's lowest literacy rates with less than 30 per cent of the surveyed Muslim residents able to read and write the Myanmar language.

Conclusions drawn from the survey results thus supported UNHCR's shift from a returnee operation to one focusing on stateless groups. While no major differences between the returnee and non-returnee population were identified, the 2010 results confirmed that Muslim residents in NRS, not considered citizens, had less access to public health facilities and faced greater restrictions with respect to freedom than those faced by ethnic Rakhines (citizens).

The findings supported the appeals of the United Nations for continued funding of development projects in NRS. Donors were particularly alerted by the low literacy and the high school drop-out rate of girls.

The survey also disclosed that the number of Temporary Registration Card holders was below that estimated by the international community, and highlighted the need for further support for registration campaigns.

Finally, the survey informed ongoing planning and monitoring activities, highlighting previously "forgotten" areas in NRS, helping to ensure that appropriate assistance and support could reach all those in need. ■

<sup>55</sup> *Northern Rakhine State Household Survey 2006*. UNHCR Myanmar, May 2006 (unpublished).

<sup>56</sup> *Agricultural Census*. Myanmar Ministry for Agriculture (2003).



**Internally displaced children in El Pozón,** a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Cartagena, Colombia. El Pozón is not only one of the poorest areas of Cartagena but is also considered the most dangerous one. Most of the displaced arriving in the region settle here upon arrival, as they cannot afford to go elsewhere.



# Durable Solutions and New Displacement

**W**HILE UNHCR<sup>57</sup> has a responsibility to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees, the Office also seeks to find durable solutions that will allow refugees to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity, through voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement to a third country. Yet despite the efforts of the international community and UNHCR, for millions of refugees and internally displaced persons, such solutions were nowhere in sight. For many, the long-term absence of a solution aggravates their protection and security problems, and deprives them of any hope for the future.

Over the years, voluntary repatriation has benefited the largest number of refugees. While it remains the preferred solution among most of the world's refugees, persistent conflict, fear of persecution or lack of basic services in the areas of return often prevent them from returning to their countries of origin. Resettlement is a key protection tool and a significant responsibility-sharing mechanism. For some refugees, resettlement to a third country is the only way to find permanent safety and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights. Local integration is a complex and gradual process, involving legal, economic and socio-

cultural components. In many cases, acquiring the nationality of the country of asylum is the culmination of this process. Local integration as a process is difficult to measure in numerical terms, given the variety of legal and practical forms it can take. The analysis of local integration data appearing below is therefore limited, and subject to available statistics on the naturalization of refugees in host countries.

Since progress in achieving durable solutions has been partly offset by new outflows of refugees, this chapter looks at both durable solutions achieved, and at new displacements that occurred in 2010.

## Durable solutions

### VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION: LOWEST LEVEL IN MORE THAN TWO DECADES<sup>58</sup>

Based on consolidated reports from countries of asylum (departure) and origin (return), an estimated 197,600 refugees repatriated voluntarily during 2010. This was 21 per cent less than in 2009 (251,500). Repatriation figures have continuously decreased since 2004; the 2010 figure was the lowest in more than 20 years. Globally, an estimated 9 million refugees have returned home over the past 10 years, most of them with UNHCR assistance.

The main countries of return in 2010 included Afghanistan (118,000), Iraq (28,900), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (16,600), Rwanda (10,900), Sudan (7,100), and Sri Lanka (5,100). The largest numbers of refugee departures for voluntary repa-

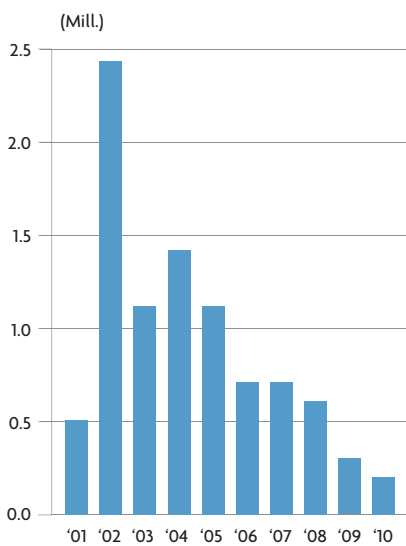
triation were reported by Pakistan (109,400), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (14,500), and the Islamic Republic of Iran (10,200).

Afghanistan continued to be the main country of return, with 118,000 registered returns during the year

<sup>57</sup> The need for durable solutions is not limited to refugees; IDPs and stateless persons also require lasting resolution to their legal and physical protection needs. However, due to the lack of reliable data on solutions for these groups, the analysis in this section is confined to durable solutions for refugees only.

<sup>58</sup> For statistical purposes, only refugees who actually returned during the calendar year under examination are included. However, UNHCR's assistance towards reintegration within the country of origin may cover longer periods of time, exceeding the calendar year in which the return takes place.

Fig. III.1 **Refugee returns**  
| 2001-2010



- twice as many as the previous year (57,600). Overall, close to 5.5 million Afghan refugees – or roughly one-fifth of Afghanistan’s population – have returned home since 2002. As part of its monitoring responsibilities, UNHCR conducts interviews with returning Afghans to assess reasons for return. In 2010, the factors most often-cited were economic concerns, difficulties in Pakistan, and local improvements in security in some parts of Afghanistan.

### RESETTLEMENT

Resettlement can provide protection to refugees when their lives, liberty, safety, health or other fundamental human rights are at risk in their country of asylum. As such, it is a vital protection tool and an interna-

tional responsibility-sharing mechanism, and can be key to comprehensive solution strategies.

Only a small number of countries offer resettlement programmes, accepting an annual quota of refugees. The number of resettlement places available has neither kept pace with global resettlement needs, nor with increased submissions by UNHCR. In 2010, UNHCR’s multi-year projected needs were for 747,000 resettlement places. In 2011, this figure has been increased to 805,000, a record high. However, annual quotas offered by States remain largely unchanged, with 80,000 places available globally.

Resettlement thus benefits a comparatively small number of refugees: in 2010, only 1 per cent of the world’s refugees directly benefited from resettlement. During the past five years, some 447,000 refugees were resettled compared to 2.5 million refugees who repatriated. For every refugee resettled since 2006, approximately six have repatriated. UNHCR has therefore worked with States to increase the use of resettlement as a vital durable solution, helping to resolve some protracted refugees situations, to maintain protection space, and to open up solutions otherwise unavailable.

The 2010 Yearbook has used two sources for resettlement statistics: UNHCR’s records in countries of asylum on numbers of refugees resettled under its auspices, and official statistics from resettlement countries on the total number of resettled refugees, including those not facilitated by UNHCR.

### ○ (a) Resettlement under UNHCR auspices

Individuals whom UNHCR supports for resettlement are people recognized as refugees under the Office’s mandate and who correspond to UNHCR’s resettlement criteria.<sup>59</sup> These criteria include specific protection needs when the physical or legal security of a refugee is at stake, such as cases of women-at-risk, individuals faced with *refoulement*, or when specialized services such as psychosocial or medical are required but are not available in the country of asylum. Resettlement is also used to reunite refugee families.

In 2010, UNHCR submitted more than 108,000 refugees for resettlement. Nine per cent of these submissions were for women and girls at risk, the highest percentage in the last five years. With the recent tripling of resettlement submissions by UNHCR, resettlement countries have faced backlogs in processing applications and admitting refugees. In a particularly welcome development, Japan, Paraguay and Romania accepted resettled refugees for the first time in 2010.

During the year, almost 73,000 individuals departed with UNHCR’s assistance, 14 per cent less than in 2009. This decrease was due to new security clearance requirements. By nationality, the main beneficiaries of the UNHCR-facilitated resettlement programme in 2010 were refugees from Myanmar (19,400), Iraq (16,000), Bhutan (14,800), Somalia (5,400), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (4,500), and Eritrea (3,300).<sup>60</sup>

UNHCR’s operations in 86 countries facilitated resettlement submissions during 2010. The largest number of refugees who were resettled with UNHCR assistance departed from Nepal (14,800), Thailand (11,400),

Fig. III.2 **Distribution of resettlement arrivals and refugee returns**

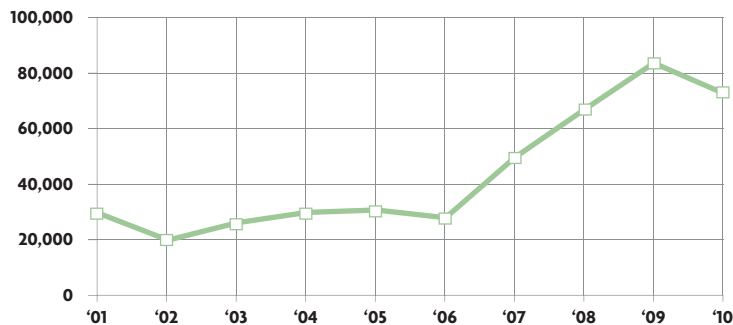


<sup>59</sup> See *Resettlement Handbook*, UNHCR, Geneva, 2004 at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a2ccba76.html>

<sup>60</sup> The disparity between submissions and departures is partly explained by the time delay between a submission by UNHCR and the decision by a resettlement State to allow the refugee to travel. In many cases, a decision by a resettlement State is made several months after receiving a submission; hence refugees submitted for resettlement in 2010, may travel in 2011, particularly cases submitted in the last quarter of 2010.

Fig. III.3

### UNHCR-assisted resettlement departures of refugees | 2001-2010



Malaysia (8,000), the Syrian Arab Republic (7,200), and Turkey (5,300). The five UNHCR offices involved accounted altogether for six out of every ten resettlement departures in 2010.

An important milestone has been achieved in Nepal. Departures for the resettlement programme launched in November 2007 to resettle refugees from Bhutan from camps in eastern Nepal exceeded 40,000 by December 2010. Refugees originating from Bhutan have been resettled in eight countries, most of them to the United States of America (34,130). When the programme began, there were 108,000 refugees from Bhutan residing in the camps in eastern Nepal's Jhapa and Morang districts. Of the 72,000 remaining in these camps, nearly 55,000 expressed an interest in resettlement, and are expected to depart within the next four years.

#### ○ (b) Resettlement arrivals (including those not assisted by UNHCR)

A number of resettlement States such as Australia, Canada and the United States of America continue their humanitarian programmes, including family reunion or sponsorship programmes, which address the specific needs of refugees and people in refugee-like situations. While these programmes generally have limited direct UNHCR involvement, a signi-

ficant portion of persons benefiting from these programmes are refugees. This explains the difference between overall resettlement figures and those resettled with UNHCR's assistance.

During 2010, a total of 98,800 refugees were admitted by 22 resettlement countries, including the United States of America (71,400),<sup>61</sup> Canada (12,100), Australia (8,500), Sweden (1,800), and Norway (1,100). This was 13,600 less than in 2009 (112,400).

For purposes of comparison, the 22 countries resettling refugees during 2010 accepted more than 110 different nationalities. The largest groups were refugees from Iraq (24,500), Myanmar (19,600), Bhutan (14,500), Somalia (6,200), and Cuba (4,900).

#### LOCAL INTEGRATION

Measuring the degree and nature of local integration in quantitative terms remains challenging. In instances where refugees acquire citizenship through naturalization, statistical data are often limited as the countries concerned generally do not distinguish the naturalization of refugees from that of others. In many other countries, national laws or restrictive interpretations of these laws do not permit refugees to be naturalized. Hence, the naturalization of refugees tends to be restricted or under-reported.

Nevertheless, the limited data on the naturalization of refugees available

to UNHCR show that during the past decade more than one million refugees have been granted citizenship by their asylum country. The United States of America alone accounts for two-thirds of this figure. During 2009 and 2010, the United Republic of Tanzania granted citizenship to more than 162,000 Burundian refugees, ending the plight of this population which had been living in exile since 1972. For 2010, UNHCR was informed of refugees being granted citizenship in Belgium (1,700), Ireland (710), Viet Nam (430), and Montenegro (350).<sup>62</sup>

## ■ New displacements

This section is limited to individuals who have been recognized as refugees on a group or *prima facie* basis. Those who have sought asylum on an individual basis, by requesting refugee or complementary protection status through an individual asylum claim, will be discussed in Chapter IV.<sup>63</sup>

New, large-scale displacements during 2010 mainly took place from Somalia, as nearly 120,000 individuals fled the country primarily to Kenya (73,700), Ethiopia (24,100), Yemen (18,400), and Djibouti (3,300). Other large-scale displacements took place from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with close to 25,000 individuals fleeing the country in 2010, primarily to the Republic of Congo (21,000) and Uganda (4,000).

Although the total number of people who left Iraq during the year is not available, approximately 31,200 new registrations were recorded by UNHCR in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and other countries in the region in 2010. Excluding Iraqi refugees registered by UNHCR throughout the Middle East, some 192,700 people were newly displaced across an international border during the year, virtually all originating from Africa.

The largest numbers of new arrivals of refugees were reported by Kenya (73,700), followed by Ethiopia (42,700), the Republic of Congo (21,000), Yemen (18,400), and Liberia (18,100). ■

<sup>61</sup> During US Fiscal Year 2010, some 73,300 refugees were resettled by the United States of America.

<sup>62</sup> The 2010 figure for the United States of America is not available.

<sup>63</sup> Some 850,200 individual asylum claims were submitted worldwide in 2010. An estimated 223,000 people received a positive decision on their asylum claim in the course of the year.



**An asylum board in Greece** reviews the applications of asylum-seekers. More than 47,000 persons were waiting for a decision on their asylum claim at the end of 2010.





# 4 Asylum and Refugee Status Determination

**T**HIS CHAPTER presents main trends in individual asylum applications lodged in 2010, with an overview of decisions. It does not include information on mass influxes of refugees nor on those granted refugee status on a group or *prima facie* basis.<sup>64</sup>

Since UNHCR conducts refugee status determination (RSD) under its mandate in a significant number of countries, this chapter makes specific reference to challenges relating to staffing UNHCR's RSD operations. It also provides information on recent trends with respect to unaccompanied and separated children.

Although the concepts of "asylum" and "refugee status" are sometimes used interchangeably, it should be recalled that asylum can only be granted by States. While UNHCR may recog-

nize refugee status under its mandate, it cannot provide asylum.

## Responsibility for refugee status determination

The number of countries reporting RSD statistics to UNHCR has increased in recent years, mainly due to the addition of a number of Caribbean and Pacific islands. In 2010, 167 countries or territories reported this type of statistics to UNHCR, as opposed to 148 in 2002.

Of the 167 reporting countries or territories, States were solely responsible for carrying out refugee status determination in 100 countries (59%). UNHCR was the only responsible body for RSD in 46 countries (28%). A shared responsibility was reported

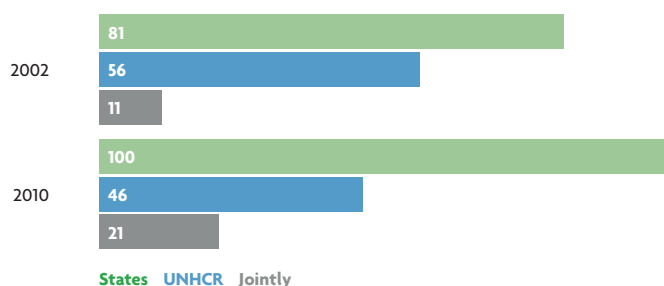
## Who is an asylum-seeker?

**An asylum-seeker** is an individual seeking international protection, whose claim for refugee status has not yet been determined.

**As part of internationally** recognized obligations to protect refugees on their territories, countries of asylum are responsible for determining whether an asylum-seeker is a refugee or not. This responsibility is often incorporated into national legislation and is derived from the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and other international human rights instruments.

for 21 countries (13%).<sup>65</sup> This included RSD procedures implemented jointly by UNHCR and governments as well as cases where RSD procedures were implemented in parallel by UNHCR, for reasons related to protection and/or durable solutions.

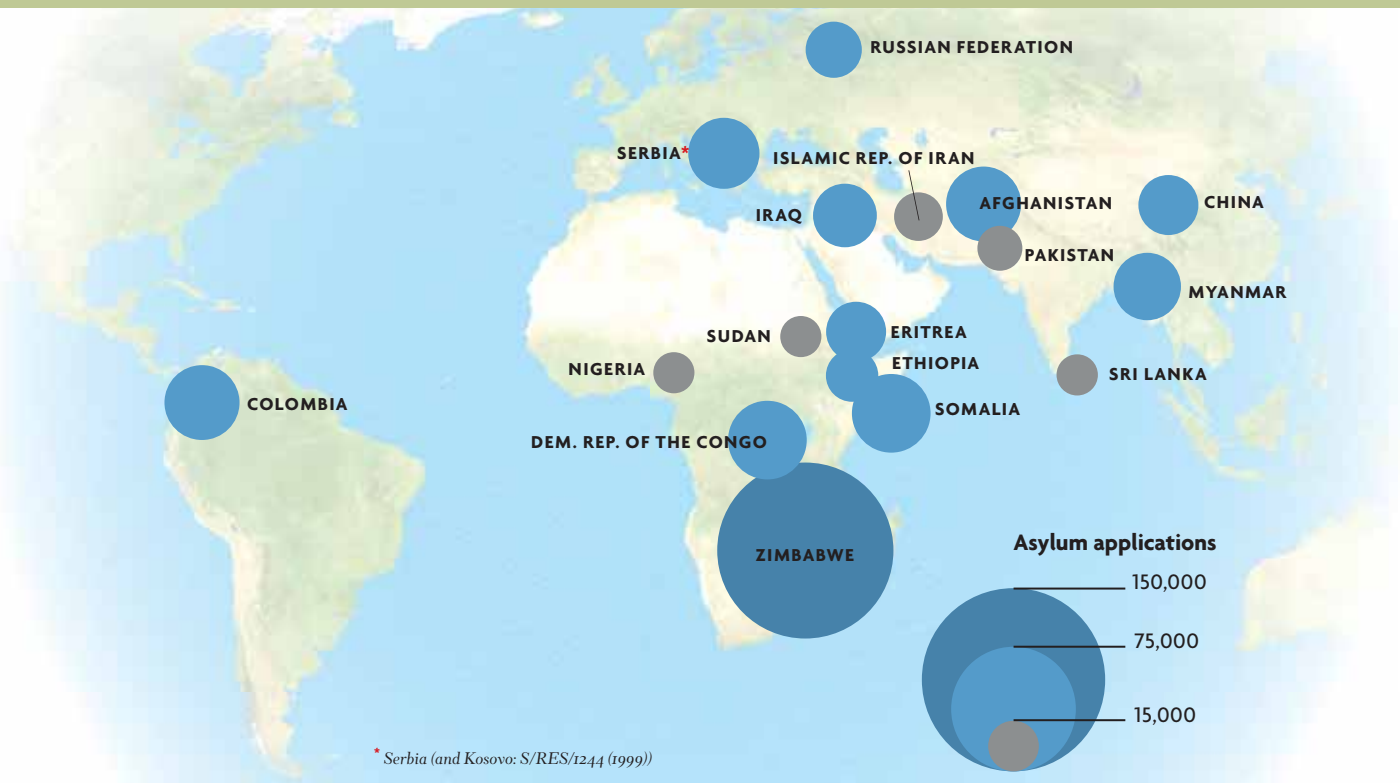
Fig. IV.1 Responsibility for refugee status determination



<sup>64</sup> The decision not to record in asylum statistics people who were granted refugee status under UNHCR's mandate on a *prima facie* basis has been made to allow a direct comparison between State and UNHCR refugee status determination procedures. It should be noted, however, that UNHCR procedures that provide for refugee status recognition on a *prima facie* basis generally go beyond the mere registration of applicants and usually involve screening and interviewing to establish the nationality of the applicants, the absence of likely reasons for exclusion and the identification of specific protection needs.

<sup>65</sup> In countries where RSD is conducted either by the government or jointly by the government and UNHCR, the Office may occasionally carry out RSD under its mandate in parallel procedures for reasons related to protection and/or durable solutions.





claims), the third consecutive rise. The increase in 2010 was partly attributed to a higher number of asylum-seekers from Georgia (+188%), Bangladesh (+118%), and Haiti (+38%). Germany was the fourth most important destination country for new asylum-seekers in 2010, with more than 41,300 asylum claims registered. This was a 49 per cent increase compared to 2009 (27,000 claims) and the highest since 2003. The increase in 2010 was partly attributed to a higher number of asylum-seekers from Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)) and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, many of Roma origin. This may be the result of the European Union having waived visa requirements for both countries at the beginning of 2010. Sweden ranked fifth with 31,800 applications received during the year. This constituted a 32 per cent increase compared to 2009, and the third highest figure in 15 years.

Other important destination countries for asylum-seekers were Ecuador (31,400), Malaysia (25,600), the United Kingdom (22,600), Canada (22,500),<sup>71</sup> and Belgium (21,800).

In 2010, UNHCR offices received 89,500 new applications for refugee status and 7,300 on appeal or for review. For the third year in a row the office in Malaysia received the larg-

est number of new requests (25,600). Kenya came second (19,300 new claims), followed by Turkey (9,200), India (4,000), and Indonesia (3,900). UNHCR offices in Kenya, Turkey, Indonesia, Yemen and Cameroon faced increases in application numbers, while operations in India, Libya, and Malaysia experienced decreases.

Altogether, the top five UNHCR offices receiving asylum applications registered about 70 per cent of all new claims in 2010. Moreover, 90 per cent of UNHCR's refugee status determination work (in terms of applications received) was concentrated in 11 countries.

Under combined UNHCR and State asylum procedures, the highest number of new asylum claims was filed by individuals originating from Zimbabwe (149,400), Somalia (37,500), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (35,600), Afghanistan (33,500), Colombia (32,300), Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)) (30,500), and Myanmar (27,900) (see Map 4 above).

As in previous years, these overall figures masked patterns of certain nationalities clustering in a limited num-

ber of countries. For instance, 9 out of 10 Zimbabwean asylum claims were lodged in South Africa alone. Two-thirds of all new asylum claims lodged by nationals of Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)) were submitted in Sweden (7,900) and Germany (6,600), while more than half of all Somali requests were submitted in South Africa (6,000), Sweden (5,600), Uganda (5,200), and Ethiopia (4,200). Even though asylum-seekers from Colombia sought protection in more than 40 countries, 8 out of 10 requested refugee status in Ecuador.<sup>72</sup>

**TABLE IV.2** New asylum claims lodged in top 10 UNHCR offices\* | 2010

Country	Total
Malaysia	25,600
Kenya	19,300
Turkey	9,200
India	4,000
Indonesia	3,900
Yemen	3,700
Cameroon	3,300
Syrian Arab Republic	3,200
Jordan	2,900
Egypt	2,600

**Note**

\* Excludes appeal/review claims.

<sup>71</sup> Source: Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) Canada.

<sup>72</sup> Rather than reflecting a large influx of Colombian asylum-seekers, these figures are the result of the submission of asylum claims following the enhanced registration exercise conducted in Ecuador in 2010.

## Decisions

Available data indicate that some 579,000 decisions on individual asylum applications were rendered during 2010. UNHCR adjudicated 61,100, or 11 per cent of the total – similar to its share in 2009. In 10 countries, some 5,200 substantive decisions were taken in joint UNHCR and State procedures. All these figures exclude cases which were closed for administrative reasons<sup>73</sup> without a decision on the substance. In 2010, at least 153,300 cases were closed in this way.

Some 223,000 asylum-seekers were recognized as refugees (175,200) or given a complementary form of protection (47,800) in the course of 2010. This number includes an estimated 22,700<sup>74</sup> individuals who initially received a negative decision, which was subsequently overturned at the appeal or review stage. Instances where the percentage of decisions overturned at the appeal stage was particularly high may indicate deficiencies in national asylum procedures.

Some 356,000 claims were rejected on substantive grounds. This number included negative decisions at the first instance which may have been appealed. Asylum-seekers who were rejected at first and second instance may have been counted twice in this figure.

At the global level (UNHCR and State asylum procedures combined), the Refugee Recognition Rate (RRR) corresponded to an estimated 30 per cent of all substantive decisions taken during 2010, while the Total Recognition Rate (TRR) was 39 per cent.<sup>75</sup> Both rates were below those of 2009 (38 per cent for RRR and 47 per cent for TRR).

TABLE VI.3 Substantive decisions taken | 2008-2010

	2008	2009	2010
<b>States</b>	468,900	512,300	512,700
UNHCR	46,800	69,200	61,100
Jointly*	31,200	21,000	5,200
<b>Total</b>	546,900	602,500	579,000
<b>% UNHCR only</b>	9%	11%	11%

**Note**

\* Refers to refugee status determination conducted jointly between UNHCR and the Government.

Global recognition rates remain indicative as some States have not reported the relevant data, and the proportion of positive decisions may in reality be higher, since decisions for persons rejected on appeal may be counted twice. Among the main receiving industrialized countries, Switzerland and Finland had the highest TRR at the first instance in 2010 (73% and 61%, respectively). Among the main countries of origin of asylum-seekers in 2010, those originating from Eritrea, Myanmar and Somalia had TRRs of around or over 80 per cent. Recognition rates were also high for asylum-seekers from Colombia (64%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (61%), Ethiopia (56%), Iraq (54%), Afghanistan (50%), and the Islamic Republic of Iran (49%).

By the end of the year, more than 837,500 individuals around the world were still awaiting decisions on their asylum claims. This figure included people at all stages of the asylum process, but the precise number of undecided asylum cases was unknown as many countries do not report this information.

## In focus: Staffing UNHCR's RSD operations

UNHCR is required to carry out RSD in diverse and complex operational environments, in which the unpredictability of population movements presents planning challenges. RSD remains a resource-intensive protection activity that requires a workforce with specialized knowledge and skills. Ensuring appropriate staffing levels and expertise is therefore key to achieving timely and accurate adjudication of refugee claims.

In 2010, UNHCR developed RSD Staffing Benchmarks to assist managers in assessing and projecting staffing needs, based on estimates of the number and profile of asylum-seekers approaching UNHCR offices. They also covered existing backlogs of pending asylum applications, case-processing strategies and processing rates. The use of these benchmarks assisted UNHCR to assess staffing gaps more precisely and confirmed the over-reliance on affiliate staff to address capacity shortfalls in many of UNHCR's RSD operations.

Affiliate workforce arrangements represent a flexible and cost-effective way of maintaining adequate human resource levels in rapidly changing operational contexts, permitting swift recruitment of qualified staff to minimize instability in the operations concerned. Affiliate workforce

<sup>73</sup> Decisions also qualified as "non-substantive" may result from, the death of the applicant, no-show for interview, withdrawal of the application, abandonment of the claim, or the determination that another country is responsible for the claim ('Dublin II' procedure).

<sup>74</sup> This figure is likely to be substantially higher as significant numbers of decisions rendered by States at the appeal or review stage of the asylum procedure are not available.

<sup>75</sup> In the absence of an internationally agreed methodology for calculating recognition rates, UNHCR uses two rates to determine the proportion of refugee claims accepted during the year. The **Refugee Recognition Rate** divides the number of asylum-seekers granted Convention refugee status by the total number of substantive decisions (Convention status, complementary protection, and rejected cases). The **Total Recognition Rate** divides the number of asylum-seekers granted Convention refugee status and complementary form of protection by the total number of substantive decisions (Convention status, complementary protection, and rejected cases). Non-substantive decisions are, to the extent possible, excluded from both calculations. For the purpose of global comparability, UNHCR only uses these two recognition rates and does not report rates calculated by national entities.

arrangements for RSD are frequently associated with high turnover and operational inefficiencies resulting from unfilled positions and the recruitment, training and deployment of substitute RSD staff. Maintaining the appropriate balance between the affiliate workforce and regular UNHCR staff in RSD operations helps provide the organization with enhanced expertise among regular UNHCR staff in this core protection function.

Between 2006 and 2010, the number of RSD staff increased progressively. In 2006, 300 staff conducted RSD, of which 140 persons were full-

time. In 2010, 360 staff conducted RSD, of which 200 persons were full-time. This overall increase was accompanied by a proportionally greater increase of affiliate staff. While in 2006, 70 full-time RSD staff were employed under temporary contracts, by 2010, this number had increased to 110 persons, including affiliate staff filling regular positions.

To address sudden shortfalls in RSD capacity, the RSD Unit of the Division of International Protection at UNHCR Headquarters maintains a deployment scheme whereby experienced RSD consult-

ants can be deployed to operations at short notice. Every year, on average 20 consultants are deployed to approximately 10 RSD operations. In 2010, UNHCR also extended its strategic partnerships with governments with recognized RSD expertise, including the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) and the Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides (OFPRA). Under related agreements, IRB and OFPRA experts can be deployed to UNHCR's RSD operations to providing expert advice and assisting in case processing. ■



## *Unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum*

**Collecting accurate and reliable** statistics on unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) seeking asylum is critical given the special protection and assistance needs. Since 2006, UNHCR has systematically collected data on UASC claiming asylum including their age, sex and country of origin (the latter since 2007). Despite these efforts, the global number of UASC who annually submit individual asylum claims remains unknown. One of the reasons for the lack of global data on UASC relates to the lack of proper registration mechanisms in place to identify UASC who seek international protection. Where they do exist, data may not be disaggregated by sex and age. In addition, UASC may not be aware or adequately informed of the possibility to seek asylum.

**If authorities have doubts** about the age declared by the asylum-seeking child, they might initiate age assessments. However, these procedures bear a level of uncertainty and can therefore not

be considered as fully conclusive. Major receiving countries of asylum-seekers such as Canada, South Africa, and the United States of America do not provide information on UASC seeking asylum. These various factors impede the collection and comparison of global data.

**In 2010, more than 15,600** asylum applications were lodged by unaccompanied and separated children in 69 countries, constituting some 4 per cent of the total number of asylum claims lodged there. This was consistent with the percentage observed in 2009. In absolute terms, however, the number of UASC seeking asylum decreased compared to 2009, when 18,700 claims were lodged in 71 countries, in line with the overall decrease in the global number of asylum-seekers recorded.

**Europe received 11,900** or 76 per cent of the 15,600 UASC claims. In 2010 Sweden and Germany received the greatest number, with 2,400 and 1,900 respectively. The United Kingdom

received 1,700 UASC asylum claims in 2010. While in Sweden and particularly in Germany, figures went up significantly (+6% and +49% respectively), in the United Kingdom it dropped by almost half (-43%). Kenya and India were important destination countries for UASC outside Europe, with 1,100 (+209%) and 430 (-10%) asylum claims respectively.

**Available information indicates** that 5,400 unaccompanied and separated children were recognized as refugees or granted a complementary form of protection in 2010. This figure was lower than in 2009 (7,700 positive decisions). Europe accounted for 68 per cent of all positive decisions rendered.

**It is often unaccompanied** or separated boys who sought asylum, in particular in industrialized countries where about two-thirds of all UASC are male. Their number has been on the rise compared to only a few years ago. In developing countries, however, the sex distribution is more balanced.

**Available information** on the country of origin of UASC has confirmed the trend observed earlier in that mainly Afghan and Somali children applied for asylum. These two nationalities accounted for almost half of all UASC claims in 2010. UASC from Afghanistan submitted 4,900 asylum claims in 32 countries, mainly in Sweden (1,150), Germany (800), and the United Kingdom (550).

**More than 1,600 asylum claims** were lodged by Somali UASC in 2010, of which one third were submitted in Sweden (530). Others were from Myanmar (770 claims), Sudan (740), Iraq (650), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**Average recognition rates** for UASC in 2010 were high in countries where data was available. For Afghans, Eritreans and Somalis, the total recognition rate was above 80 per cent. For UASC from Myanmar the rate was even higher at 99 per cent, while for Iraqi UASC, the rate was lower at 47 per cent.



**An Eritrean refugee family** in Shimelba camp, Ethiopia.



# 5 Demographic Characteristics and Types of Location

**T**HIS CHAPTER presents both demographic trends and patterns and major types of location in 2010, including an overview of data availability and coverage. Since information on gender and age is essential for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating refugee programmes, UNHCR offices in the field are encouraged to collect and disseminate sex and age-disaggregated information on persons of concern. Location data is also crucial to identify gaps in interventions and disparities in legal and physical protection.

Demographic information is mostly available in countries where UNHCR has an operational role, whereas in industrialized countries where governments are responsible for data collection, this information is lacking. The absence of these data in most industrialized countries, along with incomplete data on sex and age in many other countries have tended to distort the demographic profile of persons of concern. Thus with industrialized countries under-represented, UNHCR's statistics show a relatively high presence of children and few older refugees, which corresponds to the general demographic profile of developing countries.

This chapter first provides an overview of demographic data avail-

ability and highlights patterns related to age and sex characteristics of populations of concern. It then presents an analysis of the distribution of refugees by type of accommodation. Its third part focuses on education and literacy levels, and trends among refugee girls in the East and Horn of Africa.

## SEX AND AGE

Although available demographic information on persons of concern to UNHCR had been partial and uneven across countries and population categories, UNHCR's efforts to improve the availability of disaggregated data have yielded significant results in recent years. By the end of 2010, such data were available for 21 million persons of concern in over 140 countries. In absolute terms, the availability of sex and age-disaggregated data for persons of concern to the Office has almost doubled since 2005, increasing coverage from 11 to 21 million. In relative terms, however, availability has remained relatively stable compared to previous years, at slightly over 60 per cent coverage for persons of concern.

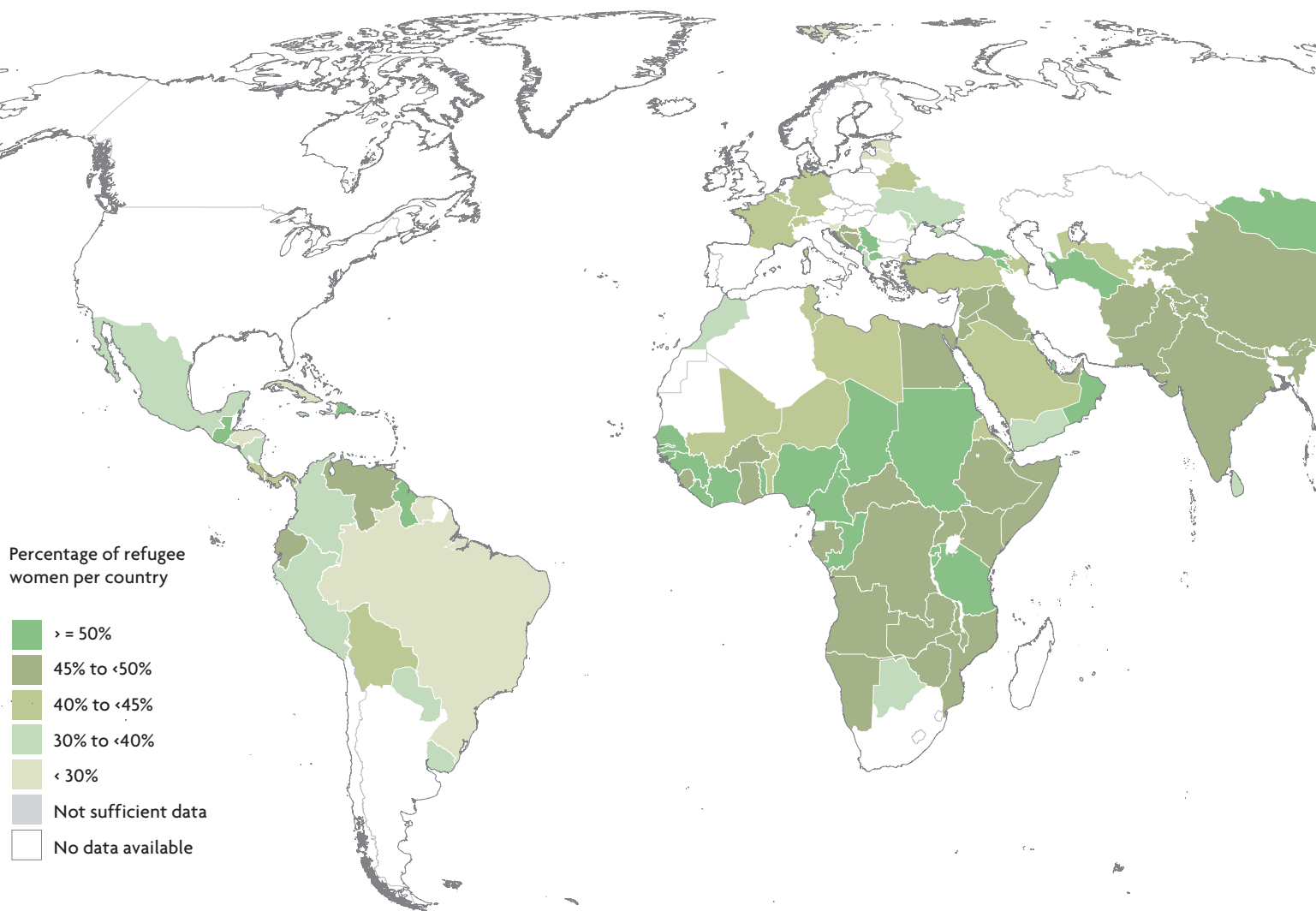
The availability of demographic data varied significantly depending on the type of population and the region: availability was high for refugees (72%), IDPs (70%), refugee returnees (90%), and others of concern (86%); and low for IDP returnees (19%) and

stateless persons (26%). The availability of data also differed by region. In the Americas, and in the Middle East and North Africa, demographic information for all persons of concern was available for 89 and 79 per cent respectively. This compared to slightly over 50 per cent available in Asia and in Africa. Europe was the only region where demographic data were available for less than half of all persons of concern by the end of 2010.

The higher data coverage has resulted from several factors, including the use of UNHCR's registration software *proGres*. In addition, as part of the cluster approach, UNHCR and its partners have successfully conducted IDP profiling exercises in a number of countries, leading to more accurate IDP estimates.

Available data by sex (21 million people) showed that women represented about half (49%) of most populations falling under UNHCR's responsibility. They constituted less than half (47 per cent) of refugees in most regions, 50 per cent of IDPs and returned refugees, and 53 per cent of stateless persons.<sup>76</sup> In terms of refugees, women represented less than half of these populations in most regions. The lowest proportion of refugee women was found in Europe

<sup>76</sup> Based on only 26 per cent data coverage for this category. Returned IDPs were excluded due to very low data coverage.



(44%), and the highest in Central Africa and the Great Lakes region (53%). However, these averages hid significant variations across locations. Among the major refugee-hosting countries, the percentage of refugee women ranged from 57 per cent in Chad to 31 per cent in Malaysia.<sup>77</sup>

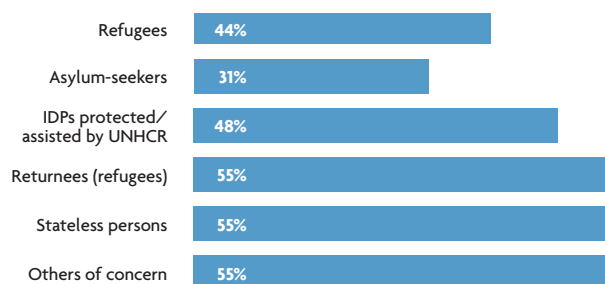
Information on the age breakdown was available for 14.1 million (42%) of

the 33.9 million persons of concern to UNHCR. The data coverage was relatively high for refugees (65%) and refugee returnees (86%). On average, some 47 per cent of persons of concern were children under the age of 18, 11 per cent of whom were under the age of five. About half the population was between the ages of 18 and 59 years, whereas 5 per cent were 60 years or older.

Among refugees and people in refugee-like situations, children constituted 44 per cent of the population. Their proportion was significantly higher among refugees who returned home in 2010 (55%). This has affected planning for sustainable returns, especially investments required for education, nutrition and health. By contrast, children constituted only 31 per cent of asylum-seekers, a population often composed of single men, particularly in industrialized countries. Among all age groups for refugee children, boys and girls were fairly equally distributed.

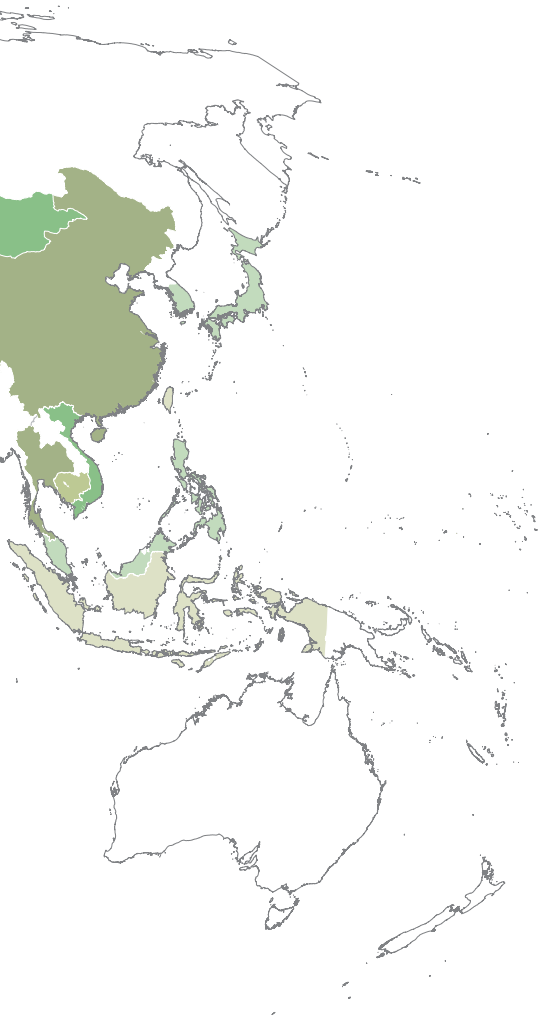
The availability of information by age breakdown was particularly limited with respect to developed countries in Europe, North America and Oceania. The figures are therefore not fully representative of the entire population under UNHCR's responsibility.

Fig. VI Percentage of children by population category | end-2010



<sup>77</sup> Figures based on at least 50 per cent data coverage.





#### TYPES OF LOCATION

In an effort to improve its information on types of location of persons of concern, UNHCR revised its statistical classification in 2010. UNHCR offices were requested to report on whether beneficiaries resided in urban or rural areas, or in a mixed/unknown location. Further breakdown by type of accommodation distinguished the

following categories: individual accommodation, camp, collective centre, dispersed, settlement, or undefined if the type was unclear or mixed. The first categorization revealed some 900 individual locations, covering 11.8 million persons of concern.<sup>78</sup> Similar to the demographic data, location information for refugees and returned refugees covered respectively 66 and 69 per cent. The data notably revealed that IDPs (including returned IDPs) predominantly resided in rural areas, that refugees and asylum-seekers were more often established in urban areas, and that returned refugees were evenly divided between the two.

Of the 10.55 million refugees, the type of accommodation was known for 8.2 million (78%). Approximately one third were found to be living either dispersed (33%), in camps (30%), or in an individual type of accommodation (29%). Collective centres and settlements were the least often reported types of accommodation of refugees (4 per cent each).

Refugee camps and settlements were mainly found in rural areas, whereas individual accommodation was predominant in urban areas. Almost half of all refugees residing in camps were located in sub-Saharan Africa, with another 43 per cent located in Asia. There was no difference in the use of accommodation types by male and female refugees. Refugee children, however, constituted more than half of those in camps or settlements, whereas the proportion dropped to 37 per cent for children living in individual accommodation.

## In focus: refugee girl's education in the East and Horn of Africa

#### BACKGROUND

Education is central to supporting girls to develop the competencies and personal skills they need to improve their lives and their capacity to protect themselves. Educated girls bring significant improvements to their families, economies, and societies. Providing girls and women with the opportunity to complete a quality education in a safe learning environment is a highly effective way to reduce poverty and ensure long-term livelihood options.

Ensuring this access in protective environments constitutes, however, a major challenge, even at primary school level. Although primary refugee enrolment rates follow an upward trend, around 30 per cent of refugee girls still have no access to primary education. Staying at school and completing their education is even more difficult for girls in secondary schools, where only 15 per cent of refugee girls are enrolled against 25 per cent of boys.

The reasons for poor primary and secondary school enrolment and retention rates for girls are multiple. They include limited or difficult school access; presence or fear of an unsafe learning environment; financial constraints and crisis situations that require girls to contribute to family economies; lack of documentation; or cultural assumptions about the value of educating girls. Moreover, education is often of variable quality, affecting access to and participation in school for all children, including girls. Ensuring quality education is a key challenge with 50 per cent of refugee camps reporting a student teacher ratio of over 40 and large

TABLE V.1 Accommodation of refugees | end-2010

Type of accommodation	No. of refugees	Distribution	% women	% children
Camp	2,443,600	30%	49%	52%
Center	331,500	4%	48%	49%
Dispersed	2,697,800	33%	47%	44%
Individual accommodation	2,390,600	29%	47%	37%
Settlement	349,000	4%	51%	57%
Sub-total	8,212,500	100%	48%	47%
Unknown	2,337,200			
Grand Total	10,549,700			

<sup>78</sup> Although UNHCR offices reported information on the location of a total of 28.4 million persons of concern, the location type for 16.6 million persons (mostly IDPs) was either unclear or a mixture of types.

numbers of unqualified teachers. Although the male/female teacher ratio is improving, no more than one in three teachers is female, and only 27 per cent of the teaching staff are trained female refugees. Increasing the number of female teachers and teaching assistants can be an effective way to increase safety in school, especially for girls, by preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, including trading sex for grade promotion.

Collecting data on refugee education involves overcoming a number of challenges: low capacity in the education systems; varying participation rates throughout the school year; and insecure environments where obtaining correct numbers for enrolment and participation often is compromised. Data collection systems that are ill-suited to collecting data on education can also reduce reliability. The figures presented in this section

**TABLE V.2** Enrolment rate in primary and secondary education<sup>79</sup> | 2010 (in %)

Country	2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Djibouti	83	6	59	10	45	6	74	3
Eritrea	n.a.	n.a.	76	45	121	81	111	87
Ethiopia	68	14	54	25	55	13	48	13
Kenya	52	n.a.	52	18	51	16	48	11
Somalia	n.a.	n.a.	100	5	91	1	85	12
Sudan	26	8	31	9	70	12	52	1
Uganda	94	15	105	6	73	13	72	6

in comparison with 67 per cent enrolment for boys. In secondary school, the average enrolment rate is only 10 per cent for girls aged 12-17 years old in comparison with 19 per cent for boys. This means that very few refugee girls attending primary school will advance to secondary education. It also means that only one in every ten refugee girls aged 12 to 17 in the region is attending school.

Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, early marriage, poverty, lack of parental guidance and insecurity were given as the main reasons for girls dropping out of school. In Sudan, refugees and asylum-seekers did not always have access to free primary education, and in Somalia and Djibouti this applied to asylum-seekers. Moreover, education did not always lead to the attainment of a qualification, as for the Congolese refugees in Sudan. The Government of Djibouti did not recognise refugee diplomas obtained in the country of origin. Low levels of access for women to quality literacy opportunities and adult education were also a cause for concern.

**Fig. V.2** Enrolment rates for refugee girls in primary and secondary education | 2010



were collected through UNHCR's 2010 *Standards and Indicators Report*, and should be considered as an indication of trends, rather than a comprehensive picture.

**CASE STUDY:**  
**EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA**

Girls not attending or dropping out of school is a serious concern for UNHCR. The lack of quality learning opportunities not only denies them the right to education, but results in major protection risks for displaced girls and youth as well as in decreased prospects for durable solutions. The situation in the East and Horn of Africa illustrates this, with an average enrolment rate of 55 per cent in grades 1-6 for girls aged 6-11 years old,

In addition to the lowest enrolment rates for secondary education in comparison with all other regions, the region reports the lowest percentage of youth (15-24 years old) in training (3.5%), the lowest number of camps with a student teacher ratio of 40 students per teacher or less (22%), and the lowest proportion of refugee teachers (62%). There is a significant difference between male and female teachers, with female refugees representing only 9 per cent of all teachers, compared to 52 per cent male refugees. Overall, there are almost four times more male teachers than female (78% vs. 22%).

Adolescent girls face additional challenges that have had a negative impact on their school attendance. In

**UNHCR'S RESPONSE**

UNHCR responded by supporting a number of targeted educational programmes resulting in an increase in enrolment rates or a stabilising of primary enrolment levels among refugee girls in countries in the region, including Uganda, Kenya (Kakuma camp), Ethiopia (in camps, not in urban areas), Djibouti, Eritrea and east Sudan. In Ethiopia, for instance, specific programmes targeting Somali girls in Jijiga refugee camp succeeded in raising the enrolment level from 30 per cent in 2009 to 50 per cent a year later. Although increasing in several locations, the overall primary school

<sup>79</sup> The denominator of children aged 6 to 11 and 12-17 was used for all operations because it is the most widely available age group for children and it facilitates international comparison. In practice, however, the age of children attending school may be slightly different. In refugee camps, where students aged 18 or above are sometimes enrolled in secondary school, the enrolment rate could thus be more than 100 per cent.

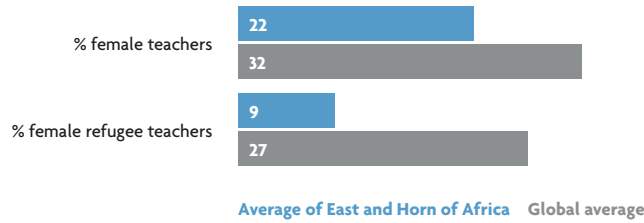
enrolment rates for refugee girls in the region decreased from 58 per cent in 2009 to 55 per cent in 2010, partly owing to decreased enrolment rates in locations with large population groups.

UNHCR undertook a number of initiatives to increase access, improve quality and enhance protection in education, including the provision of incentives. These included food incentives for children, targeting girls in particular. Experience has shown that school feeding not only encourages enrolment and facilitates attendance and retention of children in school, but also improves learning by relieving hunger from the lack of a meal before going to school. UNHCR has successfully collaborated with the World Food Programme in school feeding programmes in Kenya and Djibouti.

The Office has also endeavoured to reduce disincentives, organizing campaigns against early pregnancy in camps in some of the countries in the region, and encouraging pregnant girls to continue attending school. Each of these initiatives has contributed to an increase in enrolment levels.

Girls' enrolment and attendance in school also increased thanks to the construction of secondary schools, separate latrines and spaces for girls. UNHCR also established child-care services and early childhood education and provided scholarships. In

**Fig. V.3 Percentage of female teachers in the East and Horn of Africa | 2010**



addition, sanitary materials were made available to girls attending school to facilitate their participation. A Safe Learning Environment (SLE), an e-learning module focused on responding to violence and abuse in educational settings, was developed and subsequently piloted in Ethiopia and Uganda.

Four-fifths of refugee camps (84%) in the East and Horn of Africa established educational committees with the participation of parents, teachers, students and host government representatives. This contributed to a more active involvement of different stakeholders in education, in particular parents' engagement in their girls' education, outreach systems to identify out-of-school children and youth, and enhanced educational quality.

Joint efforts by UNHCR and its partners resulted in a global increase in the number of trained or qualified

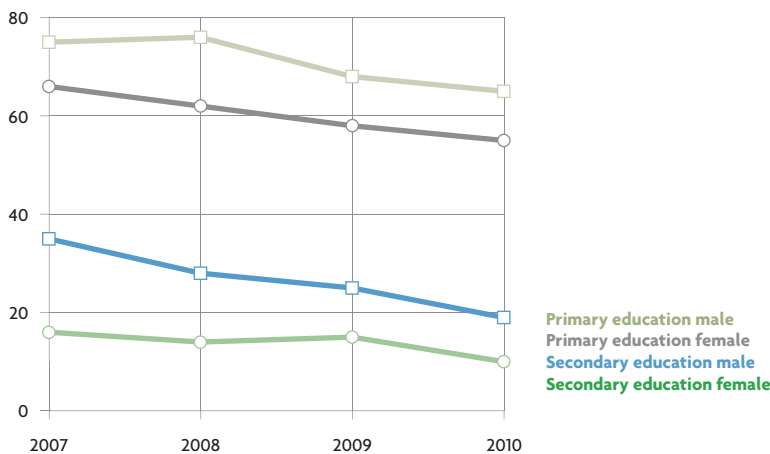
female teachers. Numbers rose in Eritrea, Kenya, and Uganda, reaching the same or even higher levels than those of male teachers. In Uganda, housing facilities for teachers were improved, with a positive impact on the quality of education and on the number of female teachers.

**FUTURE STEPS**

Enhancing data collection and analysis of critical indicators such as retention rates and learning achievement will be at the core of UNHCR's future activities. In collaboration with UNESCO, an Education Management Information System (EMIS) will be developed and adapted to UNHCR's educational operations. Its main purpose will be to support in-country collection and analysis of data to help identify emerging issues, monitor trends and inform educational programming.

The process of increasing literacy is affected, however, by a lack of appropriate procedures to assess and monitor literacy levels and education needs. Current literacy data, which tends to be based on calculations of years of formal schooling or self-assessment, has proved to be significantly inaccurate, leading to overestimates of literacy levels. In contexts of displacement, data were often lacking altogether. In order to obtain reliable data on literacy skills, and in cooperation with UNESCO's Institute for Statistics, UNHCR is in the process of developing a system of direct assessment of literacy, adapting UNESCO's Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP) to refugee contexts and piloting this Programme in a number of countries. ■

**Fig. V.4 School enrolment of refugees in East and Horn of Africa by gender and grade | 2007-2010**





**Internally displaced children** in al-Mazrak camp, close to the border town of Harad, Yemen. More than 65,000 persons were displaced in 2010.



# Data Collection to Inform Protection: Case Studies

**F**OR SEVERAL YEARS, the Statistical Yearbook has sought to provide quantitative insights into the protection and the well-being of persons of concern to UNHCR. Over the past years, the statistical reporting on living conditions and the well-being of UNHCR's beneficiaries has improved significantly. Nevertheless, presenting meaningful geographical and time-based comparisons remains difficult. Incompatible data, varying data collection methodologies and changes in reporting tools complicate the task of providing a global picture of UNHCR's performance in protection and assistance.

This chapter provides examples of the potential use of protection data to support decision-making among relevant stakeholders. Most of the data were derived from UNHCR's Health Information System (HIS) and its Standards and Indicators (S&I) Report. The HIS system collects systematic data on health and related indicators in 44 countries, primarily focusing on camp-based populations. The S&I Report is an annual report produced by UNHCR offices on selected indicators assessing protection, living conditions and the well-being of populations of concern. Other data sources include the registration

software *proGres*, the results-based management software FOCUS, surveys undertaken by UNHCR or partners, as well as reports from UNHCR health coordinators and other protection data collection mechanisms.

This chapter contains three distinct case studies. The first one reflects nutrition and health-related indicators for refugees, with a focus on malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, malaria and anaemia. The second case study examines a recent IDP profiling exercise undertaken in Serbia. The third case study looks at some of the challenges faced by a relatively young refugee population in the East and Horn of Africa.

## A. Public Health Trends

### BACKGROUND

In 2010, UNHCR continued to consolidate the quality of its public health programmes in refugee camp settings through strengthened coordination and prioritization of critical areas to ensure effective and equitable use of limited resources. At the same time, the Office responded to the new challenges for health care in urban areas. In its public health programmes, UNHCR played a policy-making, planning, coordination, supervision, mo-

onitoring and evaluation role, working closely with a diversity of partners in a range of challenging settings. Interventions were based on an assessment of needs, vulnerabilities and risks.

Data used in this section were primarily derived from nutritional surveys and the Health Information System (HIS). The role of the HIS is to generate, analyse and disseminate routine public health data to rapidly detect and respond to health problems and epidemics, to monitor

trends and address public health priorities, and to evaluate the effectiveness and quality of interventions and service coverage.

A web-based version of HIS was released in November 2010.<sup>80</sup> This new online tool made it easier for UNHCR and partners to access and visualise HIS data. Through more timely analysis and interpretation of data, HIS aims to improve understanding of the

<sup>80</sup> Available at <http://his.unhcr.org>

public health needs of populations of concern, and better inform public health responses.

**NUTRITION:  
LEVELS AND TRENDS**

Improving nutritional status in refugee camps has been a priority for UNHCR. In 2010 UNHCR made a concerted effort to improve the reach and quality of nutritional programmes aimed at pregnant women and infants from birth until 23 months, as evidence shows that most positive change can be achieved with these groups.

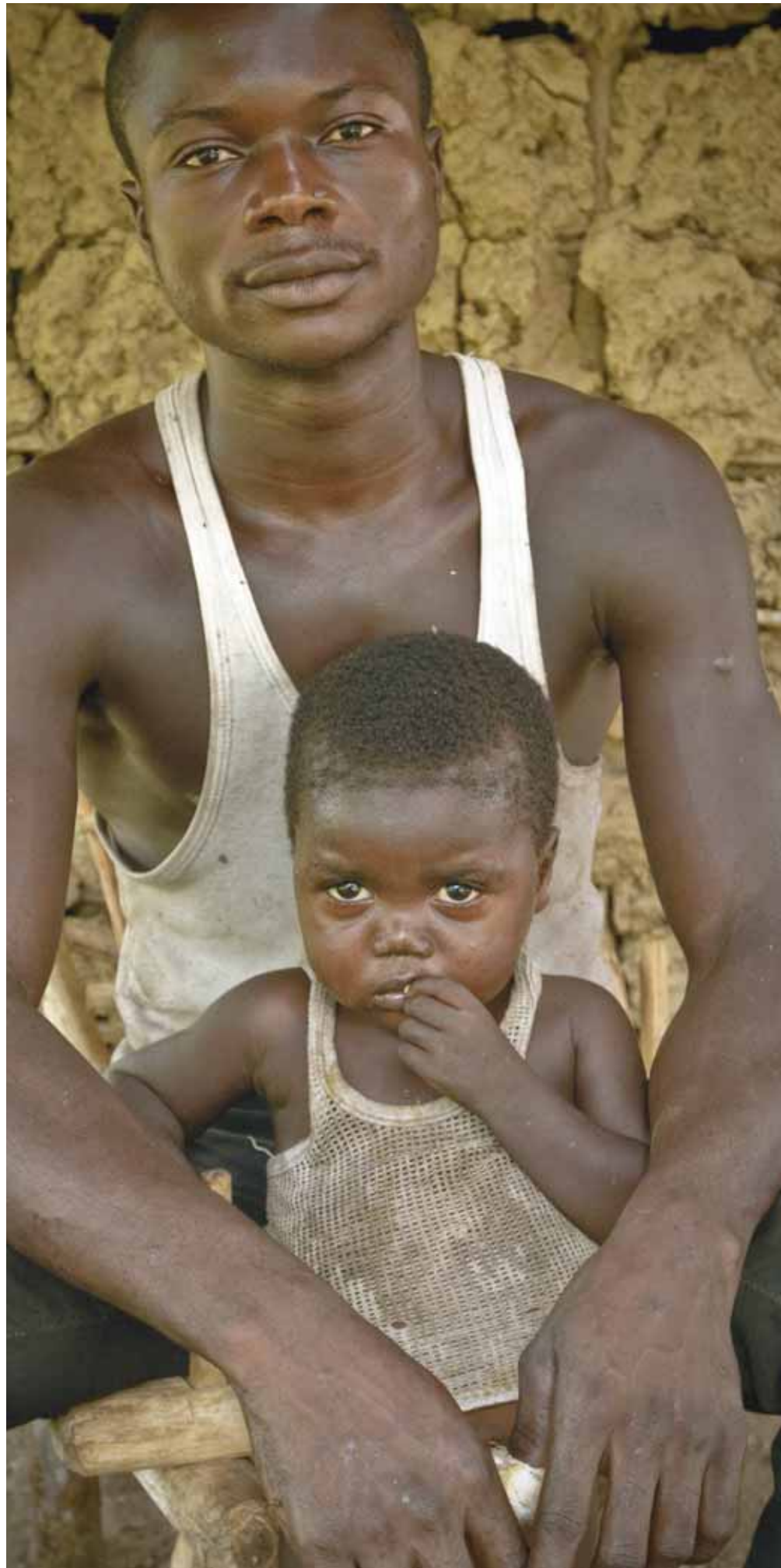
● **Global Acute Malnutrition**

Between 2008 and 2010, reductions in global acute malnutrition (GAM) and childhood anaemia were achieved in approximately 69 and 44 per cent of camps, respectively (see *Figure VI.1*). Among camps assessed in 2010, 30 per cent met the acceptable standards of a GAM of <5%.

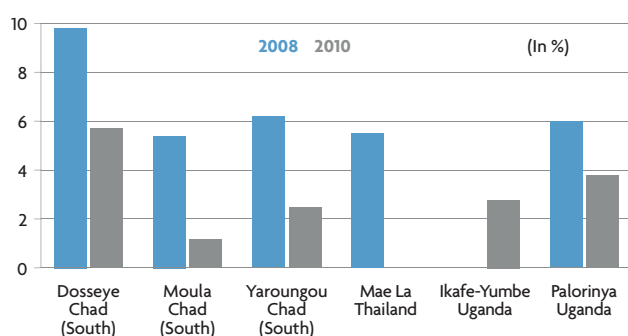
Notable improvements towards targets were made in southern Chad, Uganda and Thailand (see *Figure VI.1*). Although a very positive achievement, the challenge with reducing GAM prevalence to <5% is that the threshold is very low and not far above would be acceptable under the best possible health, nutrition and environmental conditions where 2.5 per cent GAM would be expected. Low levels of GAM are also susceptible to seasonal effects and minor fluctuations, so under 5 per cent GAM could be considered an unrealistic threshold for the environments in which UNHCR operates.

To better track progress over time, in 2010 UNHCR adjusted the target threshold for GAM to <10%. UNHCR nevertheless aims to attain GAM prevalence as low as possible in each of the camp situations. For example, out of 79 refugee camps reporting GAM in 2010, 29 camps achieved the target of <5% GAM while

**One out of 21,000**  
Congolese refugees who  
fled the Democratic  
Republic of the Congo in  
2010 and found refuge in  
the Republic of the Congo.



**Fig. VI.1** Global acute malnutrition rates  
| Comparison 2008 and 2010, selected countries



47 camps achieved the target of <10% GAM.

#### ANAEMIA

Anaemia remains a serious public health challenge as many refugee camps reported high rates of anaemia in children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years in 2010. Nearly four-fifths of camps (78%) reported anaemia prevalence of over 40 per cent, exceeding the acceptable threshold of below 20 per cent.

The number of countries implementing the expanded anaemia strategy increased from seven to ten and, in collaboration with partners, the range of activities aimed at reducing all forms of malnutrition in the camps was expanded. Micronutrient strategies such as the use of micronutrient powders were introduced, and infant and young child feeding programming was improved in many sites.

In 2010, reductions in rates of anaemia were observed in some countries such as Djibouti and Nepal, but increases were recorded in others, such as eastern Chad and Bangladesh (see Figure VI.2).

#### HIV/AIDS

In 2010, UNHCR successfully strengthened inter-linkages and integration of sexual reproductive health and HIV programmes, with a focus on access to quality maternal and newborn care, access to HIV prevention, and mother-to-child transmission programmes.

In addition, HIV programmes were expanded to population groups most at risk.

Periodic HIV behavioural surveillance surveys (BSS) capture trends in behaviours and inform the planning and adjustment of HIV prevention programmes. Such surveys are especially valuable in protecting the rights of conflict-affected populations, countering the unsubstantiated and discriminatory assertions often made that the displaced have a higher prevalence of HIV, spread HIV infection in surrounding communities, and that conflict and forced displacement lead to increased risky sexual behaviours.

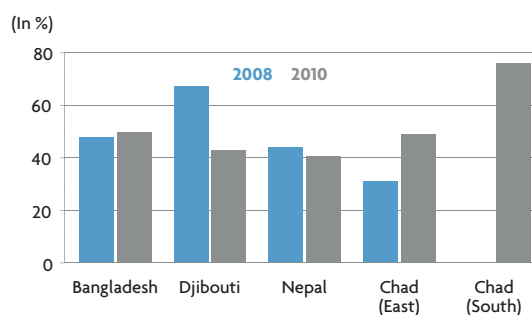
As part of the Great Lakes Initiative on HIV/AIDS, baseline BSSs were conducted in 2004/2005 and follow-up surveys in 2010 in refugee camps and surrounding communities in Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda. This was the first regional analysis of trends in risky sexual behaviours over time among refugees and their surrounding host communities.<sup>81</sup>

Seven sites were surveyed. In Uganda, Kyangwali settlement and its surrounding communities in Hoima; in Kenya, Kakuma camp and Kakuma national town; and in the United Republic of Tanzania, follow-up data was available from three sites: Nyarugusu camp residents previously resident in the now closed Lugufu camp; Lugufu surrounding villages; and Lukole surrounding villages (Lukole camp was closed in 2007 as refugees repatriated to Burundi).

Participants in the survey had to be sleeping and sharing meals in a selected household for more than two weeks, and be between the ages of 15-49 years. In Uganda, the upper age limit was extended to 59 years, in line with the national guidelines.

Overall there was a consistent decrease in risky sexual behaviour, whether in multiple, non-regular or transactional sexual partnerships (see Table VI.1 below). This was coupled with increases in abstinence among youths and condom use with non-regular partners. The same trends were generally observed across age and gender groups. These trends were consistent with those reported in countries most severely affected by HIV. The improvements in reported risky sexual behaviours, HIV knowledge, and testing are promising, and may be indicative of the success of HIV prevention programmes since baseline. Nevertheless these findings cannot be used to determine the extent to which HIV prevention efforts contributed to actual behaviour change, or to indicate which specific activities were most effective.

**Fig. VI.2** Anaemia prevalence rates  
| Comparison 2008 and 2010, selected countries

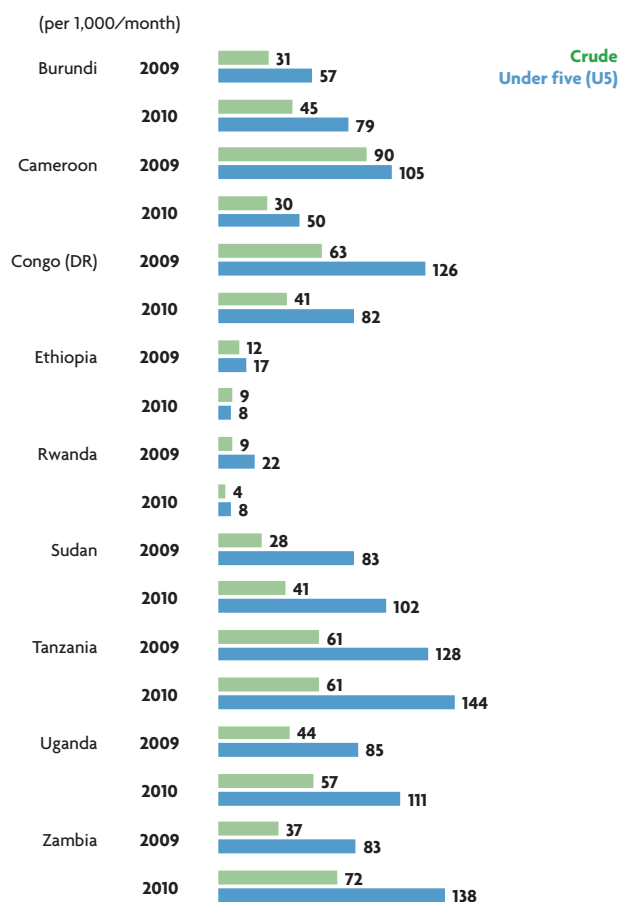


<sup>81</sup> For more information on changing regional trends in HIV-related behaviours in refugee camps and surrounding communities, see <http://www.unhcr.org/4de5054c9.html>.

**TABLE VI.1 Comparison of trends in sexual risk behaviours in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania | 2005 - 2010**

Indicator (2005 to 2010)	Direction of behavioural change (2005-2010)
<b>Among 15-24 year olds</b>	
1. Never married young people who have never had sex	Increased (except Lukole town)
2. Young people who have had sexual intercourse before the age of 15	Mixed
<b>Among 15-49 year olds (59 years for Uganda)</b>	
1. More than one sexual partner in the past 12 months	Decreased
2. Sex with a non-regular partner(s) in the last 12 months	Decreased
3. Sex with a transactional partner(s) in the last 12 months	Decreased
4. Condom use at last sex with a non-regular partners in the last 12 months	Increased (except Uganda camp)
5. Women forced to have sex in the past 12 months	Decreased (except Lukole town)
6. Received an HIV test in the past 12 months and know the results	Increased
7. Comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS	Increased

**Fig. VI.3 Malaria incidence rates**  
| Comparison 2009 and 2010, selected countries



**MALARIA**

Malaria has remained a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among refugees. A majority of refugees live in areas where the disease is endemic or occurs in seasonal epidemics. Many factors promote susceptibility to malaria morbidity and mortality among refugees: pregnant women and young children are particularly at risk of severe illness and death. Refugee camps are often situated on marginal lands that are breeding sites for malaria vectors.

In past years, UNHCR strengthened malaria prevention and control programmes. With support from the United Nations Foundation Nothing but Nets campaign<sup>82</sup>, UNHCR distributed an additional 412,000 nets in 11 countries in Africa in 2010, while improving the diagnosis and treatment of malaria. Additional efforts were also made in 2010 to increase collaboration with public health, water and sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and food security, with the decision to systematically integrate malaria and WASH questions into nutrition data collection.

These interventions have started to have an impact. The introduction of diagnostic confirmation to the malaria protocols and the availability of

<sup>82</sup> See <http://www.nothingbutnets.net/partners-people/united-nations-foundation.html>



highly effective artemisinin-combination therapy (ACT), in combination with the distribution of long-lasting insecticide treated bed nets, reduced the incidence of malaria in a number of operations including Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo

and Rwanda (see Figure VI.3). However, reductions were not yet observed in other countries (such as Burundi, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia). The reasons for the disparities are not yet fully understood, and will be the focus of further analysis in 2011.

## B. Needs assessment survey of IDPs in Serbia

### BACKGROUND

Following the conflicts of the 1990s and the Kosovo crisis in 1999, Serbia was host to the largest number of refugees and IDPs in Europe. By the end of 2010, over 200,000 IDPs were still displaced within Serbia, mostly in central and southern Serbia, while a small number, mostly ethnic Roma, were living in the northern region of Vojvodina.

In response to this situation, Serbia had launched several programmes over the past years, aimed to provide sustainable return options to Kosovo and to identify durable solutions within the country. However, there were few IDP returns to Kosovo, and sustainable integration was relatively rare.

Although a Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS)<sup>83</sup> was conducted in Serbia in 2007, the Government and international actors needed supplementary information not only to establish the number of IDPs still in need of assistance, but also to define their specific needs and to prioritize assistance for the most vulnerable. A profiling survey of the 207,000 IDPs living in Serbia was therefore conducted in 2010 to collect the information required, and provide the disaggregated information, as well as details of those in need.

The survey was managed collaboratively by the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia,

with technical and financial support provided by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS).<sup>84</sup> Survey fieldwork was launched late in 2010, and the final report *Assessment of the Needs of Internally Displaced Persons in Serbia* was released in February 2011.<sup>85</sup>

### METHODOLOGY

The survey was designed to define the characteristics of IDPs including their numbers, needs and areas of concentration. Other characteristics included socio-demographic indicators, labour market participation,

TABLE VI.2 Estimated number of IDPs in the Republic of Serbia | 2010

	Males	Females	Total
Republic of Serbia	105,736	101,356	207,092
- Urban areas	83,740	81,697	165,437
- Non urban areas	21,996	19,660	41,656

income, housing conditions, access to social services, social integration and willingness to return.

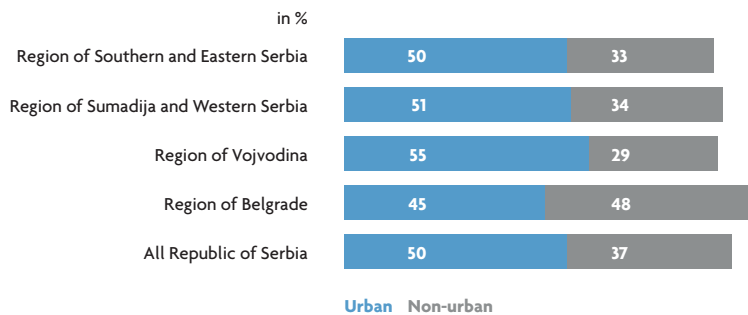
The Serbian Commissioner for Refugees' registration database for IDPs, continuously updated since 2000, provided the sampling frame. Population numbers per geographic settlement were generated and 220 settlements were randomly selected. Ten households from each settlement

<sup>83</sup> Vukmirovic, D and Smith-Govoni, R. (2007). *Living Standards Measurement Study: Serbia 2002-2007*, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia/ The World Bank Department for International Development.

<sup>84</sup> See [www.idp-profiling.org](http://www.idp-profiling.org)

<sup>85</sup> Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia/UNHCR/JIPS. (2011) *Assessment of the Needs of Internally Displaced Persons in Serbia*, available at [http://www.unhcr.rs/media/IDP\\_Needs\\_AssessmentENGLISH.pdf](http://www.unhcr.rs/media/IDP_Needs_AssessmentENGLISH.pdf)

**Fig. VI.4 Percentage of IDPs in need, in urban and non-urban areas**



were randomly selected for interviews. The two-stage stratified random sampling approach allowed the findings to be applied to the overall population, while reducing costs as interviews were grouped within limited geographic areas.

A total of 2,006 households and 8,335 individual interviews were conducted using a questionnaire with eight thematic sections: four provided individual level information, and four yielded household level data. ‘In-need’ households were identified as those where responses revealed levels below agreed parameters for housing and income.

**CHALLENGES**

A major challenge was to agree on the methodology to be used within budgetary and political constraints. The consensus obtained gave stakeholders a shared understanding of trends and vulnerabilities within the remaining IDP population, and led to better targeted strategies and possibly assistance programmes.

The methodology was not without limitations. It excluded IDPs not registered by the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees while including registered non-IDPs. Also, as the survey did not recount the IDPs, gaps in registration could have affected the sampling. Nevertheless, these limitations were not uncommon for studies focused on

analysing trends and estimating figures. The methodology remains both statistically defensible and politically acceptable, facilitating the actual data collection as well as its utilization for programmes and strategies.

**KEY FINDINGS**

Eleven years after the movements from Kosovo, over 207,000 IDPs were still registered in Serbia. The majority had migrated towards urban areas and were concentrated in the regions of Sumadija and Western Serbia. Vojvodina had the highest percentage of needy IDPs. Ethnically, Serbs made up the highest number of IDPs, followed by Roma, then Gorani. Of IDPs surveyed, 45 per cent were considered “in need” (49,000 men and 48,000 women). Roma were more vulnerable than other displaced; 75 per cent of the Roma IDP population was assessed as “in need”.

As indicated in Figure VI.4, the displaced in urban areas were more likely

to be “in need” (50 per cent) compared to 37 per cent in non-urban areas.

**Housing**

About 94 per cent of IDPs surveyed expressed housing as a central concern. Although the majority of IDPs lived in private houses and apartments, 14 per cent of those “in need” lived in buildings unintended for housing, generally with less space than that of less needy displaced. IDPs in general reported 59.4 m<sup>2</sup> per household, an average of 17.7 m<sup>2</sup> per household member, while households “in-need” lived in an average of 47.6 m<sup>2</sup>, with 12.6 m<sup>2</sup> per household member. The living conditions of Roma were the most constrained, reporting an average living area of 10 m<sup>2</sup> per household member.

About half (49%) of respondents had owned an apartment/house in Kosovo, but in most cases, property was either destroyed or occupied.

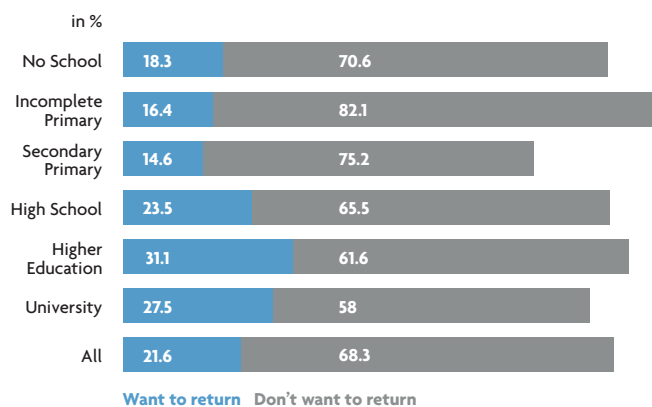
**Livelihoods**

Internally displaced men in Serbia had higher employment rates than women, with 30 per cent of men and only 18 per cent of women in employment. The displaced suffered from unemployment at higher rates (32%) than the general population in Serbia (estimated at around 19 per cent).<sup>86</sup>

**Willingness to return**

Only 22 per cent of IDPs expressed a willingness to return to Kosovo, whereas the overwhelming major-

**Fig. VI.5 Willingness to return by educational attainment**



<sup>86</sup> Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. (2007) *Labour Force Survey*, available at [http://reports.aidatapro.com/SSI/Labour\\_Force\\_Survey\\_Oct\\_2007.pdf](http://reports.aidatapro.com/SSI/Labour_Force_Survey_Oct_2007.pdf)

<sup>87</sup> Vukmirovic, D. and Smith-Govoni, R. (2007) *Living Standards Measurement Study: Serbia 2002-2007*, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia/The World Bank.

rity of IDPs were opposed to return. This was a significant change from the 2007 LSMS in which over 50 per cent of IDPs had expressed a desire to return.<sup>87</sup> Few Roma (9%) expressed an interest in returning to Kosovo. Main reasons for the reported unwillingness to return included safety concerns, ethnic discrimination and restricted movement. Better educated IDPs were relatively more willing to return to Kosovo than those with less education (see Figure VI.5).

● Access to documents

Eight per cent of displaced people surveyed did not have identity cards or birth certificates. This figure was higher amongst the displaced Roma population (17%). For those without documents, the greatest difficulty was access to employment and health services.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The profiling exercise demonstrated that the active participation of various

stakeholders in the process helped ensure the usefulness of collected data. As findings highlighted dire housing conditions and limited access to basic services among some vulnerable IDP groups, the Government of Serbia intends to develop a new national strategy on refugees and IDPs. The dataset produced has also formed a basis for UNHCR’s operational plans in Serbia for 2012 and beyond.

## C. Challenges facing a young refugee population in the East and Horn of Africa

BACKGROUND

The East and Horn of Africa has been one of the most important refugee-hosting regions in the world with well over a million refugees hosted in ten countries including Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda (see Figure VI.6). In 2010, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Burundi all received more people seeking asylum.

The age structure of the refugee population in these countries was similar: children and young adults of both sexes accounted for over 80 per cent of the refugee population. As a rule, children of 5 to 17 years were the majority, followed by young adults (youth) aged 18 to 34 years of whom males generally slightly outnumbered females (see Figure VI.7).

The majority of refugee populations were hosted in camps set up by host governments and supported by UNHCR and its partners. In many of these countries, governments allowed relatively small refugee populations to live outside the camps, either in urban centres or in rural communities. In collaboration with governments, NGOs, and UN partners, UNHCR provided protection and assistance pending durable solutions to most of these populations.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH BULGE

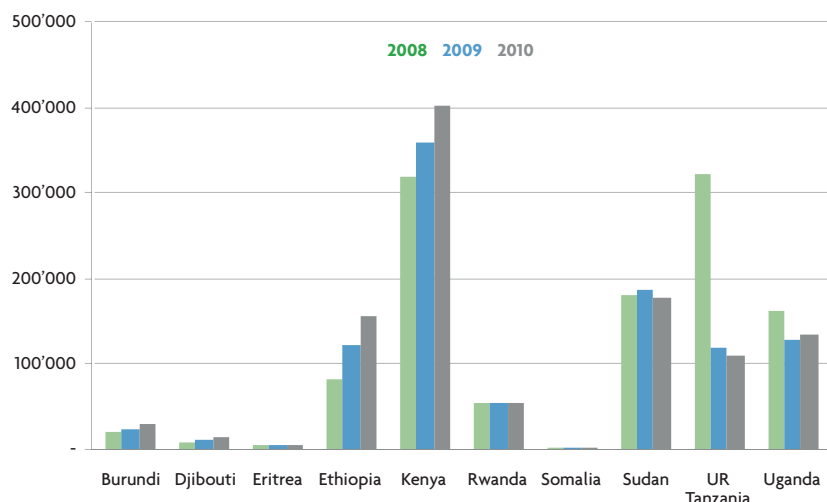
● Education

With the large number of refugee children and youth, demands for programmes and services targeting children and youth far exceeded resources. Vital educational programmes failed to reach many children. Across all camps in the region, only about 53 per cent of the eligible population had access to primary, and 17 per cent to secondary education.

Host countries in the region are struggling to achieve the Millennium Development Goal<sup>88</sup> on universal

primary education. Yet, to varying degrees, governments and host communities provided support for refugee education, including access to government schools and facilitated exam registration and supervision. Nonetheless, the combination of educational assistance from governments and UNHCR with the resources raised by the donor community have not matched the ever-increasing needs of refugee children in the host countries for even basic primary education.

Fig. VI.6 Refugee population in the East and Horn of Africa | 2008-2010 (end-year)



88 See <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx>

While UNHCR gave priority to primary education for refugee children, opportunities for secondary education were very limited in refugee camps and sponsored through scholarships provided by partners such as the Jesuit Refugee Services and the Norwegian Refugee Council. Community schools also provided important contributions to refugee education. For example, in Gihembe in Rwanda, three out of six secondary schools were run by the refugee community.

### ● Vocational skills and other targeted programmes

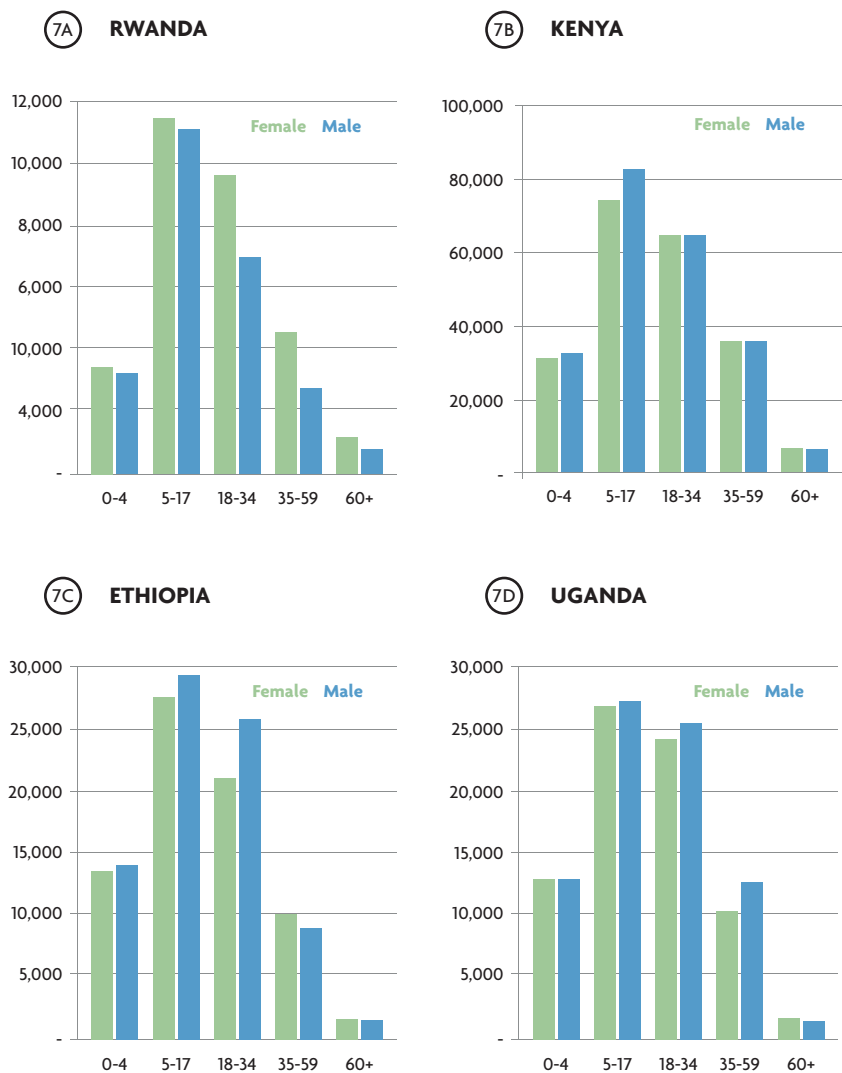
In efforts to compensate for the lack of education opportunities for children and youth, UNHCR and its partners developed targeted programmes for adolescents designed to help them develop into responsible adults and contribute to their communities. The programmes included sports and health awareness, domestic skills such as cooking and gardening, sensitization on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health, and socio-cultural activities. Constraints on financial and skilled human resources were the main challenge to the wider implementation of these innovations. Only 23 per cent of the adolescents aged 12 to 17 years were reached through these targeted programmes in the region during 2010. Burundi showed the highest proportion with almost 60 per cent participation.

Another targeted intervention was the provision of non-formal training and vocational skills for the benefit of teenagers and young adult refugees by UNHCR and its partners. In view of the limited scope of these programmes, an average of only 4 per cent of the target population aged 15 to 24 years residing in camps in the region were enrolled in vocational skills training during 2010. Refugee camps in Uganda showed the highest rate with an average of 13 per cent participation.

### ● Official documentation

Birth registration establishes proof of age and identity, and provides children with a degree of protection against child

Fig. VI.7 Age-sex distribution of refugees | end-2010



labour, early marriage, illegal adoption, sexual exploitation, recruitment into armed forces/groups and trafficking. In 2010, 27 per cent of camps in the region reported that all newborns were registered and issued with a birth certificate. Only 42 per cent of urban programmes reported that all newborn babies were issued with birth certificates. Resources allocated to support host governments in birth registration and certification need to be increased to ensure the realization of this right for refugee children.

### CONCLUSIONS

The indicators demonstrated some of the problems encountered in the East and Horn of Africa by the large

young population. The continued lack of opportunities for this growing population in refugee camps and urban centres remains a challenge that calls for significant interventions to address gaps and restore hope. Specifically, more resources should be made available to the educational sector to enable universal access by all refugee children. Educational budgets for host countries should be increased to cater for all children, including refugees. The international community should advocate for the easing of restrictions in host countries to allow refugees to access informal or formal employment opportunities and thus contribute to the well-being of refugee and host communities alike. ■