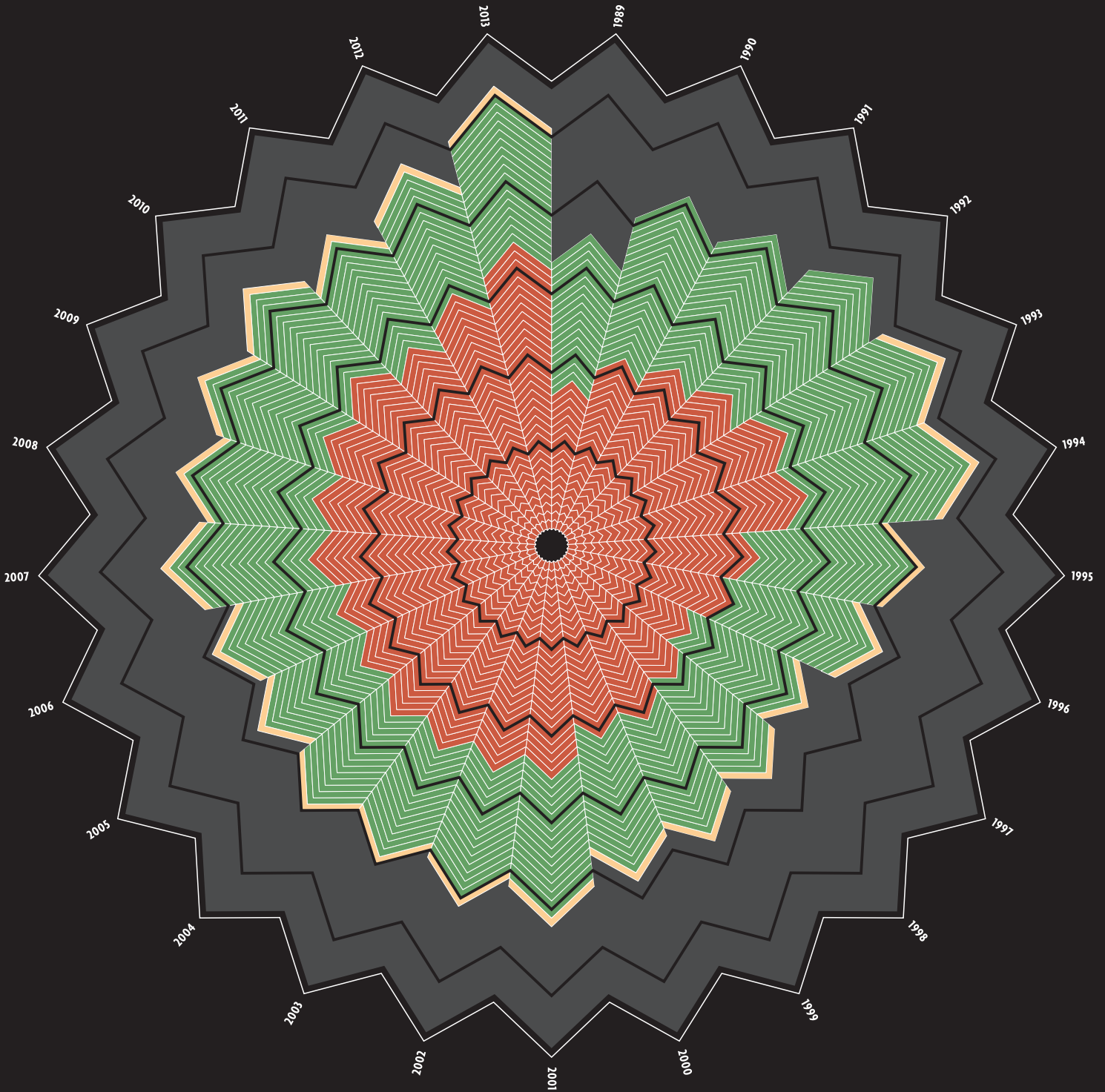


# 25 YEARS OF GLOBAL FORCED DISPLACEMENT



- INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
- REFUGEES
- ASYLUM-SEEKERS (PENDING CASES), AVAILABLE SINCE 1993



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency



IN MILLION 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Source: UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2013. See: [www.unhcr.org/statistics](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics)



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# MAIN FINDINGS

*More detailed analyses, including the definitions used and limitations of the data, can be found in Chapters I to VII.*

This section provides an overview of the major statistical developments in 2013 and a summary of key findings.

## GLOBAL TRENDS

51.2 MILLION



The global figure included 33.3 million internally displaced persons and close to 1.2 million asylum-seekers. This was the highest recorded level in the post-World War II era. If these 51.2 million persons were a nation, they would make up the 26<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.

By end-2013, **51.2 million individuals** were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. Some 16.7 million persons were refugees: 11.7 million under UNHCR's mandate and 5.0 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA.

An estimated **10.7 million** individuals were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution in 2013. This includes 8.2 million persons newly displaced within the borders of their own country, the highest figure on record.<sup>1</sup> The other 2.5 million individuals were new refugees – the highest number of new arrivals since 1994.



32,200

During 2013, conflict and persecution forced an average of **32,200 individuals per day** to leave their home and seek protection elsewhere, either within the borders of their own country or in other countries. This compares to 23,400 in 2012 and 14,200 in 2011.

## TOTAL POPULATION OF CONCERN

7

The 2013 Statistical Yearbook identifies seven population categories:

1. refugees
2. asylum-seekers
3. internally displaced persons (IDPs) protected and assisted by UNHCR
4. stateless persons
5. returned refugees
6. returned IDPs
7. others of concern

These categories are collectively referred to as the 'total population of concern' or as 'persons of concern'.<sup>2</sup>

By the end of 2013, the total population of concern to UNHCR was estimated at **42.9 million people**, broken down as follows:

42.9 MILLION

11.7 million refugees<sup>3</sup>

1.2 million asylum-seekers

414,600 refugees who had repatriated during 2013

23.9 million IDPs protected and assisted by UNHCR

1.4 million IDPs who had returned to their place of origin in 2013

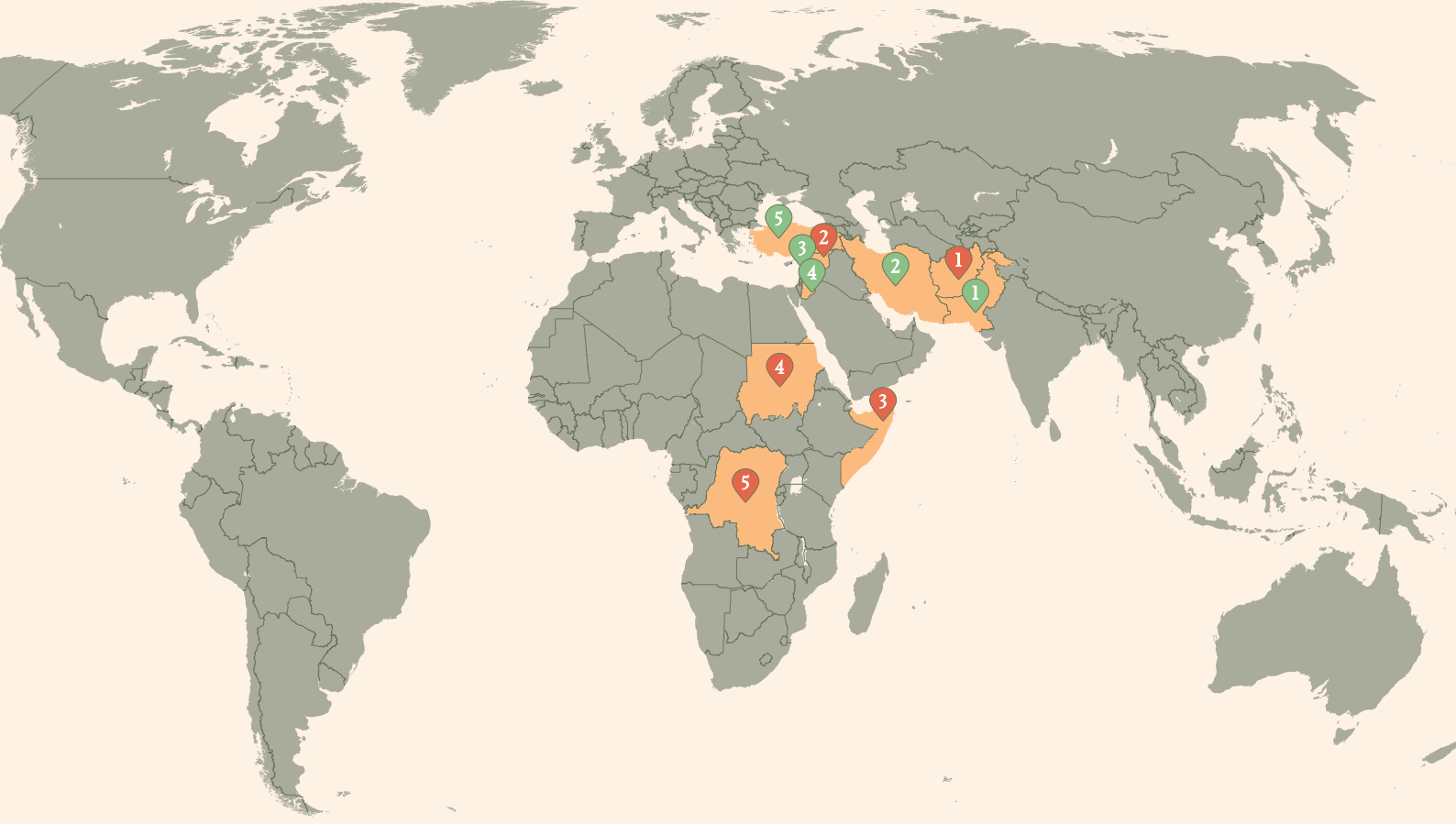
3.5 million stateless persons

836,600 others of concern

<sup>1</sup> The highest figure since 1989, when record-keeping began.

<sup>2</sup> For definitions of the various population categories, see Chapter I.

<sup>3</sup> The 5.0 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) are not included in UNHCR's statistics.



## REFUGEES

### 11.7 MILLION

The number of refugees at end-2013 was **11.7 million**, including 700,000 individuals considered by UNHCR to be in a refugee-like situation. The previous year, this figure was 10.5 million.

### 10.1 MILLION

By the end of 2013, developing countries hosted **10.1 million refugees**, or 86 per cent of the global refugee population, the highest value for the past 22 years. The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 2.8 million refugees, or 24 per cent of the total.

### TOP HOST

1. Pakistan (1.6 million)
2. Islamic Republic of Iran (857,400)
3. Lebanon (856,500)
4. Jordan (641,900)
5. Turkey (609,900)

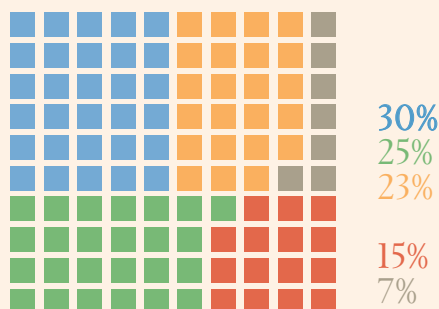
### TOP ORIGIN

1. Afghanistan (2.56 million)
2. Syrian Arab Republic (2.47 million)
3. Somalia (1.12 million)
4. Sudan (648,900)
5. Dem. Rep. of the Congo (499,600)

The Asia and Pacific region hosted slightly less than one third of the global refugee population (30%). This was followed by sub-Saharan Africa (25%), the Middle East and North Africa (23%), Europe (15%), and the Americas (7%).<sup>4</sup>

Pakistan, with **1.6 million refugees**, hosted the highest number of refugees at the end of 2013. Other major countries of asylum included the Islamic Republic of Iran (857,400), Lebanon (856,500), Jordan (641,900), and Turkey (609,900).

More than half (53%) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries: Afghanistan (2.56 million), the Syrian Arab Republic (2.47 million), and Somalia (1.12 million).



<sup>4</sup> The geographical regions used are those of UNHCR. See Annex, Table 27 for country breakdown.



## REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION

Close to **1.1 million individual applications** for asylum or refugee status were submitted to governments and UNHCR offices in 167 countries or territories in 2013. This not only constituted a 16 per cent increase compared to the previous year (929,700 claims) but was also the highest level of the past 10 years. UNHCR offices registered a record high of 203,200 or 19 per cent of these claims.



**1.1 MILLION**

- 916,900 initial applications submitted at 'first instance' procedures
- 162,900 claims were submitted on appeal, including to courts<sup>5</sup>

**286,500**

Some **286,500 asylum-seekers** were either recognized as refugees (213,700) or granted a complementary form of protection (72,800) during 2013. This number includes an estimated 20,000 individuals who initially received negative decisions on their asylum claims but which were subsequently overturned at the appeal or review stage.

<sup>5</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.



1. Germany (109,600)
2. United States of America (84,400)
3. South Africa (70,000)
4. France (62,000)
5. Sweden (54,300)

With 109,600 asylum claims, Germany was for the first time since 1999 the world's largest recipient of new individual applications.

**32%**

Refugee status based on the 1951 Convention was **granted in 32 per cent of decisions** in 2013. With the addition of complementary forms of protection, 43 per cent of all substantive asylum decisions taken in 2013 were positive. Both values are significantly higher than the rates in 2012 (30% and 37%, respectively), reflecting a continued increasing demand for international protection throughout the year.



1. Syrian Arab Republic (64,300)
2. Democratic Republic of the Congo (60,500)
3. Myanmar (57,400)
4. Afghanistan (49,000)
5. Iraq (45,700)

The Syrian Arab Republic was the single largest country of origin for asylum-seekers in 2013, with 64,300 new applications submitted by its nationals during the year – on average, every 14<sup>th</sup> claim.

**1.2 MILLION**

By the end of the year, close to **1.2 million individuals** were reported to be awaiting a decision on their asylum claims, the highest number in many years.

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

**23.9 MILLION**

The number of internally displaced persons benefiting from UNHCR's protection and assistance activities, **including 267,500** in IDP-like situations, stood at **23.9 million** at the end of 2013. This was the highest figure on record, and 6.2 million more than at the start of the year (17.7 million).

In 2013, UNHCR was responsible for leading, coordinating, and supporting assessment and response for 19 protection, eight shelter, and seven camp coordination and camp management clusters or other coordination mechanisms. These actions took place in a total of **19 operations worldwide**.

**7.6 MILLION**

UNHCR's statistics included IDP populations in 24 countries. Its offices reported some **7.6 million IDPs** who were newly displaced in 2013, while 1.4 million IDPs were able to return home during the same period.



## SEX AND AGE

42.9 MILLION

Of the **42.9 million people of concern** to UNHCR in 2013, data on sex and age are available for 23.9 million (56%) and 15.2 million (35%), respectively.

49%

The available disaggregated information by sex revealed that on average **49 per cent of refugees were female**, a proportion that has remained relatively constant over the past decade.

50%

## CHILDREN

Disaggregated information on age showed that **children** under the age of 18 represented an average of **50 per cent** of the total refugee population, compared to 46 per cent a year earlier. This was the highest value in 10 years. Less than half (46%) of the refugee population was between the ages of 18 and 59 years, whereas 4 per cent was 60 years or older.

## TYPE OF LOCATION

On the type of location in which populations of concern were found, the available data revealed that more IDPs, returned IDPs, and returned refugees resided in **rural areas** than in **urban areas**. On the other hand, refugees and asylum-seekers were more often found living in urban areas.

## HOST COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS



**Pakistan** had the largest number of refugees in relation to its economic

capacity, hosting **512 refugees per 1 USD Gross Domestic Product** by Purchasing Power Parity – commonly referred to as GDP (PPP)<sup>6</sup> – per capita.

**Ethiopia** had the second largest number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita (**336 refugees**), followed by Kenya (295 refugees) and Chad (199 refugees). The largest refugee-hosting developed country was Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)), in 44<sup>th</sup> place, with seven refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita.

## STATELESS PERSONS

10 MILLION

Statelessness is estimated to have affected at least **10 million people** in 2013. However, data captured by governments and communicated to UNHCR were limited to **3.5 million stateless** individuals in 75 countries.

Comparing the number of refugees to the national population of its host country shows that Lebanon topped the list with **178 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants**. This was the highest relative burden a country had been exposed to since 1980. Jordan (88) and Chad (34) ranked second and third, respectively.

## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

414,600

Over the course of 2013, **414,600 refugees returned** to their country of origin. Two-thirds of these returned to the Syrian Arab Republic (140,800), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (68,400), or Iraq (60,900). This figure was the fourth lowest level of refugee returns in almost 25 years.

21 COUNTRIES

During the year, UNHCR submitted 93,200 refugees to States for resettlement, and some 71,600 departed with UNHCR's assistance. According to government statistics, **21 countries admitted 98,400 refugees for resettlement** during 2013 (with or without UNHCR's assistance). The United States of America received the highest number (66,200).

<sup>6</sup> Purchasing Power Parity. Source for Gross Domestic Product (PPP): International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2014 (accessed 18 April 2014). Source for national populations: United Nations, Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, New York, 2013. For the purpose of this analysis, the medium fertility variant population of 2013 has been taken into account.



**Newly arrived Syrian refugees** in the Turkish refugee camp of Midyat-Mardin are living in tents and facing harsh winter conditions.



# Introduction

**T**HE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION of refugee statistics are mandated by both the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>7</sup> and the Statute of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).<sup>8</sup> While the former obliges States to report on refugee statistics to UNHCR, the latter mandates the agency to disseminate this information. The dissemination of refugee statistics allows stakeholders and users to make effective decisions at all levels in order to improve response on forced displacement.

UNHCR has had a long tradition of compiling, analysing, and disseminating data on forced displacement, in particular on refugees and asylum-seekers. The collection of this data has evolved over time to encompass other populations who have been forcibly displaced. As a consequence, besides

information on refugees and asylum-seekers, the Office collects data on returned refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returned IDPs, and stateless persons. Over the years, governments, UNHCR, and partners have each played an essential role in collecting statistics, and today data on refugees and other persons of concern to the Office are available throughout the year. In view of the legal backing for and obligation of data collection, the agency ensures that the various data-collection methods are of scientific standard.

Since UNHCR's creation in 1951, there has not been a single year in which individuals did not have to flee due to armed conflict, war, or persecution. UNHCR's statistics are a sad testimony to these developments. In 2013 alone, the world witnessed continuous conflicts and violence that resulted in the massive displacement of

individuals, either within or outside their own borders. During the year, 10.7 million individuals were newly displaced, including 8.2 million persons within their own borders, the highest figure recorded in a given year. The remaining 2.5 million individuals were newly displaced refugees.

This Yearbook has seven main chapters. **Chapter I** provides detailed description of the sources and methods used to collect and compile these data. It reveals that registration is the major method of data collection for refugees. This chapter also finds that governments

<sup>7</sup> [...] 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).

<sup>8</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).





and UNHCR remain the key agents of data collection in the refugee context. Chapter I concludes with a contribution by the Swedish Migration Board, focusing on the prognosis of asylum flows. This section provides a step-by-step approach for forecasting asylum flows in Sweden by tracing the migrant journey through the various channels, based on Sweden's experience. The article measures how asylum flows can be statistically predicted based on certain scenarios, and suggests that the prognosis of asylum flows requires constant revisions given that unexpected events can cause wide variations in forecasted estimates. This contribution constitutes an important milestone in the 13-year history of UNHCR's Statistical Yearbook, as it is the first time that a government has contributed to the publication.

The recorded figure of 51.2 million individuals by the end of 2013 requires further examination of the various population categories. **Chapter II** therefore analyses the overall trends and levels of forcibly displaced persons worldwide, with particular emphasis on the reporting period. In addition, this chapter examines the origins and main destinations of forcibly displaced persons. In 2013, Syrians became the second largest source country of refugees, next only to Afghans, which have topped this list for the past three decades. Within just five years, the Syrian Arab Republic has moved from being the second largest refugee-hosting country to being the second largest refugee source country. As a result, this chapter has a dedicated section analysing the situation of Syrian refugees in Turkey, tracing the influx of Syrian refugees through to their registration, documentation, and protection.

**Chapter III** examines trends and levels of persons falling under UNHCR's statelessness mandate. It focuses on the magnitude of the global stateless population around the world, as well as on the challenges in obtaining reliable and accurate data on this population. This chapter also includes a contribution from the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, offering an academic analysis of the challenges of identifying stateless persons who have not been comprehensively accounted for. The authors' views

reflect on the difficulties in identifying and thus enumerating this population, while also providing recommendations on overcoming these challenges.

In **Chapter IV**, the various options for durable solutions open to refugees are presented, including discussion on the general patterns of voluntary repatriation of refugees. This chapter concludes that voluntary repatriation remains the largest durable solution, in numerical terms. In addition, Chapter IV examines the origins and destinations of resettled refugees in the context of durable solutions. This section includes a brief overview of humanitarian admissions, a simplified and expedited system of resettlement. This chapter concludes with a discussion on moving towards a more qualitative rather than quantitative approach to measuring location integration.

**Chapter V** provides a statistical analysis of both asylum applications and the components of the process of refugee status determination. Data show that the number of individual asylum applications registered with governments or UNHCR during the year surpassed the one million mark, reflecting a continued increasing demand for international protection. This chapter also includes a brief overview of asylum applications lodged by unaccompanied and separated children.

**Chapter VI** examines the demographic and location characteristics of persons of concern. The analysis centres on age, sex, and locations of refugees by the end of 2013. Nowadays, more refugees reside in urban locations than rural areas, this chapter finds, and one in every two refugees is a child. The chapter concludes with an article from an external contributor examining the historical trends in location and accommodation of refugee shelter from 2001 through 2013.

Finally, **Chapter VII** focuses on 'open statistics', an increasingly popular term and idea today, including in the humanitarian context. This chapter examines how modern technology has forced a change in the mindset of many international organizations and actors working in humanitarian emergencies. It also explores the potential of



**These Somali refugee girls** are happy to have a chance to go to school in Shedder refugee camp, Ethiopia.

open statistics, by providing examples of how such initiatives can support refugee emergencies.

The tables appearing in the Annex provide additional detailed data for 2013. Statistical data on historical trends, allowing for easy global comparison 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)). These data can also be downloaded from UNHCR's Statistical Online Population Database, at <http://popstats.unhcr.org>.

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. 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 2013 Yearbook will likewise be subject to minor future adjustments. ■