



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

# MID-YEAR TRENDS

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2022



# Trends at a Glance<sup>1</sup>

## FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE MID-2022

32.5 million refugees

26.7 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate  
5.8 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate

53.1 million internally displaced people at end-2021<sup>2</sup>

4.9 million asylum-seekers

5.3 million other people in need of international protection<sup>3</sup>

## REFUGEES<sup>4</sup> AND OTHER PEOPLE IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION:

LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES HOSTED

74%

Low- and middle-income countries hosted 74 per cent of the world's refugees and other people in need of international protection. The least developed countries provided asylum to 22 per cent of the total.

1.1 MILLION NEW CLAIMS

Asylum-seekers submitted 1.1 million new claims. The United States of America was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications (245,200). In addition, 3.7 million refugees were granted temporary protection, primarily in European countries.

**United States of America** 245,200

**Germany** 84,600

**Russian Federation** 69,500

3.7 MILLION REFUGEES HOSTED IN TÜRKIYE

Türkiye hosted 3.7 million refugees, the largest population worldwide. Colombia was second with 2.5 million, including other people in need of international protection. Germany became the third largest hosting country with 2.2 million refugees, followed by Pakistan (1.5 million) and Uganda (1.5 million).

**Türkiye** 3.7 million

**Colombia** 2.5 million

**Germany** 2.2 million

**Pakistan** 1.5 million

**Uganda** 1.5 million

69%

LIVED IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

69 per cent of refugees and other people in need of international protection lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

1 IN 6

ARE DISPLACED

Relative to their national populations,<sup>5</sup> the island of Aruba and Lebanon hosted the largest number of refugees and other people in need of international protection (1 in 6 each), followed by Curaçao (1 in 11), Jordan (1 in 16) and Colombia (1 in 21).<sup>6</sup>

**Aruba** 1 in 6

**Lebanon** 1 in 6

**Curaçao** 1 in 11

**Jordan** 1 in 16

**Colombia** 1 in 21

76%

ORIGINATED FROM JUST SIX COUNTRIES

76 per cent of all refugees and other people in need of international protection came from just six countries.

**Syrian Arab Republic** 6.8 million

**Venezuela** 5.6 million<sup>7</sup>

**Ukraine** 5.4 million<sup>8</sup>

**Afghanistan** 2.8 million

**South Sudan** 2.4 million

**Myanmar** 1.2 million

## SOLUTIONS

42,300 REFUGEES WERE RESETTLED

42,300 refugees were resettled in the first six months of 2022, a substantial increase compared to the COVID-19 era figures in 2021 (16,300) and 2020 (15,500).

1.4 MILLION DISPLACED PEOPLE RETURNED

162,300 refugees returned to their countries of origin in the first half of 2022, while 1.3 million internally displaced people returned to their areas of origin.

<sup>1</sup> The numbers contained in this report are rounded to millions, thousands or hundreds depending on the context and may therefore not sum to the correct absolute figure.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). UNHCR estimates that the global IDP population at mid-2022 exceeds 60 million.

<sup>3</sup> See the definition of other people in need of international protection on the next page.

<sup>4</sup> Includes refugees under UNHCR's mandate, and people in refugee-like situations.

<sup>5</sup> Limited to countries hosting at least 10,000 people. Excludes Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

<sup>6</sup> When 484,800 Palestine refugees in Lebanon and 2.3 million Palestine refugees in Jordan registered with UNRWA are included, the proportions in Lebanon and Jordan increase to one in four.

<sup>7</sup> This is the number of Venezuelan refugees and other people in need of international protection who are not formally recognized as refugees.

<sup>8</sup> As of 30 June 2022.

# Statistics for forcibly displaced and all other people included in UNHCR's mandate

This report's main focus is the analysis of changes and trends in forced displacement from January to June 2022 among people covered by UNHCR's mandate.<sup>9</sup> The data presented are based on information received as of 30 September 2022 unless otherwise indicated.

At mid-2022, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide was estimated at 103 million.<sup>10</sup> This figure encompasses refugees (including refugees who are not covered by UNHCR's mandate), asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and other people in need of international protection.

UNHCR also estimates the population that UNHCR is mandated to protect and/or assist. This includes those who have been forcibly displaced (refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and other people in need of international protection); those who have returned home within the first six months of the year; those who are stateless (most of whom are not forcibly

displaced); and other groups to whom UNHCR has extended its protection or provided assistance on a humanitarian basis. By mid-2022 this figure stood at 104.5 million people.

These two categorizations are compared graphically below. A detailed breakdown of the populations for all people included in UNHCR's mandate by category and country is provided in Annex Tables 1 and 2.

The figures in this report are based on data reported by governments, non-governmental organizations and UNHCR. Numbers are rounded to the closest hundred or thousand. As some adjustments may appear later in the year in the Refugee Data Finder,<sup>11</sup> figures contained in this report should be considered as provisional and subject to change. Unless otherwise specified, the report does not refer to events occurring after 30 June 2022.

## OTHER PEOPLE IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

The category "Other people in need of international protection" was first introduced in mid-2022 reporting<sup>12</sup> and refers to:

**"People who are outside their country or territory of origin, typically because they have been forcibly displaced across international borders, who have not been reported under other categories (asylum-seekers, refugees, people in refugee-like situations) but who likely need international protection, including protection against forced return, as well as access to basic services on a temporary or longer-term basis."**

<sup>9</sup> See the [Methodology](#) page of UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder for a definition of each population group.

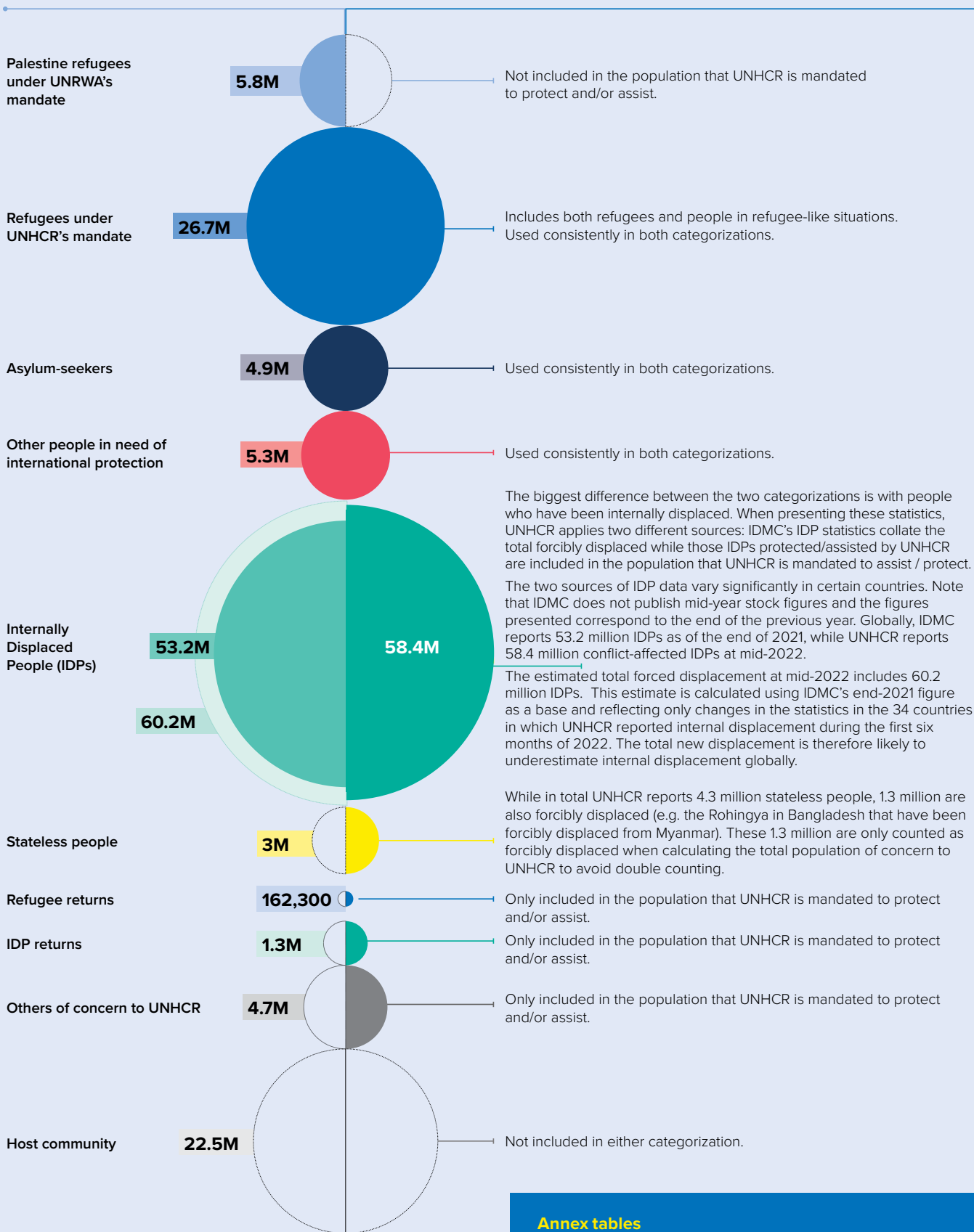
<sup>10</sup> The total number of people forcibly displaced is calculated using UNHCR, UNRWA and IDMC statistics. IDMC's statistics on internal displacement are only published annually, therefore the estimate is calculated using IDMC's end-2021 figure as a base and reflecting only changes in the statistics in the 34 countries in which UNHCR reported internal displacement during the first six months of 2022. The total new displacement is therefore likely to underestimate internal displacement globally.

<sup>11</sup> See: UNHCR's [Refugee Data Finder](#)

<sup>12</sup> Venezuelans previously designated as "Venezuelans displaced abroad (VDA)" are included in this new category. This change has been made retroactively in UNHCR's statistics since 2018. The term VDA will no longer be used.

## Forcibly displaced people **103 million**

## Population that UNHCR is mandated to protect and/or assist **104.5 million**



**Annex tables**  
 Download annexes 1 to 4 from the UNHCR website at: [www.unhcr.org/statistics/2022MYTannex.zip](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/2022MYTannex.zip)  
 All data are provisional and subject to change.  
 Data is available at: [www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics](http://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics)

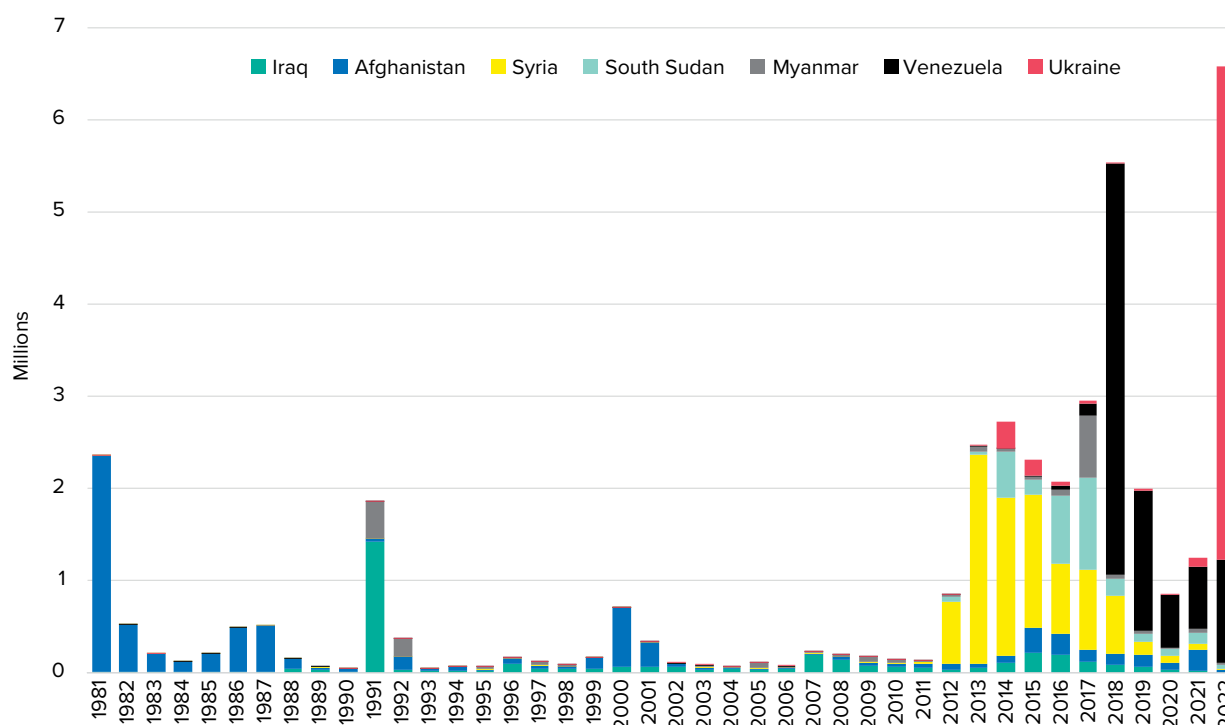
## CHAPTER 1

# Introduction

Earlier this year, UNHCR announced<sup>13</sup> that the number of people forced to flee was estimated to have reached 100 million. Based on more comprehensive statistics compiled at mid-2022, an estimated **103 million** people have been forcibly displaced by persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order.<sup>14</sup> Compared to the end of 2021, this is an increase of 13.6 million (+15 per cent) – more

than the entire populations of Belgium, Burundi or Cuba – and is the largest ever increase between years according to UNHCR’s statistics on forced displacement. The continued increase has led to 1 in 77 people worldwide remaining forcibly displaced in mid-2022, more than twice as many as a decade ago (1 in 167 in 2012). UNHCR’s assessment indicates that forced displacement will continue to rise during the remainder of 2022.

Figure 1 | Largest forced displacement flows across borders | 1980 – mid-2022<sup>15</sup>



<sup>13</sup> See: [More than 100 million people are forcibly displaced](#).

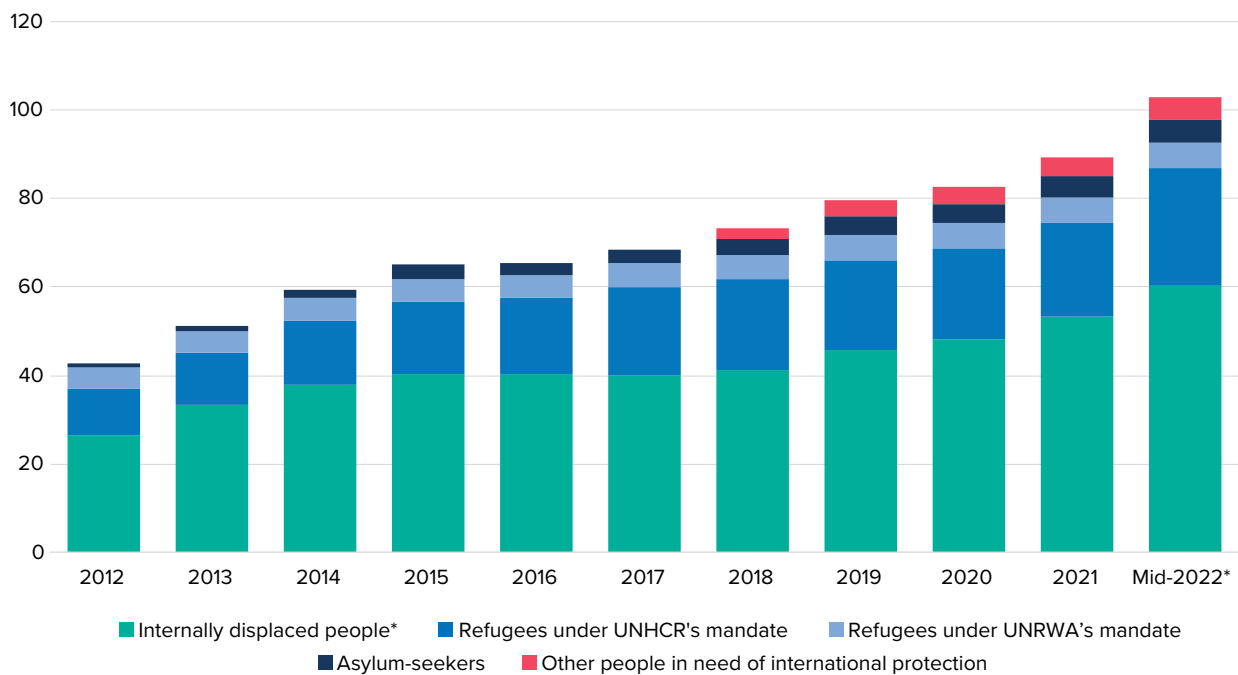
<sup>14</sup> The total number of people forcibly displaced is calculated using UNHCR, UNRWA and IDMC statistics. IDMC’s statistics on internal displacement are only published annually, therefore the estimate is calculated using IDMC’s end-2021 figure as a base and reflecting only changes in the statistics in the 34 countries in which UNHCR reported internal displacement during the first six months of 2022. The total new displacement is therefore likely to underestimate internal displacement globally.

<sup>15</sup> See the [new forcibly displaced population flow dataset](#).

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has created the fastest and one of the largest displacements of people since the second world war.<sup>16</sup> As the front lines shifted over time, there have been waves of displacements and returns, including pendular movements, but at mid-2022, 6.3 million Ukrainians remained displaced within their country. In the initial days of the war, more than 200,000 refugees a day crossed into neighbouring countries. Some 5.4 million Ukrainian refugees remained displaced at mid-2022, finding protection primarily in nearby European countries that showed an unprecedented solidarity by providing emergency humanitarian support to refugees leaving Ukraine. In Germany, the number of refugees from Ukraine exceeded Syrian refugees for the first time. The global refugee population under UNHCR’s mandate increased by 25 per cent (+5.3 million) in 2022 compared to the previous year, reaching 26.7 million. This is the biggest proportional increase between years since 1979-1980 when millions of Afghans and Ethiopians were forced to flee to neighbouring countries.

While temporary protection was rapidly granted by European Union Member States and several other countries to refugees from Ukraine who had been forced to flee across international borders,<sup>17</sup> access to asylum systems continues to be critical for millions of people around the world. In the first six months of 2022, 1.1 million new asylum applications were lodged in 144 different countries. This represents an 89 per cent increase compared to the same period in the previous year, and surpassed the number of applications filed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. +22 per cent compared to the same period in 2019). More than 2 in 5 applications (41 per cent) were made by nationals of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, notably Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, Honduras and Colombia, as conditions in many countries in the region deteriorated during the first six months of 2022. By mid-2022, there were also 5.3 million other people in need of international protection, predominately from Venezuela, an increase of 21 per cent or 935,600 from the end of 2021.

Figure 2 | People forced to flee | 2012 – mid-2022



\* Estimated IDP population – see footnote 2

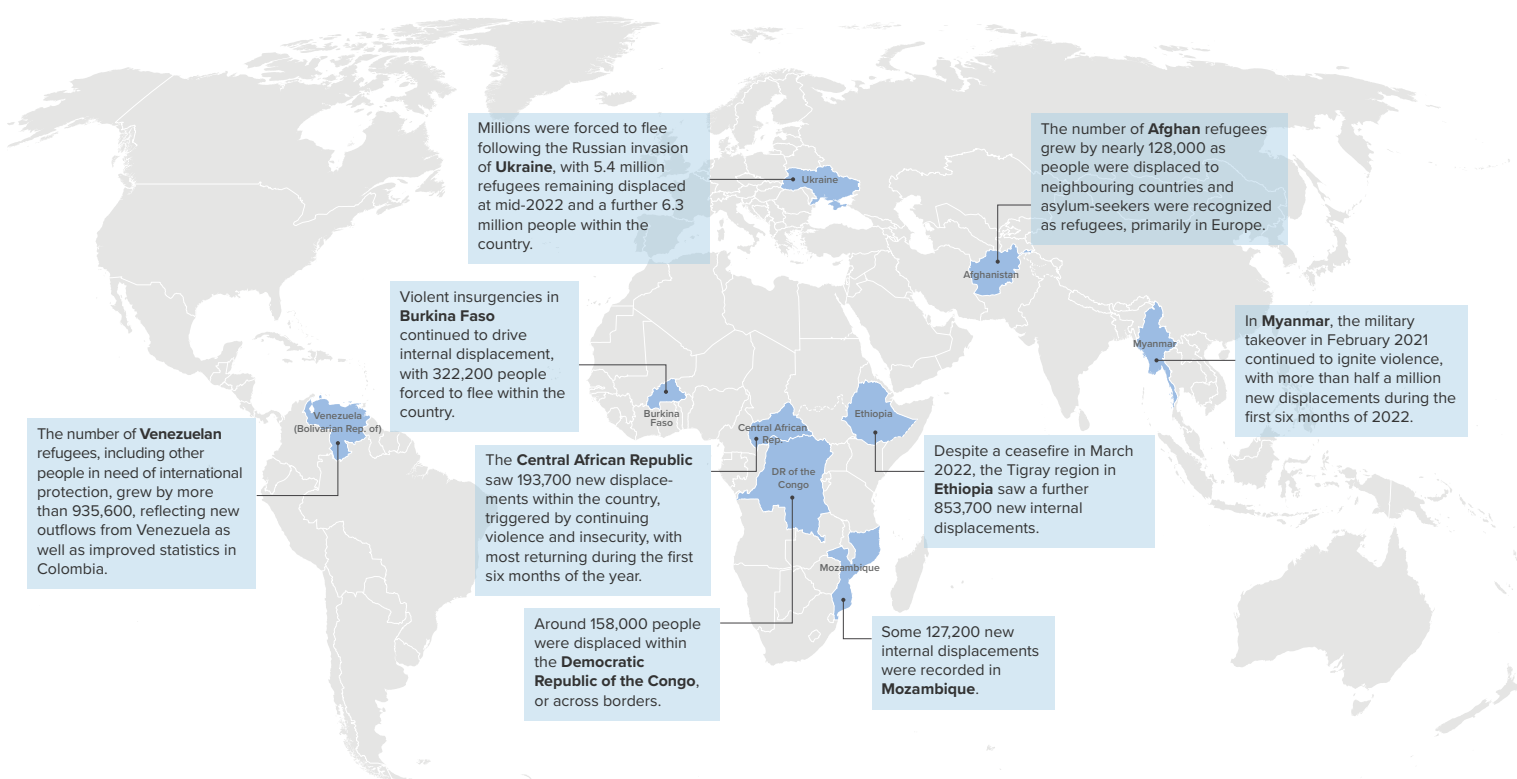
<sup>16</sup> As of 30 September 2022, it is likely that the number of refugees from Ukraine and IDPs exceeds the number of forcibly displaced Syrians globally.

<sup>17</sup> Temporary protection systems are considered complementary to the international refugee protection regime, being used as an emergency response to large-scale displacement to provide immediate protection from refoulement, access to legal status and rights in host countries to those fleeing humanitarian crises without undergoing prior individual refugee status determination procedures. 26 European Union Member States implemented the Temporary Protection Directive whilst a number of other countries applied similar legal frameworks.

More than 9.6 million new internal displacements were reported by UNHCR in the first six months of the year, more than double the same period in 2021. Most of the new displacements – at least 7 million – were in Ukraine.<sup>18</sup> As the war is still ongoing and the situation remains highly volatile with waves of displacement, these estimates should be considered preliminary and likely undercount the reality on the ground. In other countries intensifying violence led to significant displacement.

Despite a ceasefire in March 2022, the Tigray region in Ethiopia saw a further 853,700 new internal displacements, even while nearly 21,300 primarily Somali and South Sudanese refugees also sought safety in the country in the first six months of 2022. In Myanmar, the military takeover in February 2021 continued to ignite violence, with more than half a million new displacements during the first six months of 2022. Other countries reporting significant new internal displacement in 2022 included Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Map 1 | **New displacements | January-June 2022**



<sup>18</sup> The figure of 7.2 million is based on the largest number of IDPs that have been estimated to be displaced (see the [IOM DTM May 2022 report](#)) subtracting the 854,000 people that were already internally displaced at end-2021. The actual number of new internal displacements is likely to be higher.

UNHCR noted that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on opportunities for durable solutions has greatly diminished. Refugee returns, naturalizations and resettlement all increased in the first six months of 2022 compared to the same period in the previous year, also exceeding pre-pandemic levels in the first six months of 2019. Nevertheless, given the sheer volume of new displacements around the world, these solutions continue to remain available to very few people. For example, in each of the previous five years, for every refugee able to return to their home country, which remains the preferred option for most refugees,<sup>19</sup> there have been between 2 and 9 times more newly recognized refugees during the same year. In the first six months of 2022, this gap widened further and stood at 1:37 as new displacement grew and the opportunity for refugees to return and rebuild their lives in safety and dignity proved elusive.<sup>20</sup>

Opportunities for local integration and socio-economic inclusion differ substantially between refugee-hosting countries. For refugees from Ukraine, while the potential duration of their stay in European countries remains uncertain, many are seeking to work during their stay,<sup>21</sup> which also benefits their host countries. Refugees from Ukraine will boost the labour force in Europe by an estimated 0.5 per cent by the end of 2022, notably in Czechia, Poland and Estonia.<sup>22</sup>

The majority of the world's refugees and internally displaced people originated from 60 fragile states, creating complex challenges.<sup>23</sup> Even prior to 2022, fragility in these states had already increased between 2020 and 2021. In 2022, it is estimated that the number of people who are, or who are at high risk of being, acutely food insecure has reached at least 345 million.<sup>24</sup> This is an increase of more than 200 million compared to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. Almost a quarter of this increase – 47 million people globally – is a direct result of the international armed conflict in Ukraine as increasing food, fuel and fertilizer prices, reduces peoples' access to food.<sup>25</sup> This impact is felt most in countries that were already weakened by violent conflicts – for example in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, nearly 1 million people are projected to face catastrophic food insecurity if no action is taken.<sup>26</sup> This is an increase of more than 10 times compared to five years prior.

Countries around the world have acted swiftly, efficiently and with compassion to help those displaced by the war in Ukraine. In fact, this type of response should be the standard. The international community must demonstrate solidarity to all people forced to flee, or who are stateless, as well as lend support to the countries that welcome them.

<sup>19</sup> As indicated by intention surveys among [Syrian refugees](#) and [Ukrainian refugees](#).

<sup>20</sup> For internally displaced people, the equivalent ratio has remained much more consistent around 1:2 in each year, including the first six months of 2022.

<sup>21</sup> Temporary protection grants access to the labour market and other socio-economic rights to refugees even though some practical and administrative barriers need to be addressed (see: [The implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive – Six months on](#), UNHCR).

<sup>22</sup> See: [The potential contribution of Ukrainian refugees to the labour force in European host countries](#), OECD


<sup>23</sup> See: [States of Fragility 2022](#), OECD. According to the OECD, fragile states are those exposed to risks and with insufficient coping capacities of the state, system and/or communities to manage, absorb or mitigate those risks. The risks are measured across six dimensions: economic, environmental, political, societal and human development. Based on data for 2021, which represents the latest available country level data on fragility and food crises: 67 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers and 82 per cent of IDPs originate from countries with food crisis in 2021. Some 78 per cent of all refugees and IDPs have fled from fragile context and 64 per cent of refugees and IDPs are hosted in fragile contexts.

<sup>24</sup> See: [Global Food Crisis 2022](#), World Food Programme

<sup>25</sup> See: [Projected increase in acute food insecurity due to war in Ukraine](#), World Food Programme

<sup>26</sup> See: [Hunger Hotspots](#), FAO WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity, October 2022 to January 2023 Outlook





CHAD. A Sudanese refugee teaches children in a refugee camp in eastern Chad. She graduated with a degree in education and psychology in Sudan and teaches primary classes, often outdoors. "I thank God that I was able to graduate, despite all the hardships I went through," she said. "But I wish I had the chance to continue with my master's and doctorate."

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## CHAPTER 2

# Refugees

The total number of refugees<sup>27</sup> worldwide rose by 24 per cent from 25.7 million at the end of 2021 to 32 million by mid-2022, largely due to refugees from Ukraine fleeing the war in their country. This total includes nearly 24.5 million refugees, 2.2 million people in refugee-like situations, and some 5.3 million other people in need of international protection. All further references to refugees in this chapter include all three of these population groups, unless otherwise stated.

With the influx of refugees from Ukraine, Europe – including Türkiye – hosts 12.5 million refugees, nearly 40 per cent of all refugees globally. The number of refugees in Europe increased by some 78 per cent from the beginning of the year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

In the Americas, the number of refugees increased by 17 per cent, due to a surge in the number of Venezuelans fleeing their country, most of whom are reported as other people in need of international protection. By mid-2022, the Americas region hosted more than 6 million refugees.

The number of refugees hosted within all other regions at the end of June 2022 remained broadly the same as at the end of 2021.

## New recognition of refugees

Some 4.2 million people were granted international protection in the first six months of 2022, including 3.7 million who received temporary protection and 507,500 who were granted refugee status on a

group (151,600) or individual (355,900) basis. This is an almost eleven-fold increase compared to the same period of 2021, when 384,900 people were granted international protection. As in previous years, Venezuelans included within the other people in need of international protection population group and located in Latin American countries and the Caribbean have been granted residence permits or other forms of legal stay (precise data on the forms of protection granted to them is not available).

## By country of origin

Some 86 per cent of refugees originate from just 10 countries, slightly more than in previous years. More than half of all refugees (56 per cent), including other people in need of international protection, are Syrian, Venezuelan or Ukrainian.

More than 1 in 5 refugees are Syrian (21 per cent), totalling more than 6.8 million and hosted by 130 countries. During the first six months of 2022, the number of Syrian refugees decreased slightly, the first such decrease in the number of Syrian refugees since the conflict began in 2011.

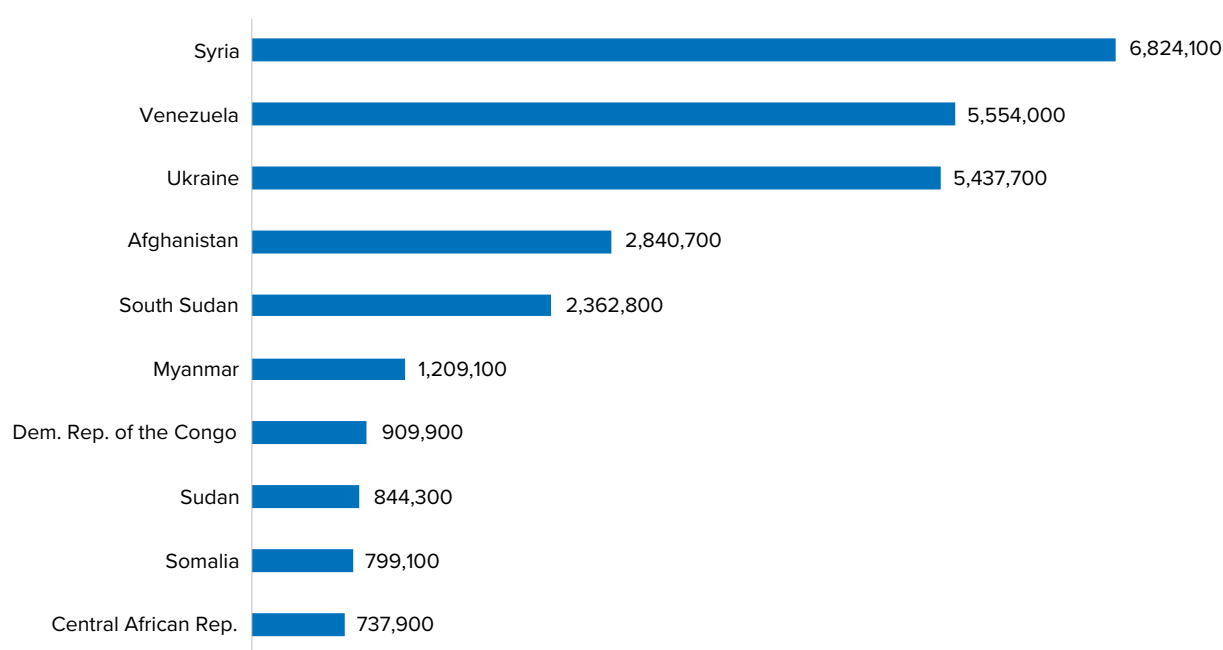
By mid-2022, there were 5.6 million Venezuelan refugees and other people in need of international protection, 17 per cent of the global total. Their number grew by 21 per cent in the first six months of 2022. The largest increases were reported in Colombia (+635,200), Peru (+163,300) and Brazil (+118,900), reflecting revised estimates by the Governments of Colombia and Peru.

<sup>27</sup> Includes people in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection, and excludes Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

The eruption of war in Ukraine following the Russian invasion in February 2022 led to the fastest outflow of refugees since the second world war. The number of Ukrainian refugees grew 200-fold from some 27,300 at the end of 2021 to more than 5.4 million,<sup>28</sup> hosted in 67 countries, by mid-2022. Some 2.9 million Ukrainian refugees were hosted in countries neighbouring Ukraine, with a further 2.5 million in other European countries.

During the first six months of 2022, the number of Afghan refugees continued to grow to 2.8 million. This was a result of some 45,300 new recognitions in mainly European countries, such as Germany (17,100), France (5,800) and Greece (5,100). In addition, a further 22,400 Afghans were pre-screened during the same period, primarily in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

Figure 3 | **Refugees, people in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection by country of origin | mid-2022**



## By country of asylum

More than half of all refugees (53 per cent) are hosted by 10 countries. Türkiye continued to host the most refugees (3.7 million), followed by Colombia (2.5 million), including other people in need of international protection.

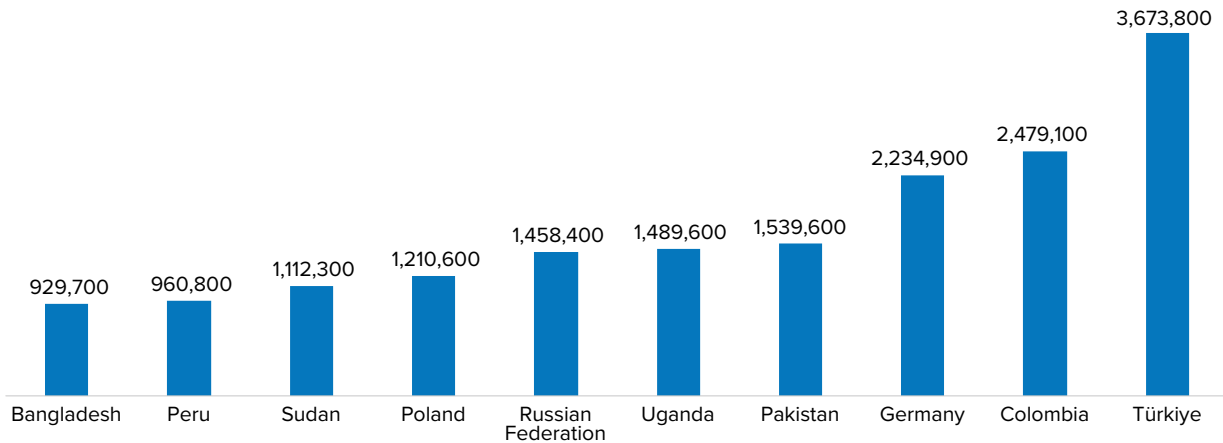
By mid-2022, Germany hosted 2.2 million refugees, a sharp increase from the 1.3 million refugees at the end of 2021. For the first time, Germany hosted more Ukrainians (876,300 or 39 per cent) than any other nationality, including Syrians (664,200 or 30 per cent).

Other countries hosting more than 1 million refugees by mid-2022 were Pakistan, Poland, the Russian Federation,<sup>29</sup> Sudan and Uganda.

<sup>28</sup> By 19 October 2022, the number of Ukrainian refugees had grown to 7.7 million. In addition, a number of third country nationals as well as refugees and asylum seekers hosted in Ukraine before the invasion were also forced to leave the country.

<sup>29</sup> As of 30 June, registration and formal recognition of Ukrainians in the Russian Federation were still ongoing and therefore not all those reported had the formal status of refugees.

Figure 4 | Refugees, people in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection by country of asylum | mid-2022



**Key facts for countries hosting refugees, people in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection by country of asylum | mid-2022**

**69 per cent are hosted by neighbouring countries**

Most people fleeing conflict and persecution remain near their country of origin. At mid-2022, the number of refugees hosted in neighbouring countries dropped compared to previous years, primarily because many Ukrainians are hosted in European countries that do not directly neighbour Ukraine.

**74 per cent are hosted by low- and middle-income countries<sup>30</sup>**

Low-income countries continue to host a disproportionately large share of the world's displaced people, both in terms of their population size and the resources available to them. These countries represent nine per cent of the global population and only 0.5 per cent of the global gross domestic product, yet they host 18 per cent of refugees. This includes very large refugee populations in Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A further 20 per cent were hosted by lower-middle-income countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Upper-middle-income countries including Türkiye, Colombia, Lebanon, Jordan, Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova, hosted 36 per cent of all refugees. High-income countries, which account for most of global wealth,<sup>31</sup> hosted 26 per cent of refugees at mid-2022. This is a much greater proportion than in recent years due primarily to the numbers of Ukrainian refugees hosted in high-income, mainly European countries. .

**22 per cent are hosted by least developed countries<sup>32</sup>**

The least developed countries consist of 46 countries, including Bangladesh, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Yemen that together account for less than 1.3 per cent of global gross domestic product,<sup>33</sup> yet were responsible for hosting more than 22 per cent of all refugees worldwide by mid-2022. This was lower than the 27 per cent reported in recent years due to the large number of Ukrainian refugees hosted in European countries. In mid-2022, the number of refugees in least developed countries stood at 7.1 million.

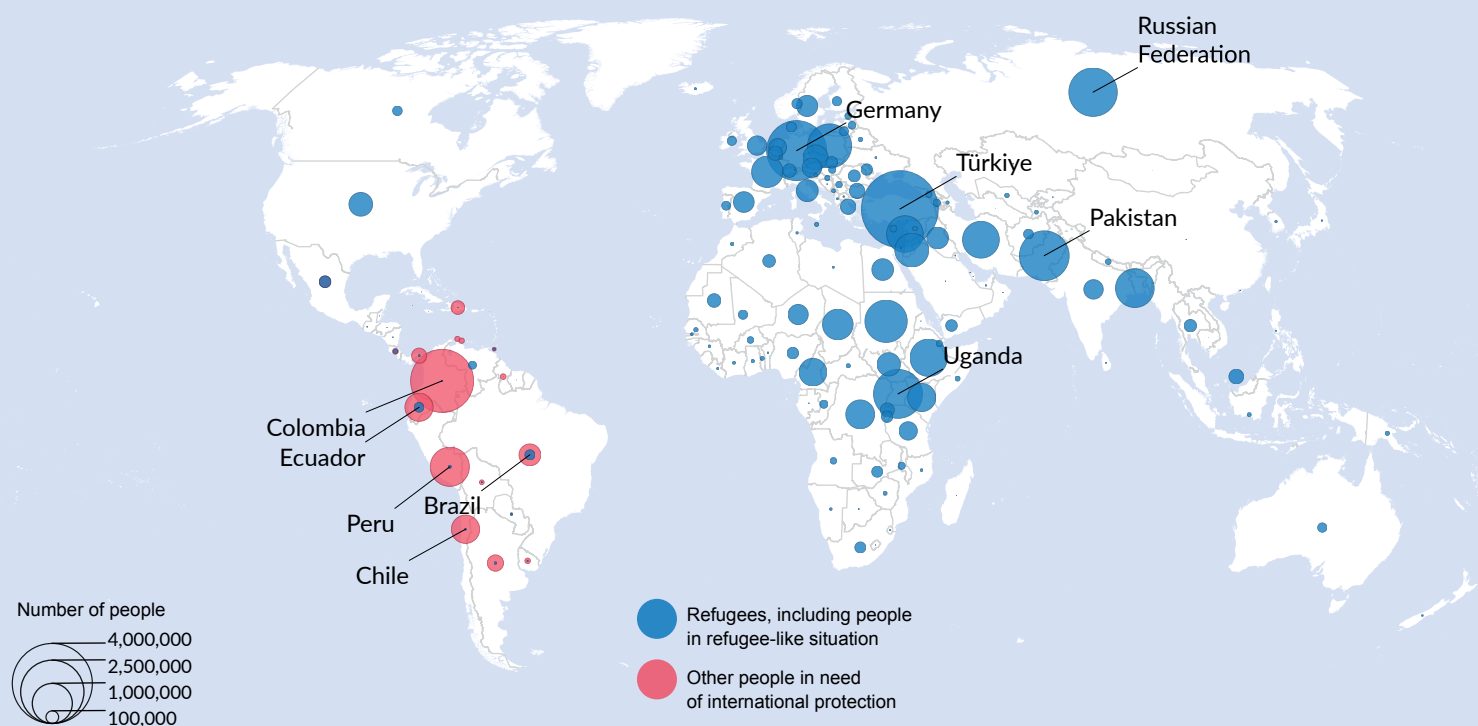
<sup>30</sup> Using the [World Bank Country and Lending Groups](#) categorization.

<sup>31</sup> High-income countries account for 62 per cent of global gross domestic product (Source: [World Bank GDP statistics](#)). This compares with 0.5 per cent, 9 per cent and 29 per cent for low-, lower-middle- and upper-middle-income countries respectively. 0.1 per cent of refugees are hosted in countries where, due to a lack of reliable income data, an income group classification was not available.

<sup>32</sup> Least developed countries are low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. See [UNSD methodology - Standard country or area codes for statistical use \(M49\)](#) for a list of least developed countries.

<sup>33</sup> See [World Bank GDP statistics](#).

Map 2 | Refugees, people in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection | mid-2022



A country is named if it features among the five largest per population group.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

## STATISTICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN REFUGEE DATA

Accurate and reliable population statistics underpin the design, delivery and efficacy of many, if not most, humanitarian activities. Yet no government figures for refugee populations are available in 16 high-income countries.<sup>34</sup> To bridge this gap, UNHCR estimates these populations by assuming that the refugee population is the sum of all asylum-seekers recognized during the last 10 years. The underlying assumption for this methodology is that after 10 years refugees will have found a durable solution in those countries, or will have returned to their country of origin (resettlement from these high-income countries is rare). UNHCR recognizes that this approach is an oversimplification given that voluntary returns, naturalization and other long-term solutions, such as permanent residence status, take a different amount of time in

different countries. Positively, in mid-2022, more accurate refugee statistics have been provided by the Governments of Canada and the Netherlands. In Canada, this has resulted in a decrease of some 74,400 refugees being reported, most commonly Nigerian, Turkish, Pakistani and Chinese refugees, while in the Netherlands, an increase of 18,900 predominately Syrian and Eritrean refugees was reported.

In China, UNHCR has reported on a large number of Indo-Chinese refugees that arrived in China during the late 1970s. This population has progressively integrated into the areas in China where they reside and therefore in 2022, the reporting of this population has ceased. This population has full access to public services and they enjoy the same rights as Chinese nationals.

<sup>34</sup> The 16 countries where UNHCR has to estimate the number of refugees are: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

**YEMEN.** Hanan was displaced from Taizz. She and her family now live in a shelter in Lahj, in south-eastern Yemen. During 2021, more than a quarter of a million people were newly displaced within the country, including almost 32,000 from Taizz.

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## CHAPTER 3

# Internally Displaced People

By mid-2022, the number of people displaced inside their own countries by armed conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations increased by 7 million or 14 per cent since the end of 2021, reaching nearly 58.4 million in the 34 countries where UNHCR reported on internal displacement. Internally displaced people (IDPs) continue to constitute the majority of forcibly displaced people globally.

## Changes by regions and countries

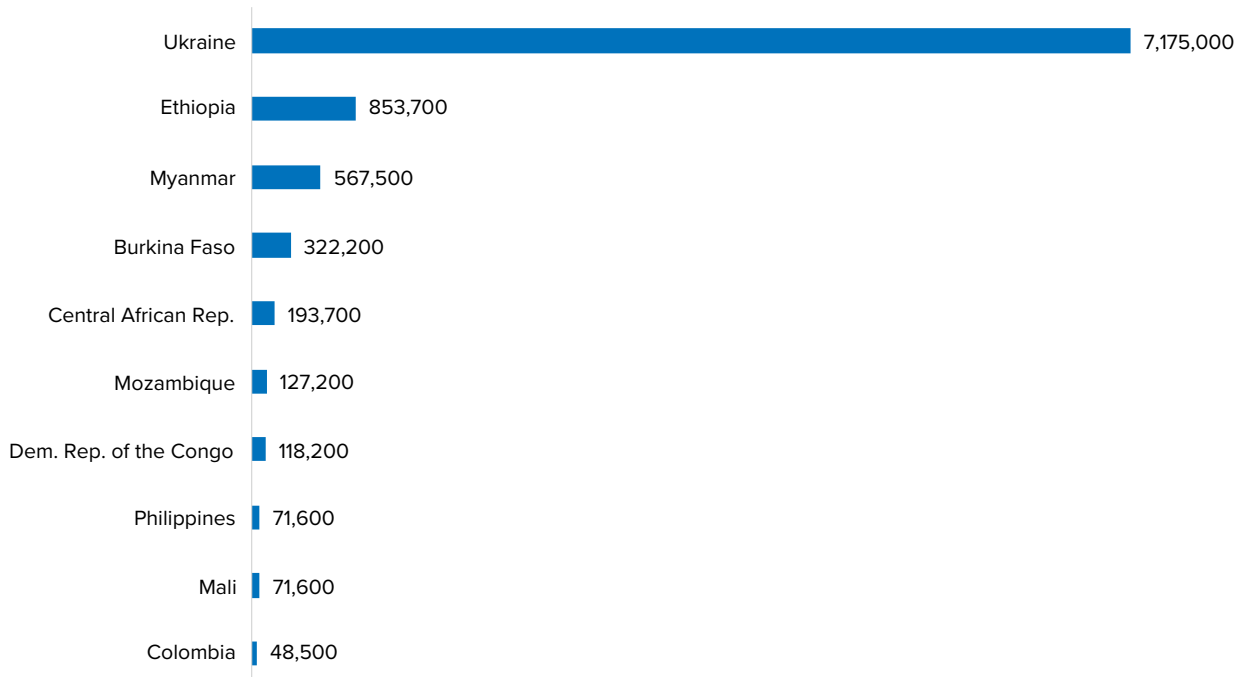
More than 9.6 million new internal displacements were reported in 15 countries during the first six months of 2022, with the most in Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and

Asia and the Pacific. This is more than double the 4.3 million new displacements reported during the same period of 2021.

In contrast with previous years, just 18 per cent of new internal displacements occurred in sub-Saharan Africa (1.8 million), compared with more than three-quarters of new internal displacements during 2021. One country – Ukraine – reported nearly three-quarters (74 per cent or at least 7.2 million) of all new displacements, during the first six months of 2022. The estimate of at least 7 million new displacements should be considered preliminary and likely undercounts the reality on the ground as the front lines of the conflict shifted over time, triggering waves of displacement, returns and onwards movements.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>35</sup> The figure of 7.2 million is based on the largest number of IDPs that have been estimated to be displaced (see the [IOM DTM May 2022 report](#)) subtracting the 854,000 people that were already internally displaced at end-2021. The actual number of new internal displacements is likely to be higher.

Figure 5 | **New internal displacements by country | January – June 2022**



The conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia led to more than 853,700 new internal displacements in 2022, mostly occurring before the ceasefire declared in March 2022.<sup>36</sup> In Myanmar, the military takeover in February 2021 continued to ignite widespread violence resulting in some 567,500 new internal displacements during the first six months of 2022. Just over 1 million new displacements were reported in 12 other countries in the first six months of 2022, most notably in Burkina Faso (322,200), the Central African Republic (193,700), Mozambique (127,200) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (118,200).

### Internal displacement overview

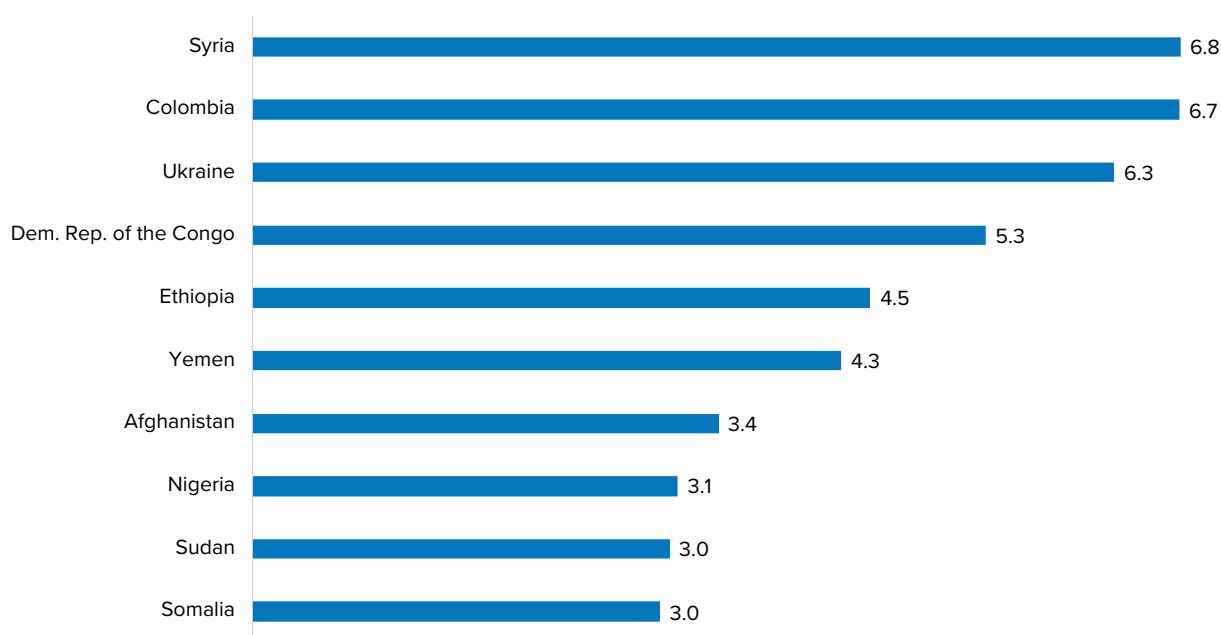
Just ten countries account for nearly 80 per cent of all IDPs, and these remained generally consistent with recent years. Syria and Colombia continued to report the largest number of people displaced within their own countries (6.8 and 6.7 million respectively). These two countries, together with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (which now hosts the fourth largest IDP population) all reported slight decreases in the number of people remaining internally displaced at mid-2022 compared with the end of the previous year.

Due to the eruption of war in Ukraine in February 2022, the number of people remaining displaced in the country at mid-2022 grew more than seven-fold to 6.3 million from 854,000 at the end of 2021.

<sup>36</sup> See: [Ethiopia: Guterres welcomes Tigray humanitarian ceasefire agreement](#). The ceasefire was broken in late August 2022.



Figure 6 | IDPs protected / assisted by UNHCR (in millions) | mid-2022

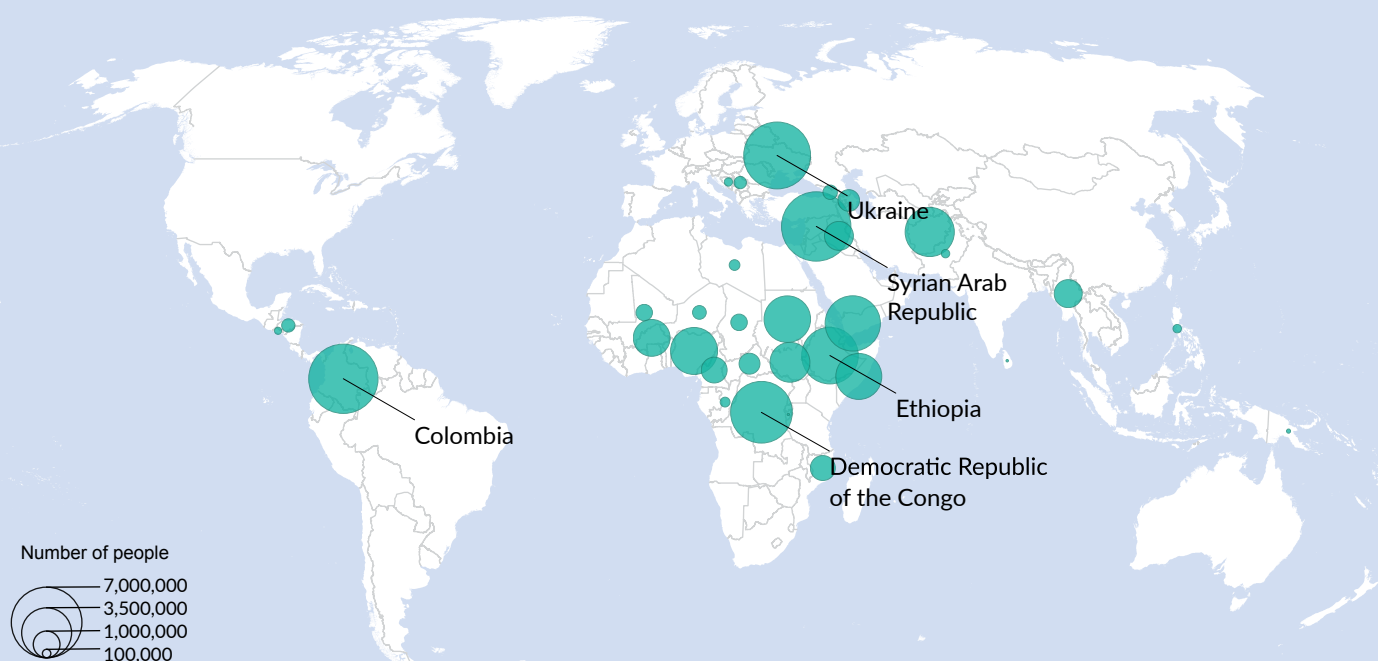


## IDP Returns

Pursuing voluntary, safe and dignified solutions for millions of IDPs remains a critical priority for UNHCR, including through sustainable local integration, return to their place of origin or settlement elsewhere in the country. In the first six months of 2022, 1.3 million IDPs in 13 countries returned to their places of origin. Large numbers of

returns were recorded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (525,200), the Central African Republic (272,800), Myanmar (125,300), Syria (83,900), the Philippines (76,800) and Afghanistan (72,000). While some data on returns within Ukraine is available, with the fluid security situation in Ukraine it is not possible to determine if people who have returned have remained.

Map 3 | IDPs protected / assisted by UNHCR | mid-2022



A country is named if it features among the five largest per population group.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



*LIBYA. An asylum-seeker smiles as he boards a bus on the way to the airport to be evacuated from the country. Some 85 vulnerable asylum-seekers were evacuated from Libya to safety in Italy.*

© UNHCR/MOHAMED ALALEM

## CHAPTER 4

# Asylum-seekers

## Individual asylum applications registered

New individual applications for asylum<sup>37</sup> lodged with States or UNHCR almost doubled to 1.1 million in the first six months of 2022, up from 555,400 during the same period in 2021. The applications registered in 144 countries also surpassed the same period in 2018 and 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating that an increasing number of people are seeking international protection compared to previous years (+19 per cent from 879,600 and +22 per cent from 862,300 respectively).

Including repeat and appeal applications, some 1.2 million individual asylum applications were registered in the first half of 2022. This is an increase of more than 69 per cent from the 708,800 applications recorded in the first half of 2021.

### By country of origin

New asylum applications were mainly lodged by nationals of Venezuela (106,900), Ukraine (99,600),<sup>38</sup> Nicaragua (81,500),<sup>39</sup> Afghanistan (80,000) and Syria (51,300). New asylum claims from Syrians increased by about 12 per cent compared to the same period last year, while those from the other top countries increased by more than 150 per cent.

## By country of asylum

During the first six months of 2022, new asylum applications in the Americas region increased by 146 per cent to 435,600 compared to the same period last year. In the United States of America, new individual asylum claims more than trebled to 245,200 in the first half of 2022 from the same period in 2021. More than half of all new applications were lodged by nationals of just five countries: Venezuela, Cuba, Honduras, Guatemala and Haiti.

In Europe, the number of new asylum applications increased by 119 per cent to 502,800 in the first half of 2022, compared to 229,900 in the same period last year. This increase was largely driven by the international armed conflict in Ukraine as well as the prolonged crises in Afghanistan, Syria and Venezuela. Most new individual asylum applications were received in Germany (84,600).

In Asia and the Pacific region, new applications increased by 56 per cent to 29,800 in the first half of 2022 from 19,100 in the same period of the previous year. New applications by Afghans in other countries within the region almost trebled to 14,400. Most new individual applications were recorded in Pakistan (12,000).

The Middle East and North Africa region recorded a total of 30,900 new individual applications in the first

<sup>37</sup> Refugee Status Determination (RSD) is the legal or administrative process by which governments or UNHCR determine whether an individual seeking international protection is a refugee under national, regional or international law.

<sup>38</sup> Excludes the 3.7 million Ukrainians that have received temporary protection.

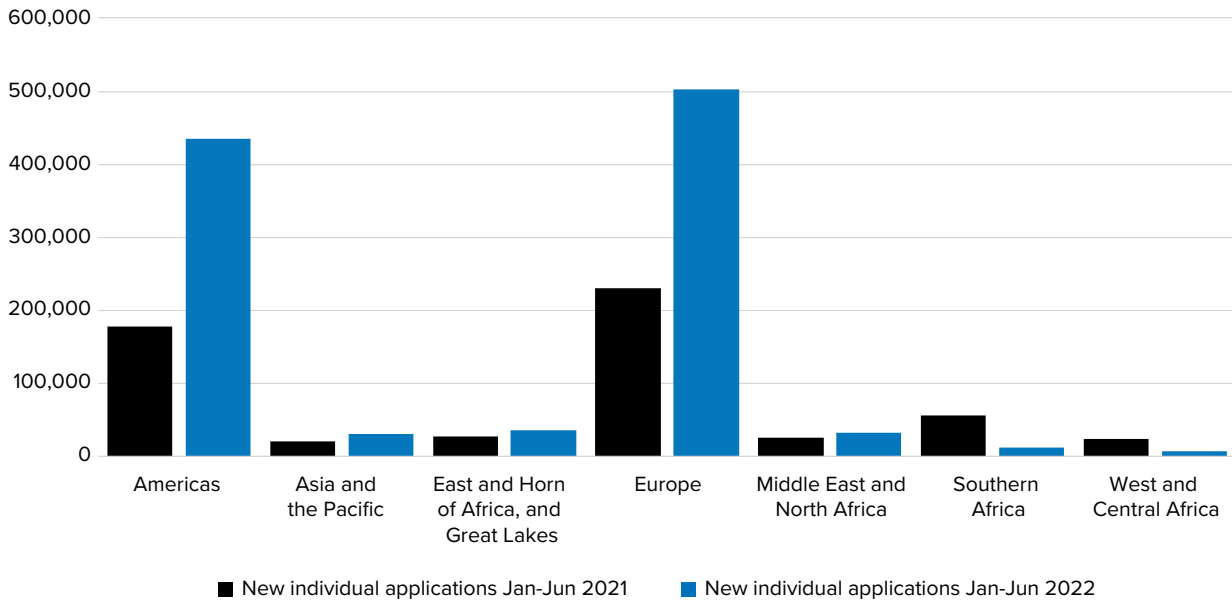
<sup>39</sup> This includes 65,200 applications in Costa Rica whereby Nicaraguans started their applications during the first six months of this year by obtaining an appointment to formalize their asylum claim. Of these, 38,800 claims were formalized, 12,700 remained to be formalized (i.e. individuals with an appointment to complete the application procedure) and 13,700 appointments were otherwise closed.

half of 2022, a 24 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. In Egypt, the number of new applications rose by 134 per cent to 12,200 from 5,200 in the same period in 2021, most commonly lodged by Sudanese (7,700, a more than three-fold increase).

The number of new asylum applications fell in sub-Saharan Africa from 104,300 to 53,300 (-49%). The

most notable change was a dramatic reduction in the number of asylum applications lodged in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by people originating from the Central African Republic, from 45,900 to fewer than ten. During the first six months of 2022, new applications in sub-Saharan Africa were most commonly lodged in Uganda by Somalis (7,100).

Figure 7 | **New individual applications by region of asylum | Jan-Jun 2021 and Jan-Jun 2022**



### By asylum authority

In the implementation of UNHCR’s strategic direction on RSD<sup>40</sup> UNHCR focuses its RSD activities on situations where there is likely to be a substantive protection impact (e.g. at the individual, case or operational levels).<sup>41</sup> In the first six months of 2022, UNHCR registered 73,400 new asylum-seekers in 37 countries, of which 55,600 asylum applications required RSD. This is an increase from the 35,100 new applications in the first six months of 2021.

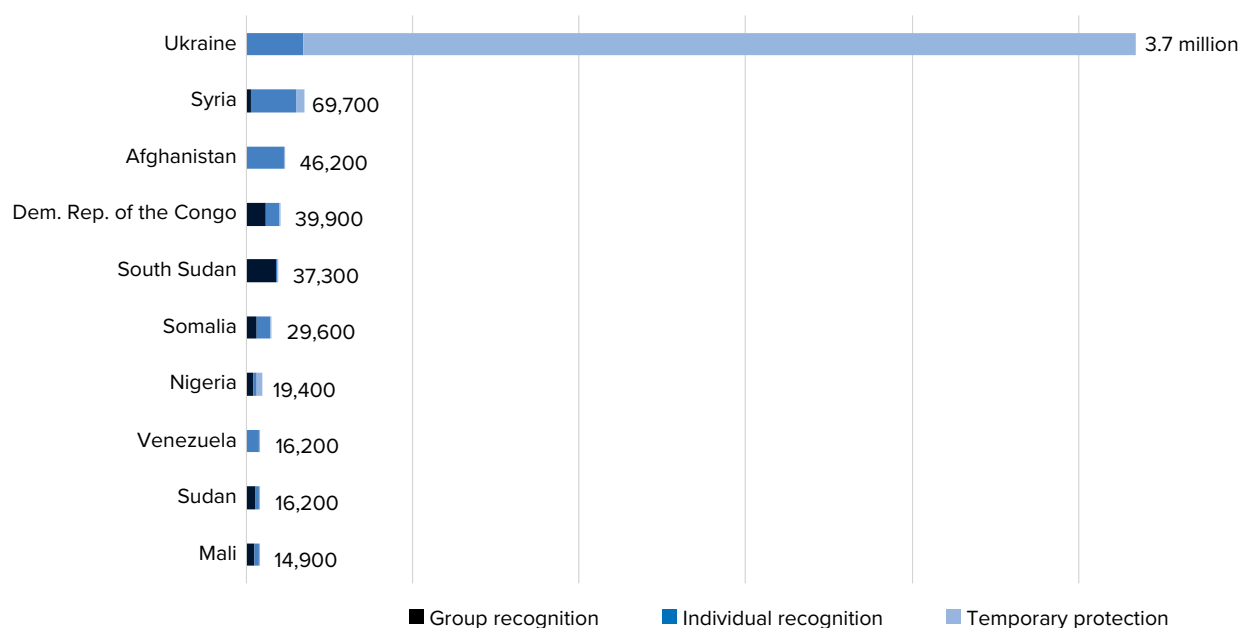
### Group determination of refugee status and temporary protection

Close to 3.7 million new arrivals were granted temporary protection and 151,600 were recognized on a group basis in the first six months of 2022.<sup>42</sup> Of those granted temporary protection, 99 per cent were Ukrainians. As in previous years, the majority of group recognitions were granted in Africa, primarily in Uganda (39,100), Ethiopia (21,100), Chad (19,600), Cameroon (17,900) and Mali (16,700).

<sup>40</sup> See [UNHCR’s strategic direction on RSD](#).

<sup>41</sup> Unlike a State, which has the power to grant legal status in its territory after an RSD decision, such decisions under UNHCR’s mandate may not have a protection impact for the individual involved, depending on the specific context.

<sup>42</sup> Refugee status can be granted individually or on a group basis. Group recognition most commonly takes place when there are readily apparent, objective circumstances in a country of origin which suggest that the majority of individuals fleeing from that country are likely to be refugees. In most cases, individuals being granted refugee status on a group basis will be directly registered as refugees, as opposed to an individual recognition where an individual will first be registered as an asylum-seeker. This is why individuals undergoing group determination will normally not be counted in the “asylum application” total.

Figure 8 | **Type of recognition by country of origin | January – June 2022**

## Decisions on asylum applications

During the same period, about 942,300 individuals received decisions on their refugee claims, a 31 per cent increase from 725,000 in the first half of 2021. About two thirds (624,100) of these were substantive decisions,<sup>43</sup> 23 per cent more than the previous year, and the rest were administrative closures.<sup>44</sup> The percentage of substantive decisions that resulted in any form of international protection – the Total Protection Rate<sup>45</sup> – increased to 57 per cent in the first six months of 2022 compared to 48 per cent in 2021.

This increase was primarily due to high recognition rates among Ukrainian asylum-seekers.

## Pending asylum claims

Overall, the number of asylum-seekers waiting for a decision at mid-2022 stood at 4.9 million, an increase from 4.6 million at the end of 2021. A growing backlog can create protection concerns when asylum-seekers have to wait without certainty on their legal status, therefore, it remains crucial for States and UNHCR to ensure effective and efficient processing of asylum claims.

<sup>43</sup> Substantive decisions include Convention status, complementary and other forms of protection, and rejected cases. Non-substantive decisions are the closure of a case without a decision on the merits. For example, 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, among other factors.

<sup>44</sup> These are the closure of a case without a decision on the merits. For example, 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, among other factors.

<sup>45</sup> UNHCR uses two rates to compute the proportion of refugee claims accepted. The Refugee Recognition Rate is the proportion of asylum-seekers accorded refugee status out of the total number of substantive decisions (Convention status, complementary protection and rejected cases). The Total Protection Rate is the proportion of asylum-seekers accorded refugee status or a complementary form of protection relative to the total number of substantive decisions. Non-substantive decisions are, to the extent possible, excluded from both calculations. For the purposes of global comparability, UNHCR uses only these two rates and does not report rates calculated by national authorities.



**CÔTE D'IVOIRE.** After a decade in displacement in Liberia, Ivorian refugees return home. They cross the river that marks the border between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. On 30 June 2022, refugee status for Ivorian refugees formally ended, as the situation in Côte d'Ivoire has stabilized over the past decade.

© UNHCR/COLIN DELFOSSÉ

## CHAPTER 5

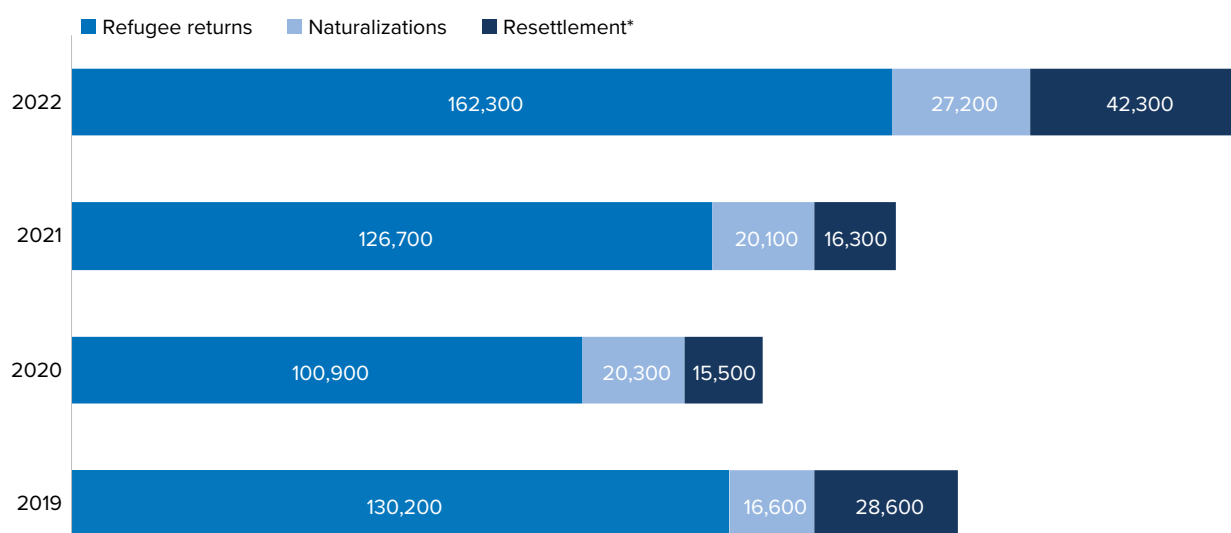
# Finding Solutions

This chapter focuses on durable solutions for refugees.<sup>46</sup> Identifying and supporting durable solutions that enable refugees to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity is a strategic priority for UNHCR and the humanitarian community.<sup>47</sup> Durable solutions for refugees include voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement to a third country. Complementary pathways can also expand third country solutions, ease pressure on host countries and enhance refugees' self-reliance by building their capacities to attain a durable solution, including through education pathways or labour mobility.<sup>48</sup>

During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, opportunities for solutions dried

up, as movement restrictions hindered returns and resettlement to third countries, and governments' reduced administrative capacity limited the number of people who could become naturalized citizens. Based on statistics from the first six months of 2022, the impact of the pandemic on solutions has greatly diminished. Refugee returns, naturalizations and resettlement all increased in the first six months of 2022 compared to the same period in the previous year, also exceeding pre-pandemic levels in the first six months of 2019. Nevertheless, given the high volume of new displacements around the world, these solutions continue to remain available to very few people.

Figure 9 | Durable solutions in the first six months of each year | 2019-2022



\* according to Government statistics

<sup>46</sup> See the IDP chapter for an update on solutions for IDPs.

<sup>47</sup> See [The Global Compact on Refugees](#).

<sup>48</sup> See: [OECD-UNHCR: safe pathways for refugees](#).

## Refugee Returns

For most refugees, returning to their home country in safety and dignity based on a free and informed choice would be a preferred solution to bring their temporary status as refugees to an end. In the first half of 2022, 162,300 refugees residing in 47 different countries of asylum returned to 27 countries of origin. This represents an increase of 30,100 or 24 per cent compared to the first six months of the previous year.

Over half of all returns (86,700) were to South Sudan, primarily from Uganda, accounting for 67,500, or 42 per cent, of all refugee returns. This constituted a sharp increase from the same period last year, when only 2,900 South Sudanese refugees returned from Uganda. Returns to South Sudan are difficult to verify, however, as they tend to be self-organized, and it can be difficult to reach the areas to which many people return.

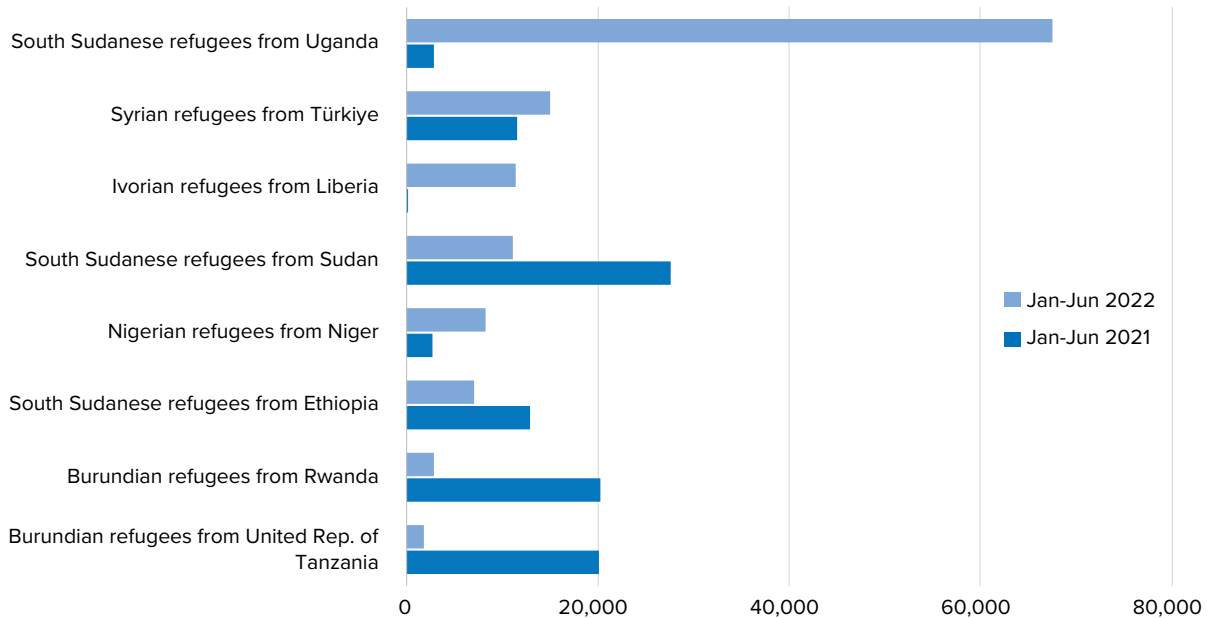
Just over 22,500 Syrian refugees returned to their home country, predominately from Türkiye

(15,100), Lebanon (3,600), Jordan (2,000) and Iraq (1,500). UNHCR does not facilitate refugee returns to Syria, although it supports its partners and local communities in providing improved conditions for refugee returnees in the country.<sup>49</sup>

Nearly 15,700 refugees from Côte d'Ivoire repatriated voluntarily in the first six months of 2022, with most returning from Liberia (11,400).<sup>50</sup> The increase in returnees, compared to the first six months in 2021, reflects former refugees returning home prior to the application of cessation clauses – the process to formally end refugee status – which came into effect on 30 June 2022. The cessation of refugee status followed the peaceful resolution of two decades of intermittent civil conflict and political instability.

Other sizeable refugee returns were observed in Nigeria (13,300) and Burundi (12,500). While some data on movements back to Ukraine is available, with the fluid security situation it is not possible to determine if people who have returned have remained.

Figure 10 | Major refugee return flows | Jan-Jun 2021 and Jan-Jun 2022



<sup>49</sup> For example, UNHCR supports local communities receiving returnees through concrete and practical interventions in areas such as shelter, legal aid and civil documentation, distribution of relief items, livelihoods and repairs to schools, health facilities and other civilian infrastructure. See the [UNHCR statement on the return of displaced Syrians](#).

<sup>50</sup> It is likely that many of the returns to Côte d'Ivoire were former asylum-seekers.



## Resettlement

Resettlement to third countries is a crucial protection tool and solution for the most vulnerable refugees who may face urgent or specific risks and is essential to UNHCR's mandate. Offering resettlement opportunities allows States to share responsibility with those countries of asylum who welcome large numbers of refugees. In the first six months of 2022, 42,300 refugees originating from 73 countries were resettled to 12 countries, according to government statistics. This represents a sharp increase compared with the first six months of each of the previous two years, during which resettlement operations were hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>51</sup> The resettlement statistics for the first six months of 2022 are also higher than similar periods prior to the pandemic; for example, there is a 48 per cent increase from the 28,600 resettled during the same period of 2019.

Canada welcomed the largest number of resettled refugees (20,100), who primarily originated from Afghanistan (9,800) and Syria (2,800). The United States of America (11,800) and Australia (8,200) also resettled substantial numbers of refugees during the same period. The number of refugees resettled by each of these three countries in the first six months of 2022 grew compared to the same period in the previous year.<sup>52</sup> Refugees from Afghanistan (15,000), Syria (7,700) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (4,200) accounted for nearly two-thirds of all resettled refugees.

## Local integration

Local integration helps ensure that refugees can build new lives in host countries. However, statistics on local integration are rarely available. Naturalization numbers are often used instead, but this is less than ideal given countries that have data on naturalization rarely differentiate between refugees and non-refugees. During the first half of 2022, 27,200 refugees from 163 countries of origin became new citizens in 19 countries. In line with previous years, most naturalizations occurred in the Netherlands (12,400). A further 12,000 refugees, from more than 150 countries, obtained Canadian citizenship in the first six months of 2022. Overall, around one-third of the naturalized refugees originated from Syria (7,600) and Eritrea (2,500). Given the lack of comprehensive data, these figures should be considered as indicative only.

<sup>51</sup> In 2020 and 2021, 17,400 and 16,300 refugees respectively were resettled in the first six months of the year.

<sup>52</sup> In the first six months of 2021, Canada resettled 2,900 refugees, the United States of America resettled 3,800 and Australia resettled 400.



*NORTH MACEDONIA. After an 11-year legal battle, and with the support of UNHCR and partners, Valentin is close to gaining citizenship. He is stateless because his mother didn't register his birth and his father didn't acknowledge paternity.*

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## CHAPTER 6

# Stateless people

Globally, an estimated 4.3 million people were stateless or of undetermined nationality<sup>53</sup> by mid-2022, based on statistics reported to UNHCR by governments and other sources in 95 countries. The figure remains almost unchanged compared to the end of 2021. However, approximately half of all countries do not report data on statelessness, including many with known stateless populations. Furthermore, reported numbers are not always comparable across countries due to inconsistent criteria for counting who is stateless or of undetermined nationality. Meanwhile, several countries only provide statistics for a portion of the known stateless population in their territories. The true number of people who are stateless or of undetermined nationality globally is, therefore, likely to be much higher than 4.3 million.

Given that stateless people often live in precarious situations, with many unable to access essential services and enjoy basic rights, strengthening the collection of more reliable and comprehensive statistics on statelessness continues to be a priority for UNHCR. This includes supporting the development of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS).<sup>54</sup> This process is led by the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness

Statistics (EGRIS),<sup>55</sup> which has been mandated by the UN Statistical Commission to develop these recommendations.

By mid-2022, the largest populations of stateless people were reported in Côte d'Ivoire (930,600), Bangladesh (929,600), Myanmar (600,000) and Thailand (566,900), consistent with recent years. About 30 per cent of stateless people globally are also displaced.<sup>56</sup> Most of them are Rohingya, either internally displaced in Myanmar or seeking international protection in mostly neighbouring countries.

The latest available data show decreases in the number of stateless people in several countries. During the first half of 2022, 6,200 stateless people or people of undetermined nationality acquired nationality or had their nationality confirmed in Uzbekistan, 1,900 in the Russian Federation, 1,600 in the Republic of Moldova, and 1,200 in Tajikistan. Elsewhere, increases in the stateless population were primarily due to natural population growth, including among Rohingya refugees. This highlights the urgent need for further action to prevent statelessness, by introducing legal safeguards and ensuring access to birth registration for every child.

<sup>53</sup> See: [Definitions of stateless and undetermined nationality](#) on the Refugee Data Finder.

<sup>54</sup> See: [International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics](#)

<sup>55</sup> See: [EGRIS](#)

<sup>56</sup> Since 2019, UNHCR has reported on both displaced and in situ stateless people. Displaced stateless people are simultaneously included in UNHCR's official statistics as refugees, asylum-seekers or IDPs and in its official statistics for statelessness. Prompted by the large-scale displacement of stateless Rohingya refugees who fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh, this approach reflects the fact that refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs without citizenship require specific and appropriate protection responses.

## Who is included in UNHCR statistics?

UNHCR collates population data relating to people who are forcibly displaced or stateless. The data is sourced primarily from governments and also from UNHCR operations.

See [www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/methodology/](http://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/methodology/) for the detailed description and definitions of who is included in these statistics.

## Annex tables

Download annexes 1 to 4 from the UNHCR website at: [www.unhcr.org/statistics/2022MYTannex.zip](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/2022MYTannex.zip)  
All data are provisional and subject to change.  
Data is available at: [www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics](http://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics)

# MID-YEAR TRENDS

## 2022

PRODUCED BY UNHCR  
(27 OCTOBER 2022)

FRONT COVER

**POLAND.** *Two Ukrainian sisters and their family reach safety in Poland, heading westwards towards Katowice.*

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This document along with further information on global displacement is available on UNHCR's statistics website:  
<https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>

