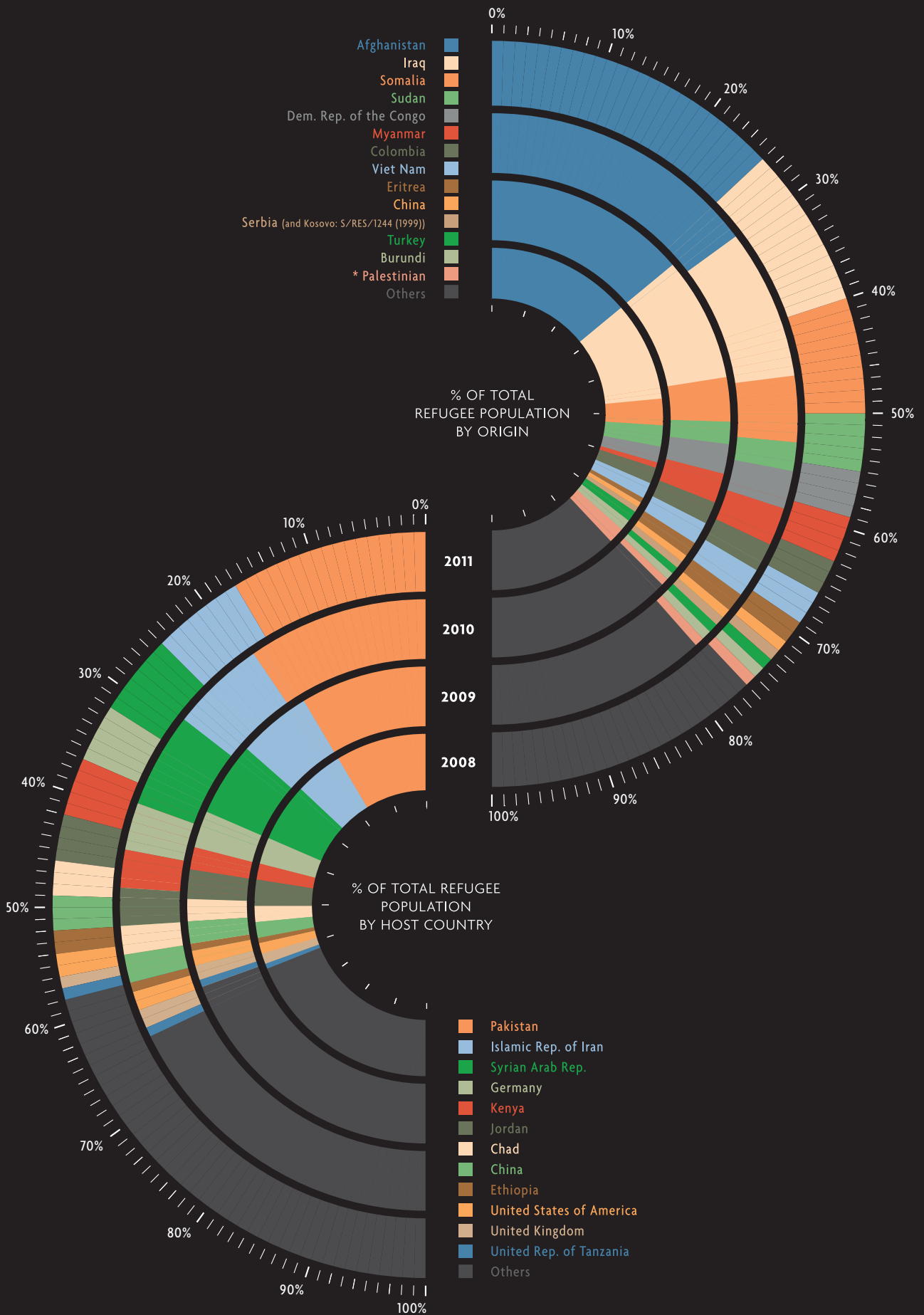


TOP POPULATIONS BY ORIGIN HOST COUNTRIES



Note: See table II.2 and II.3 for numbers.

* Refers to Palestinian refugees under the UNHCR mandate.



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MAIN FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the major statistical developments in 2011 and a summary of key observations. More detailed information is provided in Chapters I to VI.

TOTAL POPULATION OF CONCERN

Top
7

The 2011 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”.¹

35.4 MILLION

By the end of 2011, the total population of concern to UNHCR was estimated at **35.4 million people**.

- 10.4 million refugees²
- 895,000 asylum-seekers
- 532,000 refugees who repatriated during 2011
- 15.5 million IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR
- 3.2 million IDPs who returned to their place of origin in 2011
- 3.5 million stateless persons
- 1.4 million others of concern

REFUGEES

10.4 MILLION

The number of refugees at end 2011 was **10.4 million**, including 604,000 people considered by UNHCR to be in a refugee-like situation. 2011 was a year marked by major refugee crises. Conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Somalia and Sudan forced more than 800,000 refugees to flee to neighbouring countries. This was the **highest number in over a decade**.

By end of 2011, developing countries hosted **8.4 million refugees**, or 80 per cent of the global refugee population with the 48 Least Developed Countries³ providing asylum to 2.3 million refugees, or 22 per cent.

Asia hosted about half of the global refugee population (49%), followed by Africa (28%), Europe (15%), North America (4%), Latin America and the Caribbean (4%), and Oceania (0.3%).⁴

26%

By end 2011, according to UNHCR's global estimates, there were close to **2.7 million Afghan refugees**, 26 per cent of the world's refugee population under UNHCR's responsibility. Iraq was the second largest country of origin of refugees (1.4 million)⁵, followed by Somalia (1.1 million), Sudan (500,000)⁶, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (491,500), and Myanmar (414,600).

Pakistan, with 1.7 million refugees, was the country **hosting the highest number of refugees** at the end of 2011. Other major asylum countries included the **Islamic Republic of Iran** (887,000), the Syrian Arab Republic (755,400; Government estimate), Germany (571,700), and Kenya (566,500).

¹ For definitions of the various population categories, see Chapter I.

² The 4.8 million Palestinian refugees who are registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) are not included in UNHCR's statistics.

³ See <http://www.unohrls.org> for countries included.

⁴ 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>).

⁵ This includes government estimates for Iraqi refugees in Jordan (450,000) and in the Syrian Arab Republic (750,000).

⁶ May include citizens of South Sudan (in absence of separate statistics for both countries).

↗ 3%

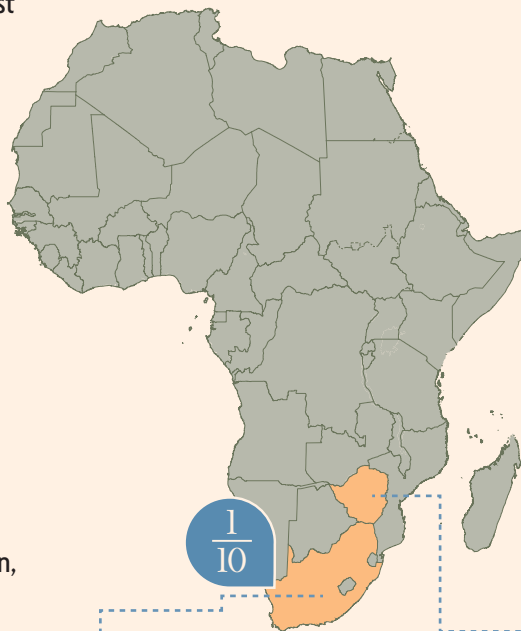
During 2011, **876,100 individual applications** for asylum or refugee status were submitted to governments and UNHCR offices in **171 countries or territories**. This was a 3 per cent increase compared to 2010 (850,300 claims) and in line with increases observed elsewhere.⁷ An estimated 738,200 of these were initial applications submitted at first instance procedures while 137,900 claims were submitted on appeal, including to courts.⁸

98,800

UNHCR offices registered **11 per cent** of applications registered globally, or 98,800 individual applications.

216,500

Approximately 216,500 asylum-seekers were either **recognized as refugees** (172,500) or granted a complementary form of protection (44,000) during 2011. This number includes an estimated 21,100 individuals who received **initial negative decisions** on their asylum claim but were later granted asylum at the appeal or review stage.



Top 7

1. Zimbabwe (52,500)
2. Afghanistan (43,000)
3. Somalia (35,900)
4. Côte d'Ivoire (33,500)
5. Democratic Republic of the Congo (31,500)
6. Myanmar (29,800)
7. Iraq (29,300)

+38%

Refugee status based on the 1951 Convention was granted in **30 per cent of decisions**

in 2011. With the addition of complementary forms of protection, 38 per cent of all substantive asylum decisions taken in 2011 were **positive**. These rates are virtually identical to those of 2010.

1/10

South Africa remained a significant country for asylum-seekers with close to 107,000 new asylum claims registered in 2011, 10 per cent of all new individual applications globally. The United States of America received the second largest number of asylum applications in 2011, an estimated 76,000, followed by France (52,100), Germany (45,700), Italy (34,100), Sweden (29,600), and Belgium (26,000).

Zimbabwe was the country of origin for the greatest number of asylum-seekers in 2011, with 52,500 new applications submitted by Zimbabwean nationals during the year.

895,000

By the end of the year, some 895,000 individuals were reported to be **awaiting a decision** on their asylum claims.

⁷ For a detailed analysis of asylum trends in industrialized countries, see *Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries, 2011*, UNHCR Geneva, March 2012, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/4e9beaa19.html>.
⁸ 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.

13 MILLION

In 2011, the type of location was reported for only 13 million persons of concern, mainly in **non-industrialized countries**.⁹ The data revealed that IDPs, returned IDPs and returned refugees predominately resided in rural areas while refugees and asylum-seekers were more often living in **urban areas**.

$\frac{1}{3}$

For the **10.4 million refugees**, the type of accommodation was known for 7.7 million (74%). Half of this number was living in individual or private accommodation. One third of refugees were reported as living in camps or in camp like settlements.

137,500

The largest refugee camp in the world in 2011 was the **Hagadera camp in Dadaab, Kenya**, with 137,500 inhabitants at year end. This camp, along with the Dagahaley and Ifo camps, are part of the Dadaab complex with a total population of more than 453,000 refugees by the end of 2011.

SEX AND AGE

HOST COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

49%

The available data revealed that, on average, **49 per cent** of persons of concern were female: 48 per cent of refugees, 50 per cent of returned refugees, and 51 per cent of IDPs and stateless persons.¹⁰

35.4 MILLION

Of the 35.4 million people of concern to UNHCR in 2011, data on sex and age are available respectively for **24.4 million people (69%)**, and for **15.8 million (45%)**.

605

Pakistan had the largest number of refugees in relation to its economic capacity, hosting **605 refugees** per 1 USD Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (PPP)¹¹ per capita.

47%

48%

5%

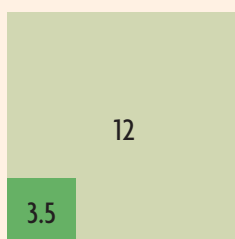
Data on age showed that on average **children under the age of 18** represented 47 per cent of the overall population of concern, with 13 per cent **under the age of five**. Close to half (48%) of the population were between the ages of 18 and 59 years, and 5 per cent were 60 years or older.

46%

Among refugees and people in refugee-like situations, children constituted **46 per cent** of the population. In contrast, 52 per cent of those returning refugees in 2011 were under 18 years.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo was the country with the second largest number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita (399 refugees), followed by Kenya (321 refugees), and Liberia (290 refugees). The largest **refugee-hosting developed country** was Germany in 26th place, with 15 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita.

STATELESS PERSONS



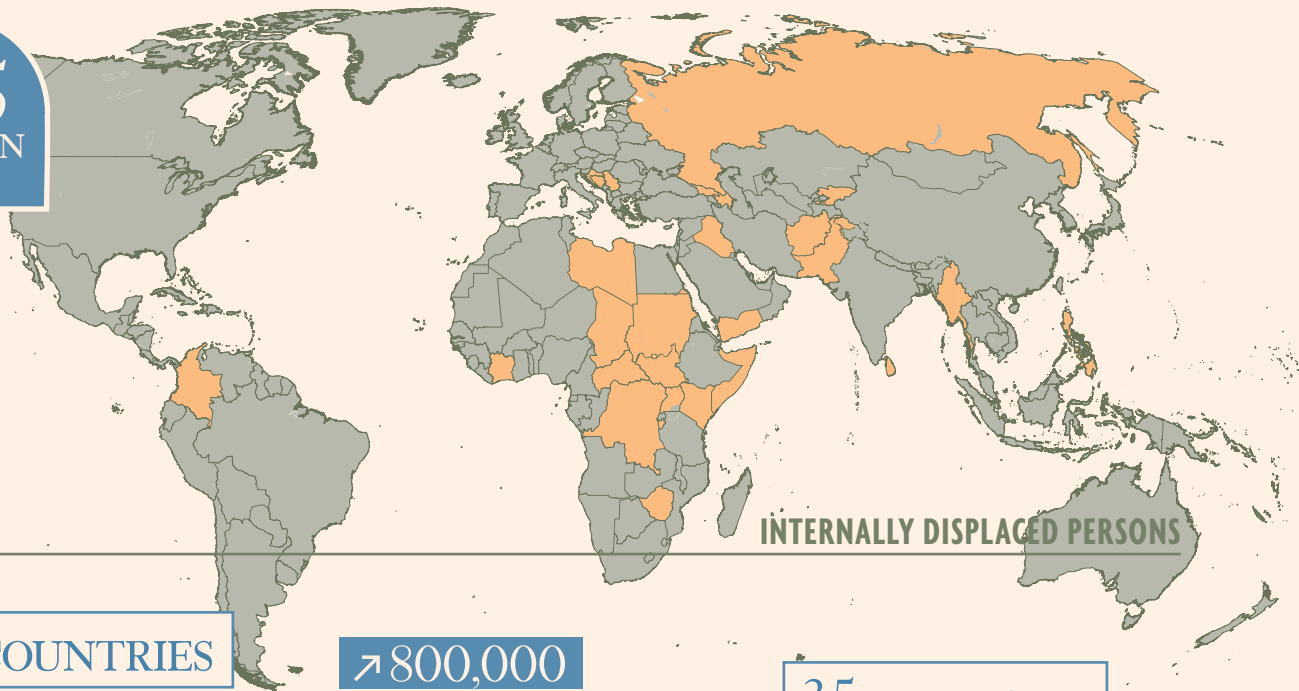
At end 2011, UNHCR identified some 3.5 million stateless persons in **64 countries**. The actual number of stateless persons worldwide was **estimated at up to 12 million**.

⁹ Although UNHCR offices reported information on the location for a total of 30.2 million persons of concern, the location type for 17.2 million persons (mostly IDPs) was either unclear or of mixed types.

¹⁰ Data coverage for stateless persons is limited. Returned IDPs are excluded due to lack of data.

¹¹ Purchasing Power Parity. Source for Gross Domestic Product (PPP): International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2012 (accessed 25 April 2012). Source for national populations: United Nations, Population Division, "World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision", New York, 2011.

15.5
MILLION



26 COUNTRIES

↗ 800,000

3.5 MILLION

UNHCR's statistics included IDP populations in **26 countries**. In 2011, its offices reported some **2.9 million people** who were newly displaced in 2011, while over 3.2 million IDPs, mostly in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Côte d'Ivoire, returned to their homes during the year.

The number of internally displaced persons benefiting from UNHCR's protection and assistance activities was almost 15.5 million by end of 2011. This was the **second highest figure on record**, nearly 800,000 more than the figure at end of 2010 (14.7 million) and more than double that of 2005 (6.6 million).¹²

Globally, an estimated **3.5 million people** were newly displaced within the borders of their countries, one-fifth more than in 2010.¹³

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

× 2

Some 532,000 refugees **repatriated voluntarily** during 2011. Although more than double the figure for 2010 (197,600), this was still one of lowest annual figures for repatriation since 2001. The main countries of return included Libya (149,000), Côte d'Ivoire (135,200), Afghanistan (71,100), Iraq (67,100), Sudan (50,100), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (21,100).

The **main beneficiaries of UNHCR-assisted resettlement** were refugees from Bhutan (18,100), Myanmar (17,900), Iraq (8,900), and Somalia (4,800).

92,000

Over the course of 2011, UNHCR submitted some **92,000 individual cases** for resettlement consideration. Ten per cent of these submissions were for women and girls at risk, the highest percentage in over six years. In 2011, almost 62,000 refugees departed for resettlement countries with UNHCR's assistance, the largest numbers from Nepal (18,100), Thailand (9,600), Malaysia (8,400), the Syrian Arab Republic (4,700), and Turkey (4,400).

↘ 20,000

According to figures provided by governments, **22 industrialized countries** admitted 79,800 resettled refugees during 2011, nearly 20,000 less than in 2010 (98,800) and a reduction of 20 per cent. The countries receiving the largest numbers of resettled refugees were the United States of America (51,500),¹⁴ Canada (12,900), Australia (9,200), Sweden (1,900), and Norway (1,300).

¹² UNHCR's work with IDPs is based on the cluster approach, adopted in 2005 (see footnote 26).

¹³ Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

¹⁴ Nearly 56,400 refugees were resettled to the United States of America during US Fiscal Year 2011.



Syrian refugees in Al Zaatari camp, Jordan, walk to fill their jerrycans with water from nearby public taps.



UNHCR / S. MALKAWI



Introduction

THE 2011 STATISTICAL YEARBOOK assesses recent levels and trends in populations of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), reports on progress towards durable solutions and provides demographic data on

beneficiaries of UNHCR's protection and assistance programmes. As such, it serves as an empirical resource to be used in planning, monitoring and evaluating of UNHCR activities.

The basis for UNHCR statistical activities is derived from the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees¹⁵ as well as the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Com-

¹⁵ "... the Contracting States undertake to provide [the Office of the High Commissioner] in the appropriate form with information and statistical data requested ..." (Chapter VI, article 35: Co-operation of the national authorities with the United Nations).



missioner for Refugees.¹⁶ For more than sixty years, countries have been providing information to UNHCR concerning the number and conditions of refugees in their territories. Statistical data help enable the international community to assess global forced displacement. The commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 50th anniversary

of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in December 2011 confirmed this when a majority of the 155 States in attendance announced concrete steps to improve the protection of refugees and stateless persons.¹⁷

By the end of 2011, some 42.5 million people worldwide were considered as forcibly displaced due to conflict and persecution. They included 15.2 million refugees,¹⁸ 26.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)¹⁹ and 895,000 individuals whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated by the end of the year.

The number of refugees and IDPs under UNHCR's care increased by 700,000 people from 2010 to 25.9 million by year-end. The number of refugees decreased slightly to 10.4 million from 10.55 in 2010, while the number of IDPs protected or assisted by UNHCR in 2011 increased to 15.5 million from 14.7 the previous year. In addition, UNHCR estimated that up to 12 million people were stateless, although official statistics covered only some 3.5 million of them.

An estimated 3.2 million IDPs were able to return home in 2011, the highest number in many years.

Statistics reflected in this Yearbook are, for the most part, those reported by UNHCR country offices drawn either from their own data or those of the government. The use of estimates is clearly indicated.

IN 2011 AN ESTIMATED 532,000 REFUGEES WERE ABLE TO RETURN HOME VOLUNTARILY, THE HIGHEST NUMBER SINCE 2008, BUT STILL THE THIRD LOWEST RECORDED IN THE PAST DECADE

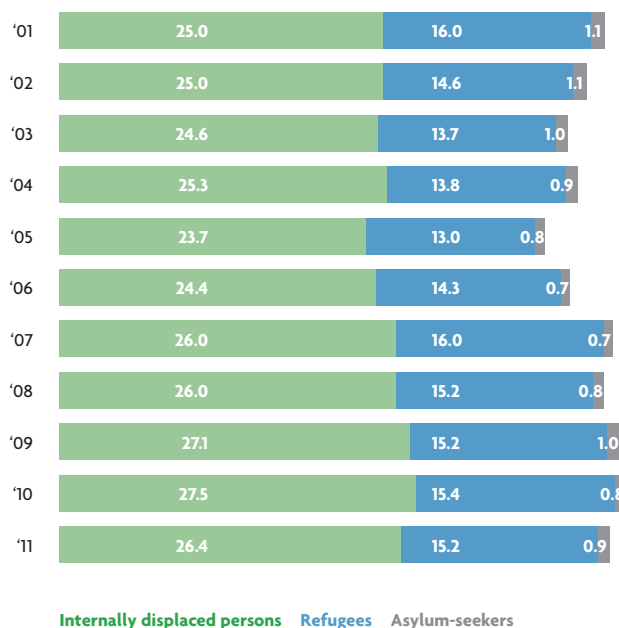
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Fig. 0.1 Global forced displacement
| 2001-2011 (end-year, in millions)



THE 2011 STATISTICAL YEARBOOK comprises a **Global Analysis** and a series of tables in the Annex. The Global Analysis includes six chapters 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 figures, focusing on basic concepts and

¹⁶ "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).

¹⁷ See <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4d22e8a26.html>

¹⁸ This figure includes 4.8 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

¹⁹ Source: IDMC



A Sudanese refugee woman from Blue Nile State receives non-food items in Yusuf Batil refugee camp, Upper Nile State, South Sudan. UNHCR and its partners provide blankets and mosquito nets to vulnerable refugees in the camp.

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 2011. **Chapter III** focuses on the main population movements during 2011, with particular emphasis on durable solutions and new refugee outflows. **Chapter IV** provides an overview of asylum applications and components of the refugee status determination process. Demographic characteristics, such as sex and age, are discussed in **Chapter V**, which also provides information on the types of locations of populations. **Chapter VI** introduces the concept of Information Management in UNHCR, a prerequisite for improved reporting in the humanitarian context. The concept is illustrated by presenting the organization's information management activities in Ethiopia and Côte d'Ivoire during 2011.

The tables appearing in the Annex provide additional detailed data for 2011. Statistical data on historical trends that allow an easy global comparison by region and by country for all major themes can be found on UNHCR's statistical website (www.unhcr.org/statistics) and downloaded from UNHCR's Statistical Online Population Database at 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 2011 Yearbook will likewise be subject to minor future adjustments. ■