

# MID-YEAR TRENDS

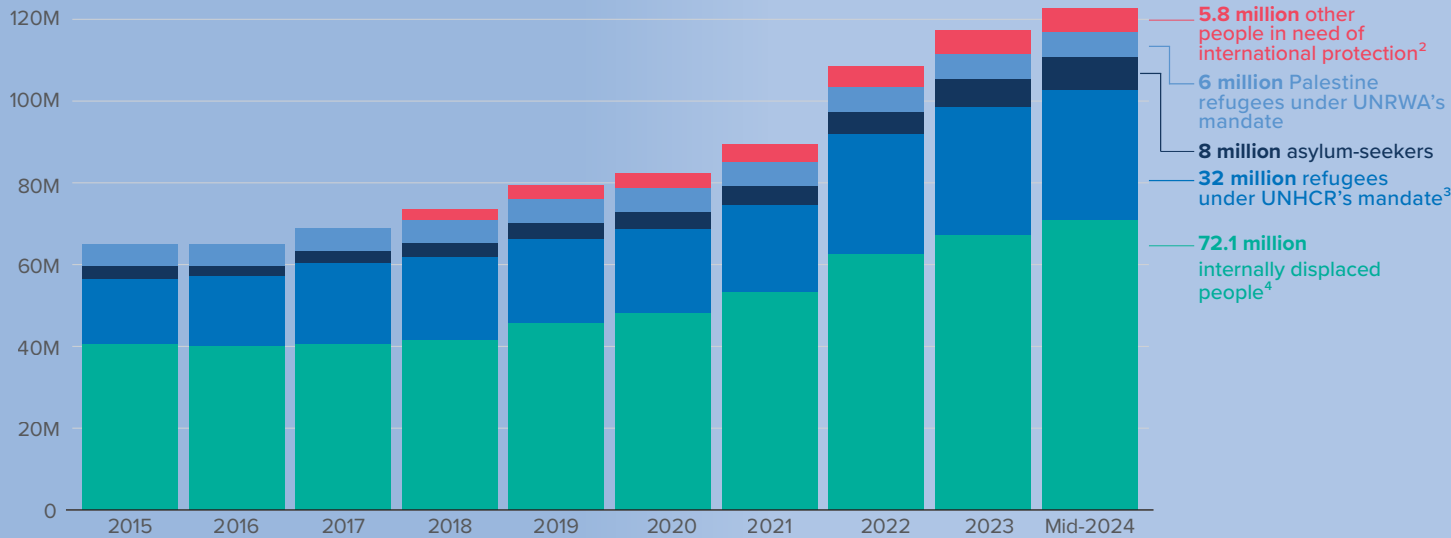
## 2024



# Trends at a Glance

## 122.6 MILLION FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE<sup>1</sup>

At the end of June as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order.



### REFUGEES AND OTHER PEOPLE IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION:

LOW-AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES HOSTED

**71%**

of the world's refugees and other people in need of international protection.<sup>5</sup> The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 22 per cent of the total.

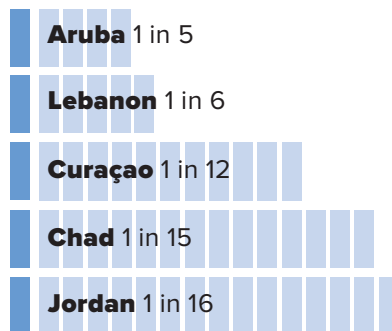
**69%**

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 5**  
ARE DISPLACED

Relative to their national populations,<sup>6</sup> the island of Aruba (1 in 5) and Lebanon (1 in 6) hosted the largest number of refugees and other people in need of international protection, followed by Curaçao (1 in 12), Chad (1 in 15) and Jordan (1 in 16).<sup>7</sup>



**1.9 MILLION**  
NEW CLAIMS

Asylum-seekers submitted 1.9 million new claims during the first half of 2024. The main recipients of new individual applications were the United States of America (729,100), followed by Egypt (209,100) and Germany (121,400).

- The total number of people forcibly displaced is calculated using statistics by UNHCR, UNRWA and IDMC. See [UNHCR population groups explained](#) for more information. UNRWA estimates that 70 per cent of the 1.7 million IDPs in the Gaza Strip at mid-2024 were Palestine refugees under its mandate. These internally displaced refugees under UNRWA's mandate are only counted once in the global forcibly displaced total.
- See the [Methodology](#) page of UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder for a definition of each population group.
- All references in this infographic to refugees under UNHCR's mandate includes people in a refugee-like situation.
- This estimate is calculated using IDMC's end-2023 figure (68.3 million people) as a base. It only reflects changes in the statistics in the 36 countries in which UNHCR reported internal displacement during the first six months of 2024 (+3.8 million). The mid-year estimate is therefore likely to be under representative of the global total.
- See [Key facts for countries hosting the world's refugees](#), UNHCR.
- Limited to countries hosting at least 10,000 people. Excludes Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.
- Lebanon continues to be the highest, per capita, host country for refugees globally, with a government estimate of 1.5 million Syrians (some 774,700 registered by UNHCR as well as 11,400 asylum-seekers and refugees of other nationalities). When the 492,900 Palestine refugees in Lebanon and 2.4 million Palestine refugees in Jordan registered with UNRWA are included, the proportions in Lebanon and Jordan increase to one in four and one in three.

### SOLUTIONS

**85,000**  
REFUGEES WERE  
RESETTLED

85,000 refugees were resettled, according to government statistics.

**2.2 MILLION**  
DISPLACED PEOPLE  
RETURNED

2.2 million displaced people returned to their areas or countries of origin, including 1.8 million internally displaced people and 433,600 refugees.

**26,400**  
OBTAINED THE  
CITIZENSHIP

26,400 refugees obtained the citizenship of their country of asylum.

# Statistics for forcibly displaced and all other people protected and/or assisted by UNHCR

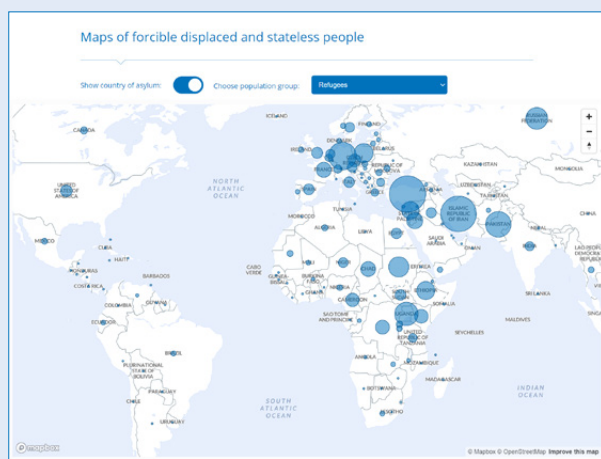
This report's main focus is an analysis of changes and trends in forced displacement from January to June 2024 among people covered by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency's mandate.<sup>8</sup> The data presented are based on information received as of 19 September 2024 unless otherwise indicated.

At the end of June 2024, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide was estimated at **122.6 million**.<sup>9</sup> This figure encompasses refugees under UNHCR's mandate as well as Palestine refugees under the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's (UNRWA) mandate, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people (IDPs) and other people in need of international protection.

UNHCR also estimates the population that UNHCR protects and/or assists. 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 previous 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. At mid-2024 this figure stood at **120 million** people.

These two categorizations are compared graphically below. A detailed breakdown of the population that UNHCR protects and/or assists is provided in the [Annex Tables](#) by category and country.

The figures in this report are based on data reported by governments, non-governmental organizations, UNHCR and other UN agencies. Numbers are rounded to the closest hundred or thousand. As some adjustments may appear later in the year in the Refugee Data Finder,<sup>10</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 2024.



[View maps showing totals by population group and country.](#)

Annex 3 - Populations protected and / or assisted by UNHCR by country/territory of origin

Refugees, asylum-seekers, other people in need of international protection, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR, by country/territory of origin.

Country/territory of origin	ISO 3 Code	POPULATIONS										Total number of people protected and/or assisted by UNHCR
		Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Asylum-seekers (pending cases)	Other people in need of international protection	Returned refugees	IDPs of concern to UNHCR	Returned IDPs	Persons under UNHCR's Statelessness mandate	Others of concern to UNHCR	
Afghanistan	AFG	2,556,039	3,104,736	5,660,775	296,481	0	6,556	3,254,082	256,166	0	90,683	6,543,001
Albania	ALB	20,247	0	20,247	34,408	0	0	0	0	0	0	54,655
Algeria	DLA	3,086	5	3,091	8,823	0	0	0	0	0	107	14,016
Andorra	AND	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Angola	AGO	11,791	0	11,791	16,323	0	17	0	0	0	13,379	45,489
Anguilla	AAU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antigua and Barbuda	ATG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argentina	ARG	179	0	179	2,271	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,450
Armenia	ARM	14,715	139	14,854	14,874	0	0	0	0	0	0	29,728
Aruba	ABW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	AUS	26	5	31	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	56
Austria	AUT	28	13	41	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	58
Azerbaijan	AZE	14,566	27,447	42,013	3,724	0	0	658,793	0	0	0	706,530
Bahrain	BHS	791	0	791	1,279	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,970
Bangladesh	BAN	302	0	302	704	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,006
Barbados	BBD	23,611	16	23,627	67,248	0	0	0	0	0	0	91,485
Belarus	BLR	231	0	231	229	0	0	0	0	0	0	460
Belgium	BLG	14,448	89	14,537	6,204	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,741
Beliz	BEL	14	10	24	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	68

[View annex tables by category and country.](#)

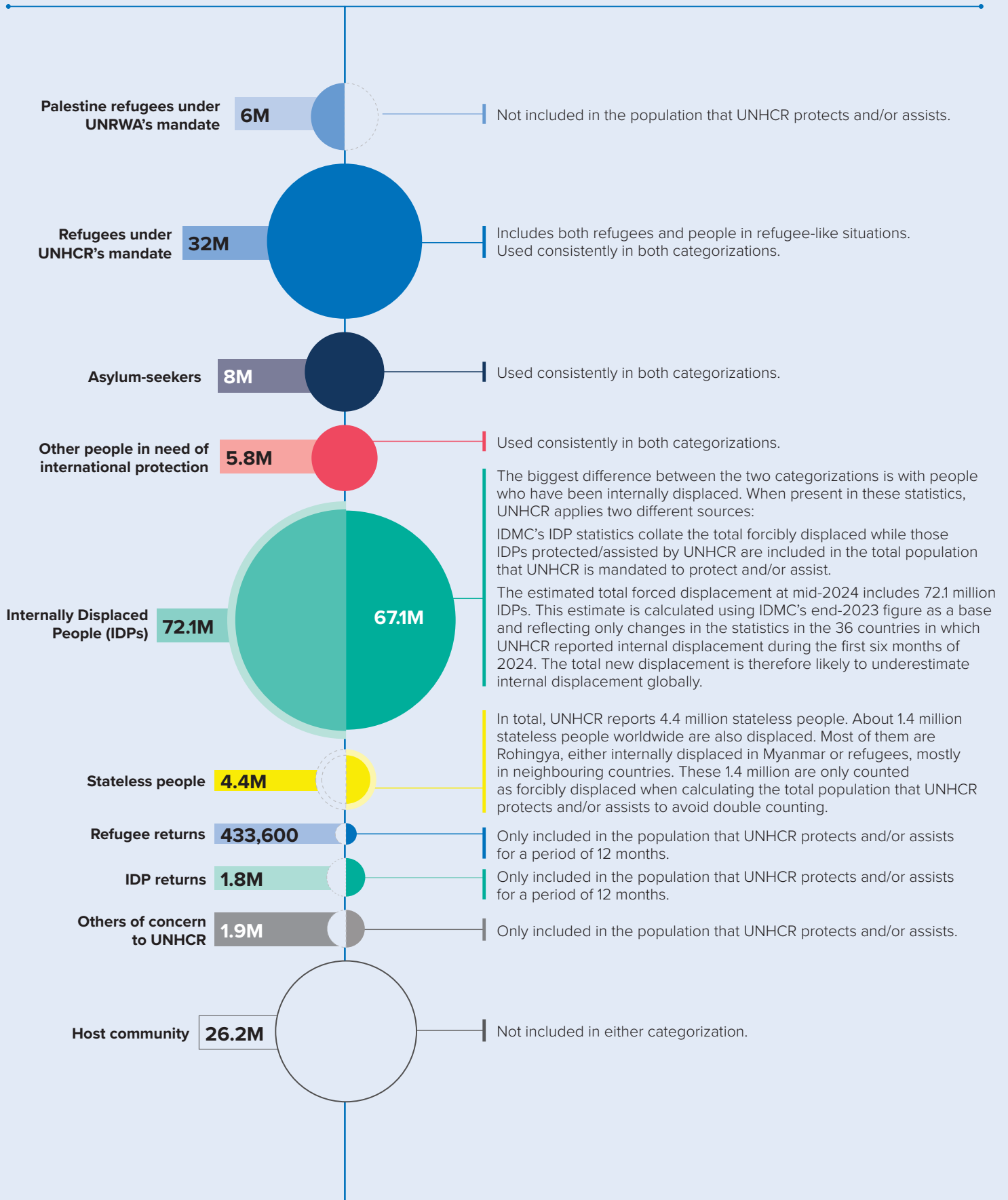
<sup>8</sup> See the [Methodology](#) page of UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder for a definition of each population group.

<sup>9</sup> See footnote 1.

<sup>10</sup> See UNHCR's [Refugee Data Finder](#).

# Forcibly displaced people **122.6 million**

# Population UNHCR protects and/or assists **119.9 million**



11 See footnote 1.

## CHAPTER 1

# Global Forced Displacement

For more than 12 years, the number of people remaining forcibly displaced by persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order has continued to grow, reaching an estimated **122.6 million** by the end of June 2024.<sup>12</sup> This represents an increase of 5 per cent, or 5.3 million, compared to the end of 2023, primarily reflecting rising internal displacement in several countries and the growing backlog of asylum applications. UNHCR estimates that forced displacement has increased further since June 2024, and barring rapid positive developments in one or more large displacement situations, will continue to rise in 2024.

The rise in forced displacement means that 1 in 67 people worldwide remained forcibly displaced at the end of June 2024, almost double the 1 in 114 people in this situation a decade ago. Most forcibly displaced people, 87 per cent of them, resided in low- and middle-income countries at mid-2024. Nearly three in five never crossed an international border, remaining forcibly displaced in their own country. Overall, two-

thirds of forcibly displaced people originated from just 10 countries at the end of June 2024.<sup>13</sup>

## Key displacement trends

Over a year after it commenced, the conflict in **Sudan** continued to cause many people to flee their homes. A further 1.6 million people were forcibly displaced within the country between January and June 2024, the largest such new displacement during these six months globally. This brought the total number of Sudanese remaining forcibly displaced at mid-2024 to 12.8 million. The situation in Sudan is increasingly dire, with more than half of the population estimated to experience high levels of acute food insecurity.<sup>14</sup> During the same period, nearly half a million Sudanese (465,900) sought international protection, mostly in neighbouring countries including the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Other nearby countries, such as Libya, Tunisia and Uganda, also began to receive greater numbers of Sudanese.

<sup>12</sup> See footnotes 1 and 4.

<sup>13</sup> These countries were Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen. Three in four of all internally displaced people came from one of 10 countries. Similarly, 86 per cent of all refugees under UNHCR's mandate and other people in need of international protection originated from only ten countries.

<sup>14</sup> See [Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Snapshot for April 2024 – February 2025](#), Integrated Food Security Phase Classification.

After the military takeover in February 2021 in **Myanmar**, violence has escalated and continued to cause people to flee. A further 913,200 people were forcibly displaced within Myanmar in the first six months of 2024 and since June 2023, the number of IDPs has increased by more than 70 per cent. Another 1.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers had already fled Myanmar, mostly to other countries in the region, notably Bangladesh. At mid-2024, the total number of people forcibly displaced by the situation in Myanmar reached an estimated 4.6 million.

Armed conflict in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** has lasted for decades with no end in sight. Fighting between government forces and non-State armed groups in the east of the country has raged since 2022 and intensified in North Kivu province in the first half of 2024. As a consequence, a further 852,000 people were newly displaced within the country and 35,400 Congolese nationals sought international protection. This led to 8.7 million Congolese remaining forcibly displaced at mid-year.

In the first half of 2024, around 394,000 **Ukrainians** were newly displaced within their own country as the Russian Federation's war on Ukraine continued.<sup>15</sup> As well as insecurity, damage to houses and critical infrastructure also forced people to flee from Donetsk, Kherson and Kharkiv oblasts.<sup>16</sup> A further 375,700 were granted temporary protection or asylum, most in European countries.<sup>17</sup>

**Nationals of Latin America and the Caribbean** lodged 728,400 individual asylum applications in

the first half of the year, mainly in Mexico, Spain and the United States of America. Many traversed the Darién jungle, with over 200,000 people crossing this perilous route in the first six months of this year.<sup>18</sup> Venezuelans and Colombians lodged the most asylum applications in the first half of the year, although the number of asylum applications by other nationalities from the region is also increasing, notably by Haitians, Hondurans and Mexicans.

Worsening gang violence led to further displacement in **Haiti** during the reporting period. In March 2024, violence worsened in several neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince, with at least 2,500 people killed or injured in the first three months of the year.<sup>19</sup> More than a quarter of a million people were displaced within the country. Haitians also registered 58,600 new asylum applications in other countries during the first half of 2024, mostly in the United States of America, Canada, Mexico and France.

In the **State of Palestine**, a ceasefire agreement remained out of reach. The conflict in the Gaza Strip continued with almost all civilians caught in an extremely dire humanitarian situation. Humanitarian assistance is acutely needed,<sup>20</sup> especially to tackle the lack of clean water, malnutrition of children and the spread of infectious diseases due to piles of garbage and raw sewage.<sup>21</sup> The estimated number of people internally displaced within the Gaza Strip reached 1.7 million by mid-2024. Most had been forced to flee multiple times since the escalation that began in October 2023.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>15</sup> See [DTM Ukraine — Internal Displacement Report: General Population Survey Round 17](#) (August 2024), IOM. The reported figures cover up until mid-August 2024.

<sup>16</sup> See [Ukraine: Humanitarian Situation Snapshot in June-July 2024](#), OCHA.

<sup>17</sup> Temporary protection granted to Ukrainians does not necessarily mean new displacement. It could include reapplications or reactivations from those who were already granted refugee status following temporary visits to Ukraine, as well as duplicated registrations across countries.

<sup>18</sup> See [Mixed Movements Darién and Chiriquí June 2024](#), UNHCR.

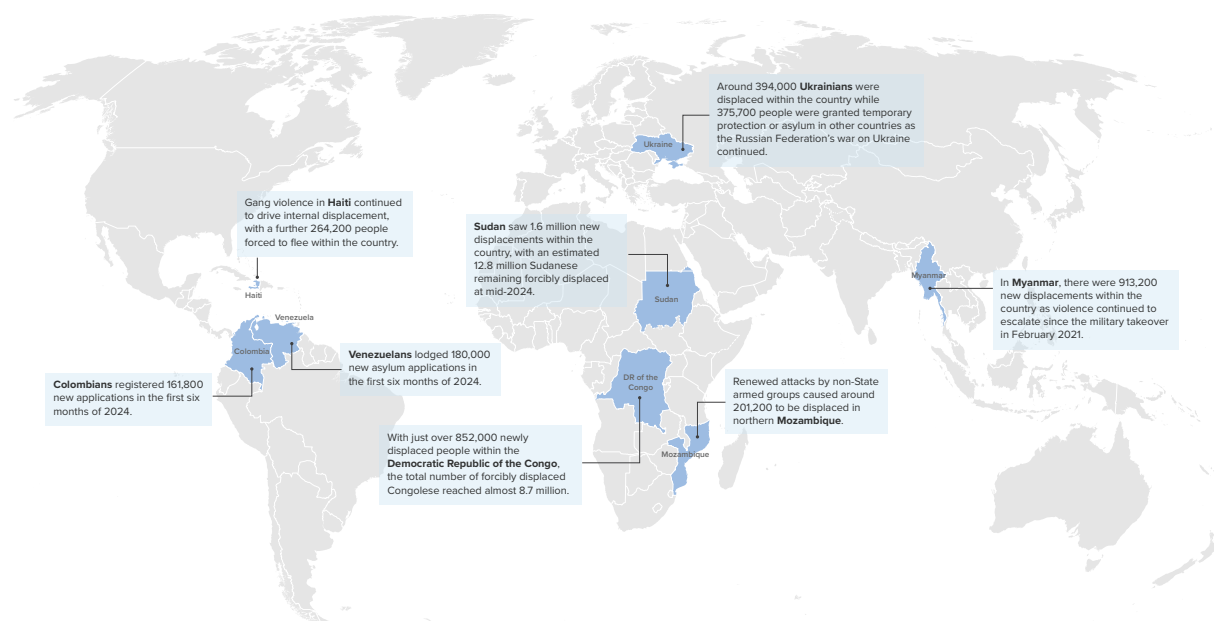
<sup>19</sup> See [Deadly Violence in Haiti at Record High, Some Worst Scenarios Now Realities, Special Representative Tells Security Council, Urging Deployment of Support Mission](#), United Nations.

<sup>20</sup> See [Humanitarian Situation Update #203 in Gaza Strip](#), OCHA.

<sup>21</sup> See [UNRWA Situation Report #117 on the Situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem](#), UNRWA and [Gaza: 8,000 Children Diagnosed with Malnutrition Amid Ongoing Shelling](#), United Nations.

<sup>22</sup> See [UNRWA Situation Report #117 on the Situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem](#), UNRWA. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics estimates that 2 million are displaced within the Gaza Strip and 4,000 in the West Bank. See [State of Palestine: Impact of the escalation of hostilities](#), HDX.

Map 1 | **New displacements | January-June 2024**

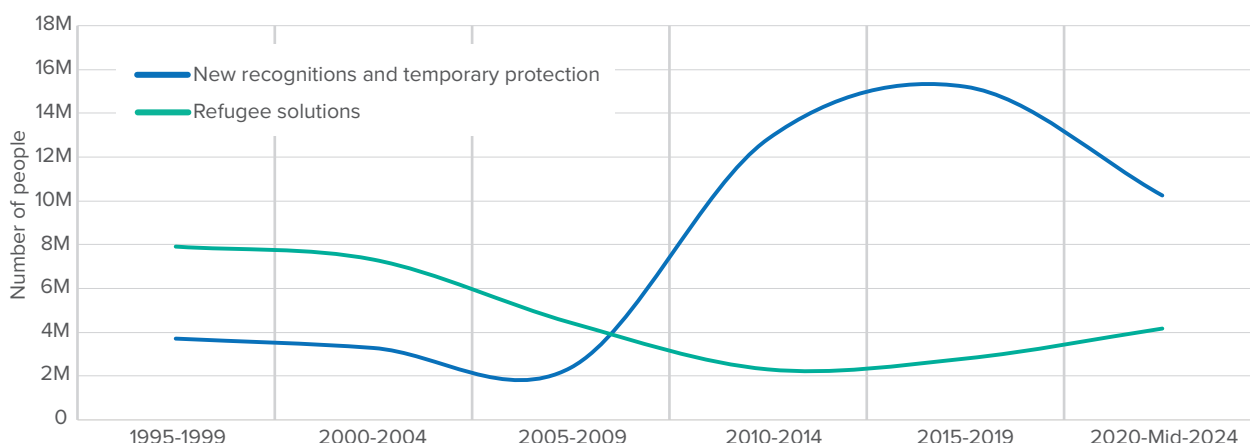


## Reversing displacement trends through solutions for refugees

Greater efforts by the international community to share responsibilities and find durable solutions would reverse the trend of growing forced displacement. Encouragingly, as shown in figure 1, durable solutions have increased during the last four and a half years compared to the previous decade. This is despite challenges posed by new

and intensifying crises, as well as the impact of COVID-19. Prior to 2010, the number of refugees able to secure a durable solution outpaced new refugees in each half-decade. Since 2010, large outflows from situations such as those in Myanmar, Syria and Ukraine have led to much higher levels of displacement, while the number of refugees able to achieve a durable solution also decreased. Since travel restrictions related to COVID-19 were lifted, durable solutions have increased, but not yet at a level to offset the number of new displacements.<sup>23</sup>

Figure 1 | **Forced displacement and durable solutions of refugees by half-decade | 1995 – mid-2024**<sup>24</sup>



<sup>23</sup> Some spontaneous returns have occurred in contexts that are not entirely conducive to return in safety and dignity and they may not be sustainable, as with returns by Ukrainian and South Sudanese refugees in 2023. See [Global Trends: Forced displacement in 2023](#), UNHCR.

<sup>24</sup> Numbers are aggregated in five-year groups. Data in 2024 covers the first half of the year only, while data for previous years covers the whole year. Caution should be exercised for comparison.

Most refugees would like to return home if the security and living conditions allow. For example, over half of Syrian refugees, and almost two-thirds of Ukrainian refugees, expressed a willingness to return in the future.<sup>25</sup> The most common reasons preventing refugees from considering to return are insecurity and the lack of services and livelihood opportunities, all of which require political solutions to address the root causes of conflict. Unless these can be achieved in one or more of the biggest displacement situations, large-scale refugee returns to their home countries will remain elusive.

Resettlement to third countries is another crucial protection tool and a solution for refugees who face urgent or specific risks, and for populations in protracted situations. UNHCR estimates that 2.4 million refugees need resettlement in 2024.<sup>26</sup> During the first half of 2024, however, 85,000 resettlement arrivals were reported, only 4 per cent of estimated needs. In addition, complementary pathways allow refugees to move to third countries because of family, education or work. Such opportunities have grown in recent years, with increased numbers of refugees moving through complementary pathways to OECD countries and Brazil, 240,700 in 2022 (+44 per cent from 2021).<sup>27</sup> Despite progress, the total number remains a small fraction of what is needed to address current levels of forced displacement.<sup>28</sup>

Naturalization is available for refugees in a limited number of jurisdictions, including Australia and some countries in Europe and North America. Yet the acquisition of citizenship is limited by barriers such as misinformation and lack of clarity about the process, financial constraints and other bureaucratic obstacles.<sup>29</sup>

Without these efforts over the last decade, the number of refugees globally might be as much as 7 million higher. In the next few years, with a concerted, collective effort by all States globally, inspired by the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees and by the commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum, the number of refugees worldwide could begin, at last, to decrease again.

<sup>25</sup> See [Ninth Regional Survey on Syrian Refugees' Perceptions & Intentions on Return to Syria](#), UNHCR, and [Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees, Refugee Returnees and IDPs from Ukraine](#), UNHCR.

<sup>26</sup> See [Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2024](#), UNHCR.

<sup>27</sup> The number of permits include those with purposes of family, education or work, as well as named sponsorships.

<sup>28</sup> See [Safe Pathways for Refugees IV: OECD-UNHCR study on pathways used by refugees](#), OECD and UNHCR.

<sup>29</sup> See [Barriers to Naturalization: A review of the literature](#), Federal Research Division of the US Department of Homeland Security.



## CHAPTER 2

# Refugees

## 43.7 MILLION

refugees as of June 2024 (+1 per cent), including:

- **5.4 million** people in a refugee-like situation (- 9 per cent).
- **5.8 million** other people in need of international protection (+ 1 per cent).
- **6.0 million** Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

## Two-thirds

of refugees under UNHCR's mandate originate from just four countries.

## Overview

During the first half of 2024, the number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate increased by just over one third of a million (357,400, +1 per cent) to reach 37.8 million at mid-year (see figure 2). This total includes 5.4 million people in a refugee-like situation and 5.8 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.<sup>30</sup> Many of these refugees have remained displaced for many years. The

increases during the first six months of 2024 were driven primarily by continued displacement from Sudan and Ukraine. By contrast, the number of Syrian refugees has continued to decrease from 6.4 million at the end of 2023 to 6.3 million by June 2024.

During the first half of 2024, just over 1.1 million people were granted international protection. Among them, 394,500 received a positive decision on their individual asylum claim, 373,400 were recognized on a group basis and 362,600 received temporary protection (see chapter 4 for more details).

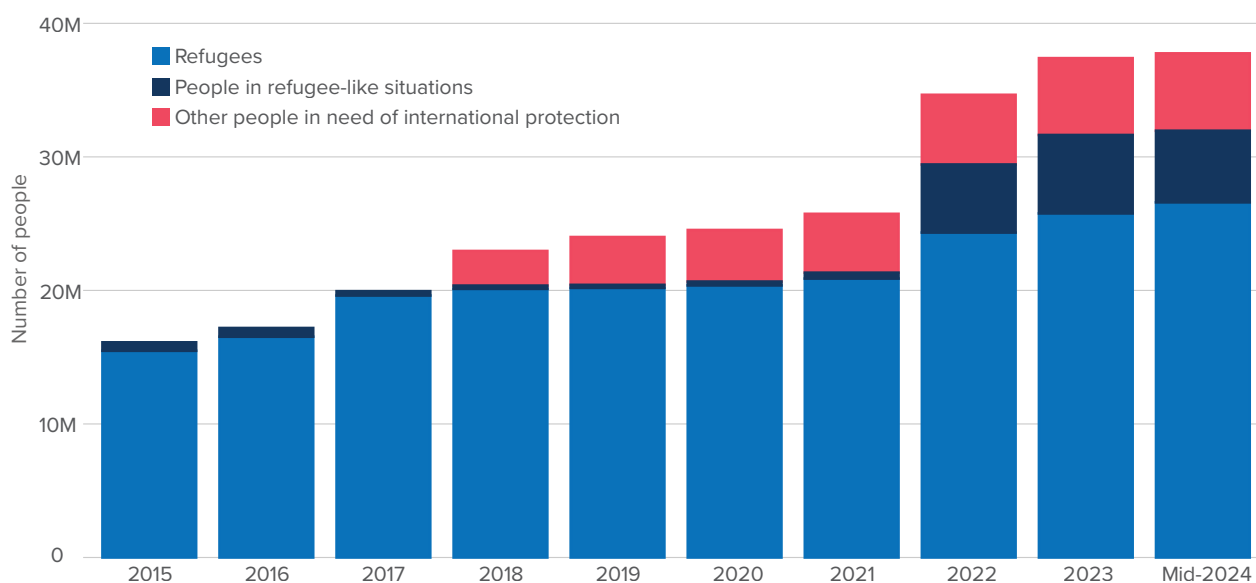
<sup>30</sup> This figure does not include Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

**JORDAN.** In Za'atari refugee camp, Mohammad Ahmad al-Qoor rides his bicycle, together with his son. "Bicycles are one of the main modes of transportation in the camp. It is also a way to stay active," Mohammad says. Za'atari refugee camp, home to around 80,000 Syrian refugees, has been managed by UNHCR in coordination with the Government of Jordan since its inauguration in 2012.

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Figure 2 | Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection | 2015 – mid-2024



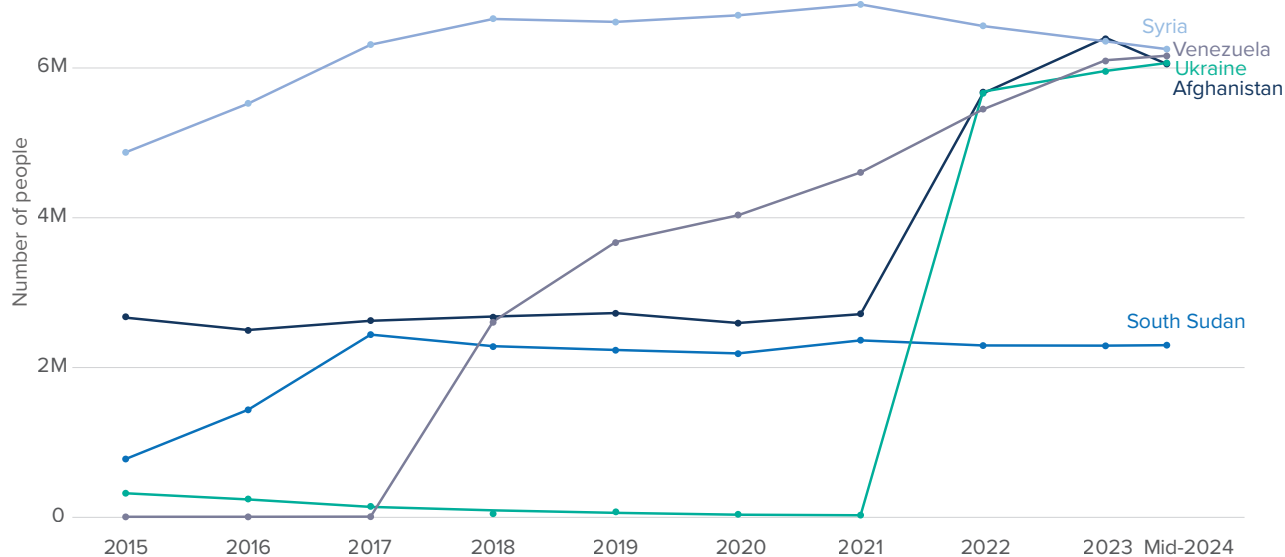
## By country of origin

Globally, as has been the case since 2022, two-thirds of refugees and other people in need of international protection originate from just four countries: Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela. At mid-2024, the total number of refugees and other people in need of international protection from each of these countries exceeded 6 million, with the majority of them hosted by neighbouring countries (see figure 3).

Notable increases observed in the first six months of 2024 included over a quarter of a million additional

Sudanese refugees who were granted international protection due to the ongoing conflict in their country. As a result, the number of Sudanese refugees grew to 1.8 million at mid-2024, with most continuing to be hosted in neighbouring countries, including Chad (1.1 million), South Sudan (445,900), Ethiopia (86,700) and Uganda (41,900). In the Sahel region, the number of refugees from Nigeria (450,800, +10 per cent), Mali (327,900, +32 per cent) and Burkina Faso (88,400, +61 per cent) grew as armed insurgencies continued to escalate. Most of them fled to neighbouring countries in the region.

Figure 3 | Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection by major country of origin | 2015 – mid-2024



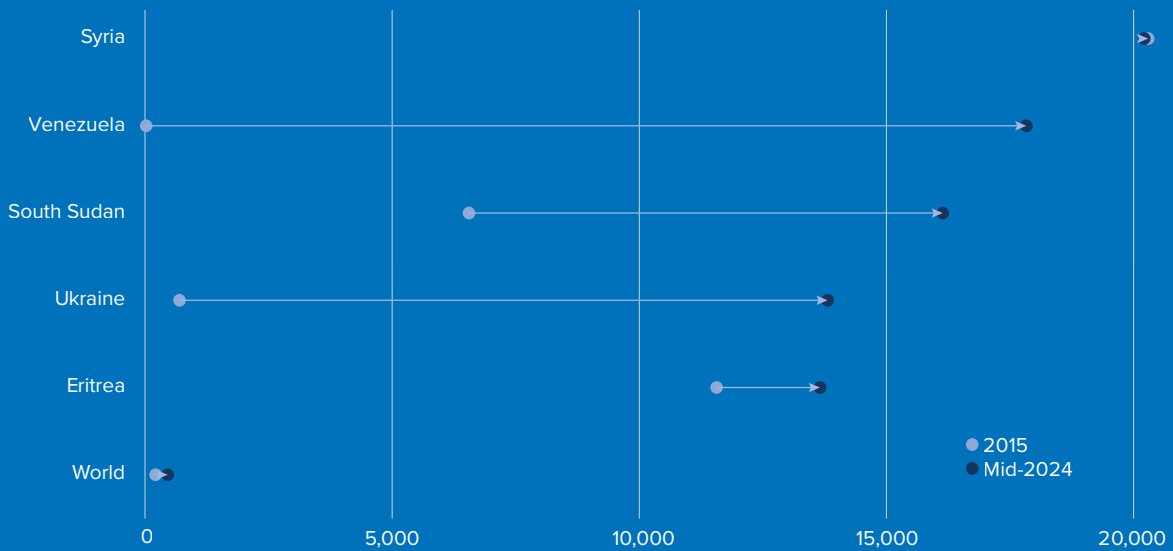
## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – INDICATOR 10.7.4



SDG Indicator 10.7.4 records the proportion of a country’s population who become refugees. Syria remains the country with the greatest proportion of its national population who have become refugees. Over one in five Syrians (20,200 refugees per 100,000 inhabitants) have become refugees. This proportion has remained largely unchanged for ten years.

Over the last decade, the proportion of refugees per inhabitants has increased in each of the countries presented in figure 4. For instance, the number of Ukrainian refugees per 100,000 inhabitants increased from 700 in 2015 to 13,800 by mid-2024. Globally, there are 460 refugees per 100,000 inhabitants.

Figure 4 | **SDG Indicator 10.7.4: Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection per 100,000 national population | 2015 and mid-2024**



31 See [the metadata of SDG Indicator 10.7.4](#). The indicator is computed as follows:  $[\text{Number of refugees by country of origin at end-year} / (\text{End-year population in country of origin} + \text{number of refugees by country of origin at end-year})] * 100,000$ . For this report, refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection have been included. The indicator excludes Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

## By country of asylum

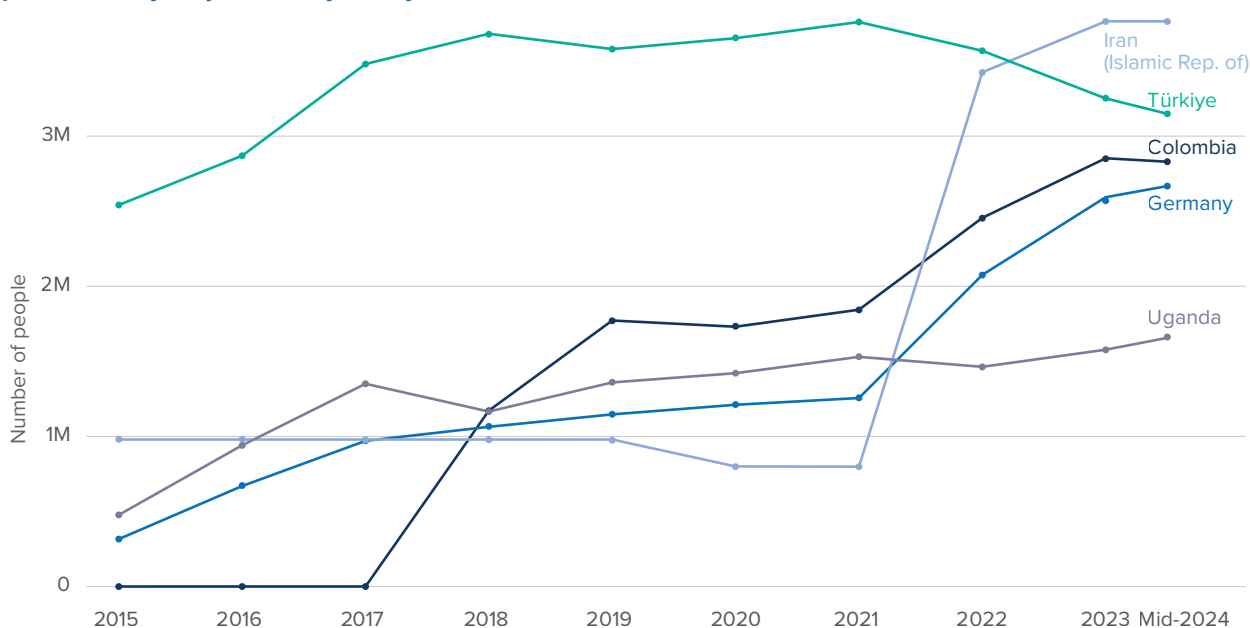
Just over one-third of all refugees globally are hosted in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Türkiye, Colombia, Germany and Uganda at mid-2024, broadly consistent with end-2023 (see figure 5).

At the end of June 2024, nearly 3.8 million refugees, resided in the Islamic Republic of Iran, most of whom were Afghans. Türkiye hosted 3.1 million refugees, mostly Syrians. While 2.8 million refugees and other

people in need of international protection lived in Colombia, primarily from Venezuela. Germany hosted 2.7 million refugees, 43 per cent of whom were from Ukraine. Uganda provided shelter for 1.7 million refugees, with over half originating from South Sudan.

The number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Pakistan dropped by approximately 297,700. This was mainly due to the verification of Afghans in a refugee-like situation in the country, which concluded in the first half of 2024.<sup>32</sup>

Figure 5 | Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection by major country of asylum | 2015 – mid-2024



<sup>32</sup> In Pakistan, the verification of the number of new arrivals from Afghanistan concluded in the first half of 2024. Due to the inactivation of substantive numbers of absentees, this resulted in an overall reduction of 297,700 Afghans reported in the country and an increase of 107,500 Afghans being registered as asylum-seekers. At the same time, 143,900 formerly unregistered family members of registered refugees, that were previously reported as people in a refugee-like situation, are now included as refugees, in line with the upcoming 2025-2027 multi-year strategy for Afghans.

Table 1 | **Key facts for countries hosting refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection, by country of asylum | mid-2024<sup>33</sup>**

<p><b>69 per cent were hosted by neighbouring countries</b></p>	<p>The majority of people fleeing conflict and persecution remain near their country of origin. By June 2024, 69 per cent of refugees were hosted in neighbouring countries, consistent with the previous year.</p>
<p><b>71 per cent were hosted by low- and middle-income countries</b></p>	<p>Low-income countries continued 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 9 per cent of the global population and only 0.6 per cent of global gross domestic product, yet they hosted 18 per cent of refugees. This included very large refugee populations in Uganda, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Sudan. The share of refugees hosted in lower-middle-income countries decreased from 28 per cent to 17 per cent by mid-2024, as the Islamic Republic of Iran, which hosts nearly 3.8 million refugees, was reclassified by the World Bank as upper-middle-income.<sup>34</sup> As a consequence, the proportion of refugees hosted in upper-middle-income countries increased to 37 per cent. Other upper-middle-income countries hosting large numbers of refugees are Türkiye, Colombia and Peru. High-income countries, which account for most of the global wealth,<sup>35</sup> hosted 29 per cent of refugees at mid-2024. This was 4 per cent more than at end-2023 as the Russian Federation was reclassified by the World Bank as high-income.</p>
<p><b>22 per cent were hosted by the Least Developed Countries<sup>36</sup></b></p>	<p>The Least Developed Countries consist of 45 countries, including Bangladesh, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen. Together, they account for 1 per cent of global gross domestic product, yet they were responsible for hosting more than 22 per cent of all refugees worldwide.<sup>37</sup> This is similar to the percentage of refugees hosted by Least Developed Countries at the end of 2023. At mid-2024, the number of refugees in Least Developed Countries stood at 8.1 million.</p>
<p><b>66 per cent were in protracted situations</b></p>	<p>Protracted situations are defined as those where more than 25,000 refugees from the same country of origin have been in exile in a given low- or middle-income host country for at least five consecutive years.<sup>38</sup> This definition should be seen as a reflection of the situation as a whole and does not refer to circumstances of individual refugees.</p> <p>At mid-2024, an estimated 24.9 million refugees and other people in need of international protection were in 59 protracted situations, in 38 host countries.</p>

<sup>33</sup> See [refugee hosting metrics](#). Includes people in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection. Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate are excluded from this analysis.

<sup>34</sup> See [World Bank country classifications by income level for 2024-2025](#).

<sup>35</sup> High-income countries account for 64 per cent of global gross domestic product (Source: World Bank GDP statistics). This compares with 0.6 per cent, 7 per cent and 28 per cent for low-, lower-middle- and upper-middle-income countries respectively.

<sup>36</sup> There are 45 Least Developed Countries classified by the United Nations Statistics Division. These are typically low- or lower-middle-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. The list of countries is revised every three years.

<sup>37</sup> Data source of gross domestic product (in current US dollars) in 2023 is the World Bank.

<sup>38</sup> Includes people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection. Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate are excluded from this analysis.

**Who is included in statistics on internal displacement?**

## CHAPTER 3

# Internally displaced people

**72.1**  
MILLION

people are estimated to have remained internally displaced due to conflict or violence at mid-2024, a 6 per cent increase from the end of 2023.

**10.5**  
MILLION

IDPs were reported in Sudan by mid-year (+1.5 million). Sudan has the largest internal displacement crisis ever recorded.

**4.7**  
MILLION

new internal displacements due to conflict or violence took place between January and June 2024. 9 in 10 of these occurred in Sudan, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, Haiti and Mozambique.

## Overview

During the first six months of 2024, more than 4.7 million people were forced to flee within their country due to armed conflicts, generalized violence, or human rights violations. These new internal displacements occurred in 16 countries, with six of those countries – Sudan, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, Haiti and

Mozambique – accounting for 90 per cent of people who were newly displaced in 2024.

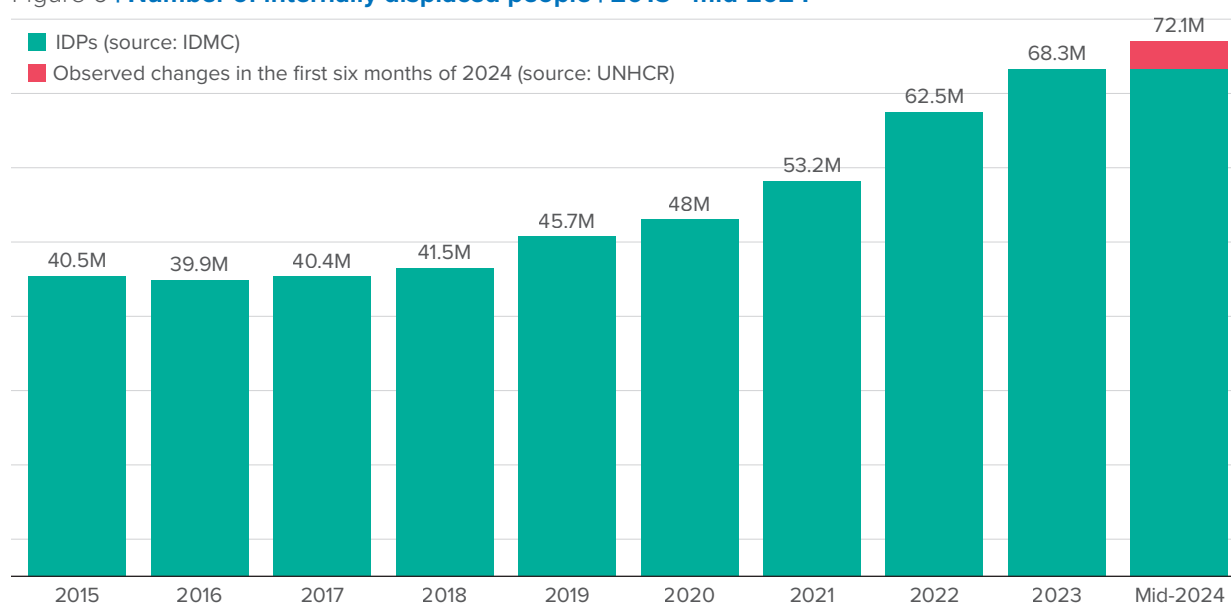
UNHCR reported on internal displacement situations in 36 countries. By the end of June 2024, a total of 67.1 million people remained internally displaced within these countries. The figures in this chapter relate to IDPs protected and/or assisted by UNHCR, unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>39</sup> This estimate is calculated using IDMC's end-2023 figure (68.3 million people) as a base. It only reflects changes in the statistics in the 36 countries in which UNHCR reported internal displacement during the first six months of 2024 (+3.8 million). The mid-year estimate is therefore likely to be under representative of the global total.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.** *Nyira, a 73-year-old mother of four children, receives assistance, including blankets for each of her children and grandchildren. Ongoing fighting between the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the March 23 Movement has forced people to flee Sake, Masisi and Rutshuru, pushing them to the outskirts of Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu.*  
© UNHCR/BLAISE SANYILA





Figure 6 | Number of internally displaced people | 2015 - mid-2024<sup>40</sup>

## Key changes in internal displacement by country

Beginning in April 2023, the conflict in **Sudan** between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, has resulted in the largest internal displacement crisis ever recorded globally. As of June 2024, an estimated 10.5 million people in Sudan remained internally displaced. Between January and June 2024, the number of IDPs in Sudan increased by 1.5 million (+16 per cent) and has risen nearly three-fold compared to the pre-conflict IDP population of 3.8 million<sup>41</sup>. The total number of people who have been displaced internally since April 2023, including those people already living in displacement that have been forced to flee again, stood at more than 7.7 million people.<sup>42</sup> An estimated 1.6 million of them were displaced during the first six months of 2024.

At the onset of the crisis in April 2023, hostilities were mainly concentrated in Sudan's capital Khartoum. Since then, the violence has spread to other parts of the country, including Darfur, Kordofan, and Al Jazirah. Reflecting this, 7 in 10 IDPs in Sudan originated from

Khartoum (36 per cent), South Darfur (20 per cent) and North Darfur (14 per cent) at the end of June 2024.<sup>43</sup>

Displacement in **Myanmar** continued to rise at an escalating rate. Based on the estimated figure from the end of June, nearly 3.2 million people were internally displaced within the country. During the first half of 2024, an estimated 913,200 people were newly internally displaced. This brings the total number of people who have been displaced since the escalation of armed conflict in October 2023 to nearly 1.7 million. Within a year, the number of IDPs in Myanmar has increased by more than 70 per cent. Prior to the military takeover in February 2021, internal displacement in Myanmar remained primarily within Rakhine State. Since then, and especially since the escalation of armed conflict in October 2023, displacement has spread across the entire country.<sup>44</sup> As the intensity of fighting has varied in different regions, a quarter of a million IDPs were able to return in the first six months of 2024. However, in the absence of peace within the country, the risk of renewed displacements remains high.

<sup>40</sup> The mid-2024 global IDP estimate combines IDMC's end-2023 figures with the observed population changes between January and June 2024 in the 36 countries in which UNHCR reports on internal displacement.

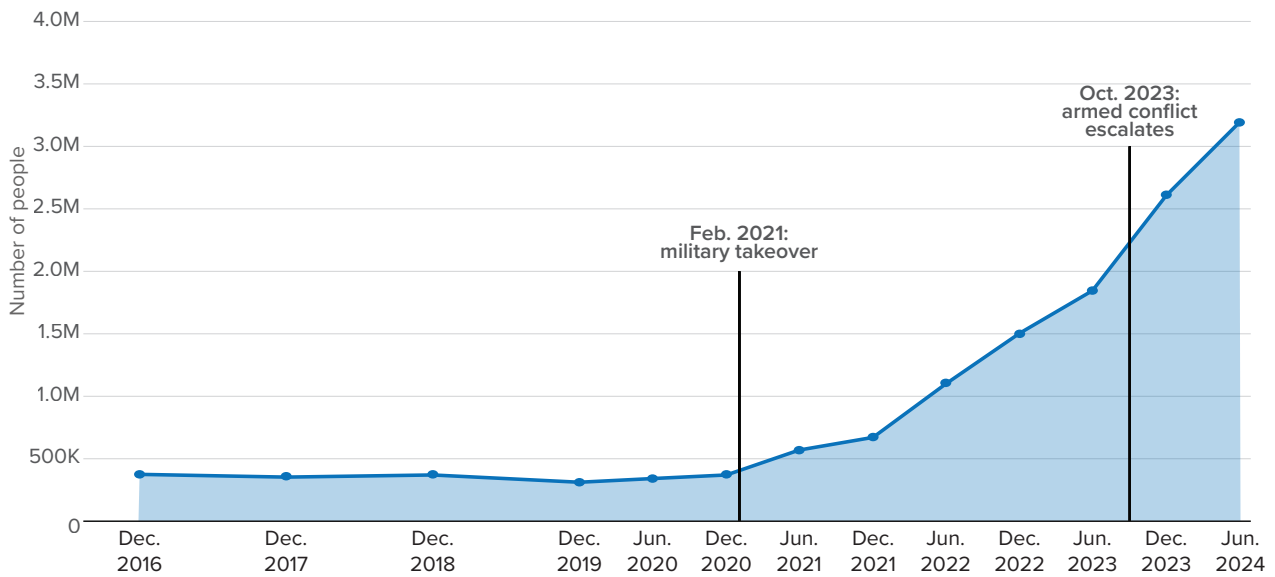
<sup>41</sup> See [DTM Sudan Mobility Tracking Round 6](#), International Organization for Migration (March 2023).

<sup>42</sup> See [DTM Sudan Mobility Update 03](#), International Organization for Migration.

<sup>43</sup> Idem.

<sup>44</sup> See [Myanmar Emergency Regional Update – 1 July 2024](#), UNHCR.

Figure 7 | Internally displaced people in Myanmar | 2016 - mid-2024<sup>45</sup>



Ongoing fighting between government forces and non-state armed groups in the Eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** triggered 852,000 new internal displacements between January and June of this year. Between one in four and one in three people in each of these provinces are estimated to have been forcibly displaced, often multiple times. Countrywide, the internally displaced population rose to reach more than 7 million by the end of June due to the ongoing conflict. Significant flooding in the first half of the year affected nearly 2.2 million people country-wide, including in the Eastern provinces, further aggravating the situation of those already displaced by conflict.<sup>46</sup>

In **Ukraine**, internal displacement is becoming increasingly protracted. More than 11 per cent of the population remaining in Ukraine continued to be internally displaced at mid-year. More than 80 per cent of IDPs have been in displacement for more than one year.<sup>47</sup> Yet, as the conflict has intensified in some areas, 394,000 people were newly displaced in 2024, and 3.7 million people continued to remain displaced within the country.

As the security situation in **Haiti** has further deteriorated during the first six months of 2024, internal displacement has grown rapidly. The number of IDPs in the country has increased by 84 per cent, rising from 313,900 at the end of 2023 to 578,100 six months later. As violent incidents rose sharply between the end of February and April 2024 in the metropolitan area of Haiti’s capital Port-au-Prince, people fled to other provinces in the country where they are predominantly hosted by local families.<sup>48</sup>

In the first half of 2024, driven by a recent intensification of violence in **Mozambique**’s northern Cabo Delgado province during February and March, an estimated 201,200 people were newly displaced. Approximately 577,500 people remained internally displaced in the country at mid-year.<sup>49</sup> Moreover, in the **Philippines**, a total of 125,800 people were newly displaced in Mindanao during the first half of 2024 due to armed conflict and violence.

Due to the improved coverage, the estimated number of internally displaced people in **Ethiopia** was revised upwards to 3.2 million from 2.6 million. Previous estimates of internal displacement in the country did not cover locations that were inaccessible in the Tigray region and the south of the country.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Changes to the number of internally displaced people in Myanmar between official measuring points (mid and end-year) are assumed to be linear.  
<sup>46</sup> See the [2024 Mid-Year Update on Internal Displacement](#), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.  
<sup>47</sup> See [DTM Ukraine — Internal Displacement Report: General Population Survey Round 17](#) (August 2024), IOM. The reported figures cover up until mid-August 2024.  
<sup>48</sup> See [DTM Haiti — Report on the internal displacement situation in Haiti — Round 7](#) (June 2024), IOM.  
<sup>49</sup> See [Mozambique - Event Tracking Tool Dashboard | Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) (June 2024), IOM.  
<sup>50</sup> As of October 2023, the number of internally displaced people was estimated to be 4.6 million in both accessible and inaccessible locations across the 12 regions ([Humanitarian Needs Overview Ethiopia 2024](#)). Conflict was assessed to be the main reason of displacement for 74 per cent of all IDPs in Ethiopia.

## CHAPTER 4

# Asylum trends

## 2.7 MILLION

people sought international protection in the first six months of 2024, including:

**1.9 MILLION** **373,400** **362,600**

new individual asylum applications were registered (+22 per cent).

people were recognized on a group basis (+121 per cent).

people received temporary protection (-28 per cent).

## 394,500

people were granted refugee status through individual status determination procedures (+6 per cent).

## 55 PER CENT

was the total protection rate in the first half of 2024.<sup>51</sup>

## 8 MILLION

asylum-seekers were pending a decision on their claims at mid-2024 (+17 per cent).

## Overview

In the first half of 2024, 2.7 million people applied for asylum on an individual basis, were recognized through group procedures or were granted temporary protection. This is 12 per cent more than during the same period in the previous year. While the number of new individual asylum applications (1.9 million) and group recognitions (373,400) were higher than the first half of 2023, the number of people that sought and received temporary protection (362,600) was lower, primarily due to there being fewer people fleeing Ukraine in 2024.

In addition to the 1.9 million new individual asylum applications (+22 per cent compared to the first half

of 2023), 175,900 repeat or appeal applications were made to courts or other appellate bodies (+6 per cent).<sup>52</sup> These 2.1 million individual asylum applications were registered in 150 countries by States or UNHCR worldwide. Typically, more applications are registered in the second half of the year. Therefore, unless there are positive changes in some of the world's key displacement situations, the number of individual applications this year is anticipated to exceed the 3.9 million individual applications recorded in 2023 (see figure 8).

The main countries receiving new individual asylum applications were the United States of America (729,100, +35 per cent), Egypt (209,100, seven times higher) and Germany (121,400, -19 per cent). Most new individual applications were made by nationals

<sup>51</sup> See [How are asylum indicators calculated?](#)

<sup>52</sup> In Bulgaria, Japan, South Africa, Slovakia and Yemen, the data on asylum applications is provided together without distinction between new, repeat and appeal applications.

**PANAMA.** Over 200,000 people crossed the Darien in the first six months of 2024. Despite being one of the most dangerous jungles in the world, the Darien serves as a transit route for thousands of refugees and migrants, most of them from Ecuador, Haiti, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as various African and South Asian nations. In February 2024, approximately two thirds of people interviewed by UNHCR cited insecurity, threats, intimidation and violence as key reasons for leaving their countries of origin..

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of Sudan (217,000, four times higher), Venezuela (180,000, +12 per cent), Colombia (116,800, +18 per cent), Syria (77,300, +3 per cent) and Somalia (70,900, +48 per cent).

In the first half of 2024, 851,500 individuals were granted refugee status, either on an individual or a group basis, an increase of 25 per cent compared to the same period in the previous year. The number of people who were granted international protection on a group basis increased by almost 1.5 times. This was mainly due to refugees continuing to flee Sudan (248,800), mostly to neighbouring countries. In addition, 362,600 people were granted temporary protection between January and June in 2024, 28 per cent fewer than in the same period of the previous year. The reduction is due to fewer people fleeing Ukraine and seeking temporary protection in European countries compared with the first six months of 2023.

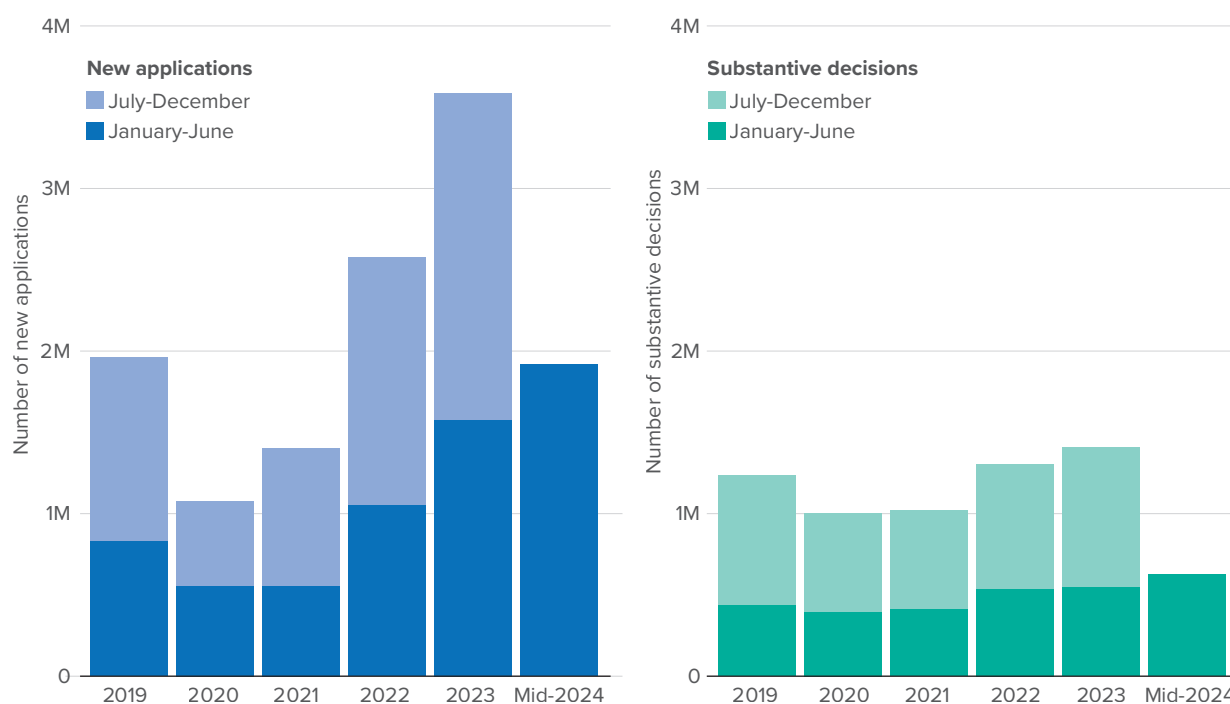
Some 711,100 people received substantive decisions on their individual asylum applications<sup>1</sup> per cent more than during the first six months of the previous year. Nevertheless, figure 8 shows that new individual applications have continued to outpace substantive decisions. As a consequence, the number of asylum-

seekers waiting for a decision on their applications continued to grow and stood at 8 million by mid-2024, 17 per cent more than at the end of 2023 (6.9 million).

The United States of America reported the largest number of pending applications worldwide, totalling 3.2 million people, 22 per cent more than at end-2023. Other countries with large asylum backlogs included Peru (508,400, no change), Egypt (434,900, +87 per cent), Germany (356,800, -1 per cent) and Mexico (276,700, +8 per cent).

Asylum authorities have demonstrated that it is possible to take steps to introduce efficiencies to reinforce their systems and ensure that applicants receive a decision as soon as possible. Globally, due to an increase in and worsening of displacement situations in many parts of the world, the asylum backlog has increased each year since 2016. This clearly highlights that further investments and efficiencies are needed in some States' national asylum systems to ensure that refugees can find stable protection early after displacement.

Figure 8 | **New asylum individual applications and substantive decisions | 2019 – mid-2024**



## Key asylum flows

In the first six months of 2024, Sudanese people continued to flee their country seeking safety from widespread and targeted violence against the civilian population. As shown in figure 9, 465,900 people fled Sudan in the first six months of 2024 and sought international protection, almost double the number during the same period of the previous year (240,700). Egypt received 194,200 new asylum applications from Sudanese nationals, nine times more than during the first six months of 2023. In 2024, Sudanese people also sought protection in Chad (134,100), South Sudan (81,500) and Uganda (26,900).

As the Russian Federation's war in Ukraine continued, more than 362,600 Ukrainians received shelter in other, mostly European, countries in the first six months of 2024. Most were granted temporary protection.<sup>53</sup> This is 27 per cent fewer than during the same period of 2023 with decreases reported in most countries including in Poland (78,600, -33 per cent), Germany (54,300, -44 per cent) and Czechia (37,300, -33 per cent).

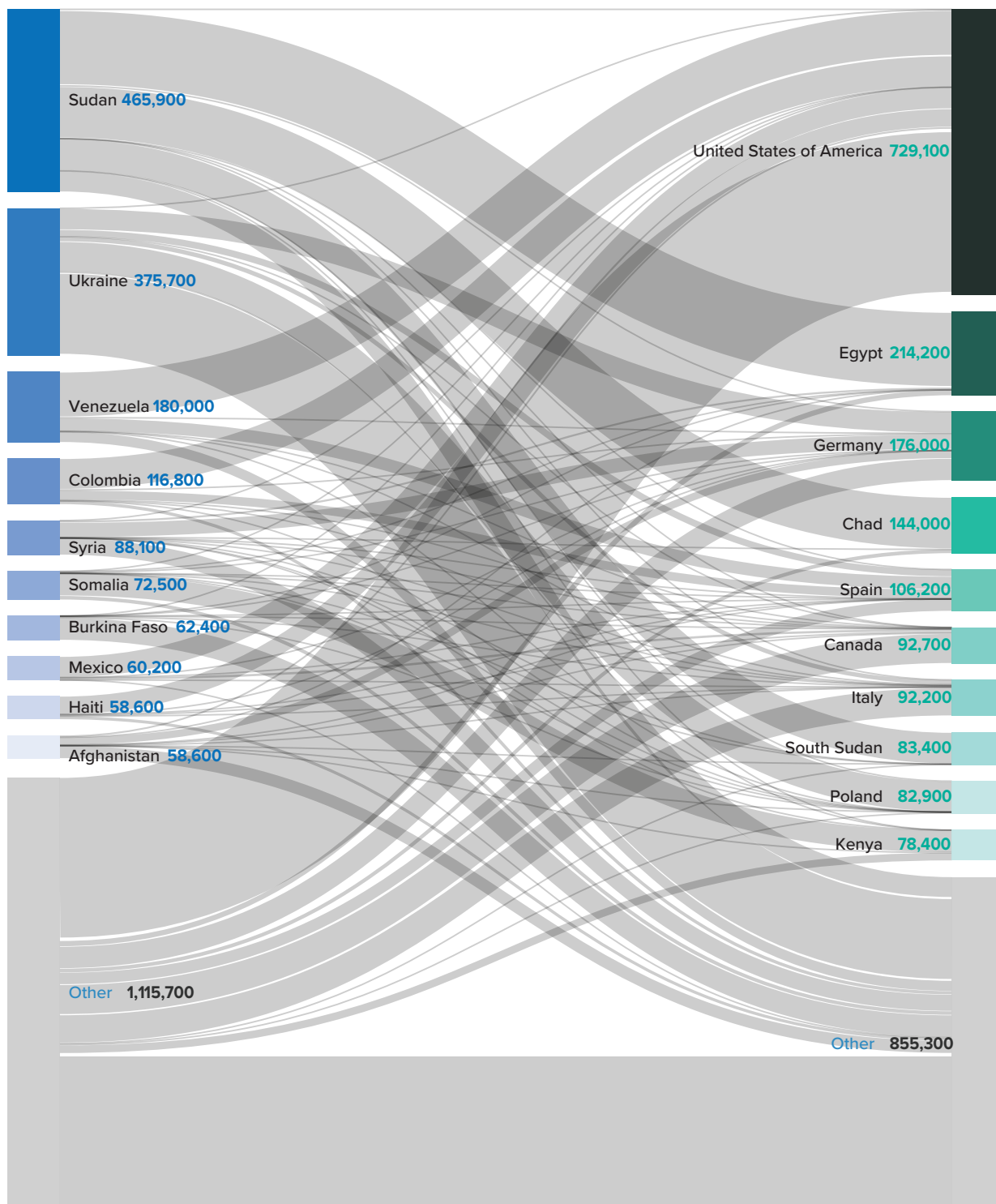
A total of 729,100 new individual asylum applications were lodged in the United States of America during the first six months of 2024. Most applications were from Latin American and Caribbean nationals, including Venezuelans (116,700, +28 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year), Colombians (79,300, +40 per cent), Mexicans (54,000,

four times higher) and Haitians (46,600, +76 per cent). The number of applications by Chinese nationals in the United States of America was also three times higher, reaching 39,500.

During the first half of 2024, the number of new individual asylum applications grew in Canada (92,700, +58 per cent), Italy (92,200, +25 per cent) and Kenya (78,400, +67 per cent). In Canada and Italy, as well as other countries including the United States of America, there was a notable increase in the number of individual asylum applications by Bangladeshis, Indians and Pakistanis, despite the relatively low rate of successful applications from applicants from these countries. For example, there were 16,900 new asylum applications in Canada by Indians, four times more than during the same period of the previous year. Similarly, new applications by Bangladeshis also surged in Canada (13 times higher) and Italy (+66 per cent). Since 2020, the total of new individual asylum applications for these three nationalities quadrupled from 47,900 in 2020 to 193,300 in 2023. In the first half of 2024, the total has already reached 119,200. In order to ensure efficient asylum processing, and to prevent backlogs from forming, it will be important that States also implement simplified and accelerated case processing modalities for applications from countries that are generally not refugee producing, while ensuring that those with international protection needs are identified.

<sup>53</sup> Temporary protection granted to Ukrainians does not necessarily mean new displacement. It could include reapplications or reactivations from those who were already granted refugee status following temporary visits to Ukraine, as well as duplicated registrations across countries. See [Ukraine Refugee Situation: Population movements, Factsheet #1, UNHCR](#).

Figure 9 | Key flows of people registered for new individual asylum applications, recognized on a group basis or granted temporary protection | Mid-2024



CHAPTER 5

# Solutions

**2.2** MILLION

forcibly displaced people returned in the first half of 2024:

- **433,600** refugees returned to their countries of origin.
- **1.8 million** IDPs returned to their place of origin.

**85,000**

refugees were resettled.

**26,400**

refugees were naturalized.

## Overview

A solution is achieved when the situation of forcibly displaced and stateless people is satisfactorily and permanently resolved through ensuring national protection for their civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights. For **refugees** achieving a durable solution can occur through:

- » Voluntary and sustainable **returns** and rebuilding one's life in the country of origin.
- » **Local integration** in the country of asylum based on the security of the right to remain lawfully and permanently.
- » Or **resettlement** in a third country – through government or privately sponsored schemes or complementary pathways – with the ability to rebuild a safe and satisfactory life there.

Data availability on forcibly displaced people's pathways to achieving solutions is improving, although it varies between countries and by the type of solution.

Assessing and reporting on whether **IDPs** have overcome their displacement-related vulnerabilities requires a multi-faceted, comprehensive approach, as set out in the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS).<sup>54</sup> In almost all countries in which people have been internally displaced, the availability of data to inform this approach remains extremely limited. Efforts to generate and improve such data to better measure durable solutions for IDPs continue. In the meantime, UNHCR continues to report on IDPs that have returned to their place of origin.

<sup>54</sup> See [International Recommendations on IDP Statistics \(IRIS\)](#), Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS).

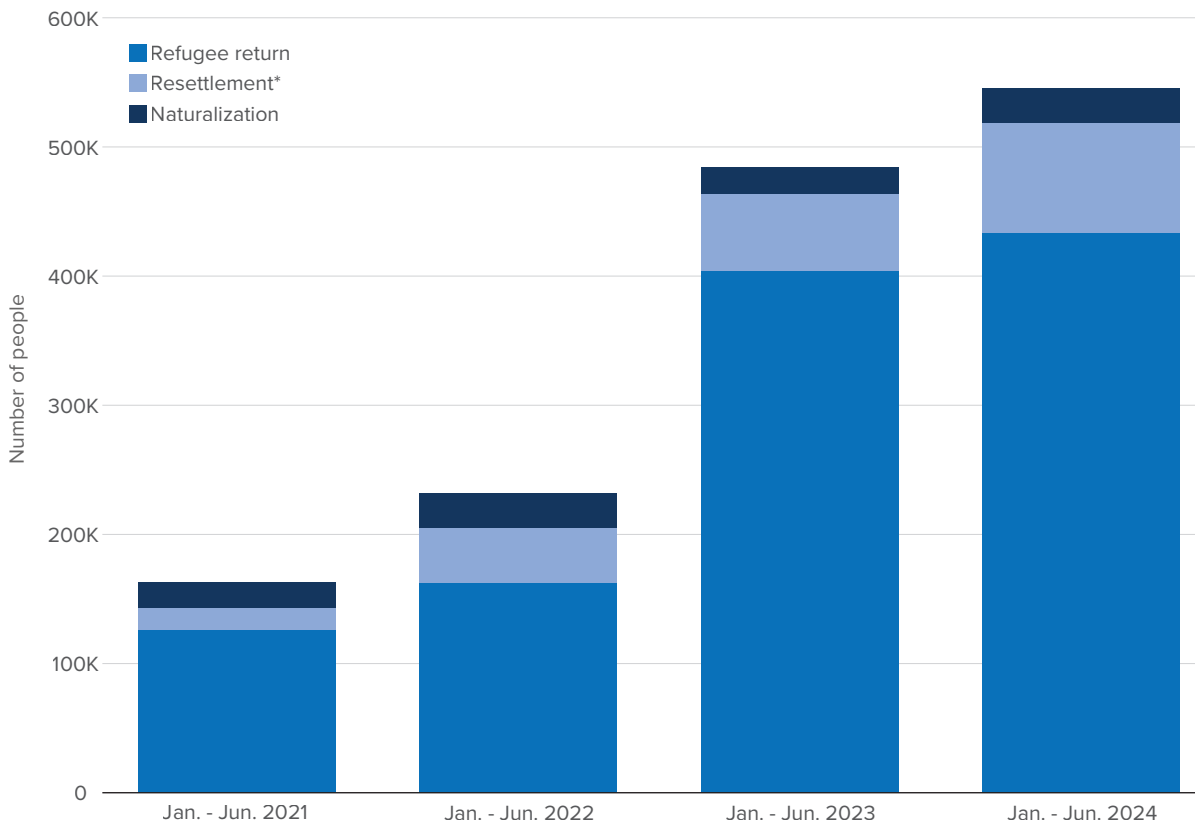


**MYANMAR.** In Kale Town, in the northwest of the country, Thawng Hlei Zing, a Chin woman who has been displaced, is weaving traditional attire. Previously, she fled to Kale with her husband and their 7-year-old daughter, and later received cash grants for her new weaving business through the local partners of UNHCR. Thanks to this livelihood activity, she is now able to generate an income, support her daughter's education and meet her family's basic needs.

© UNHCR/SIA DENIS DAL



Figure 10 | Solutions for refugees | January-June 2021 to January-June 2024



\* Resettlement figures are calculated according to government statistics and augmented with UNHCR statistics on resettlement departures where government statistics are not available at mid-year.

## Returns of refugees

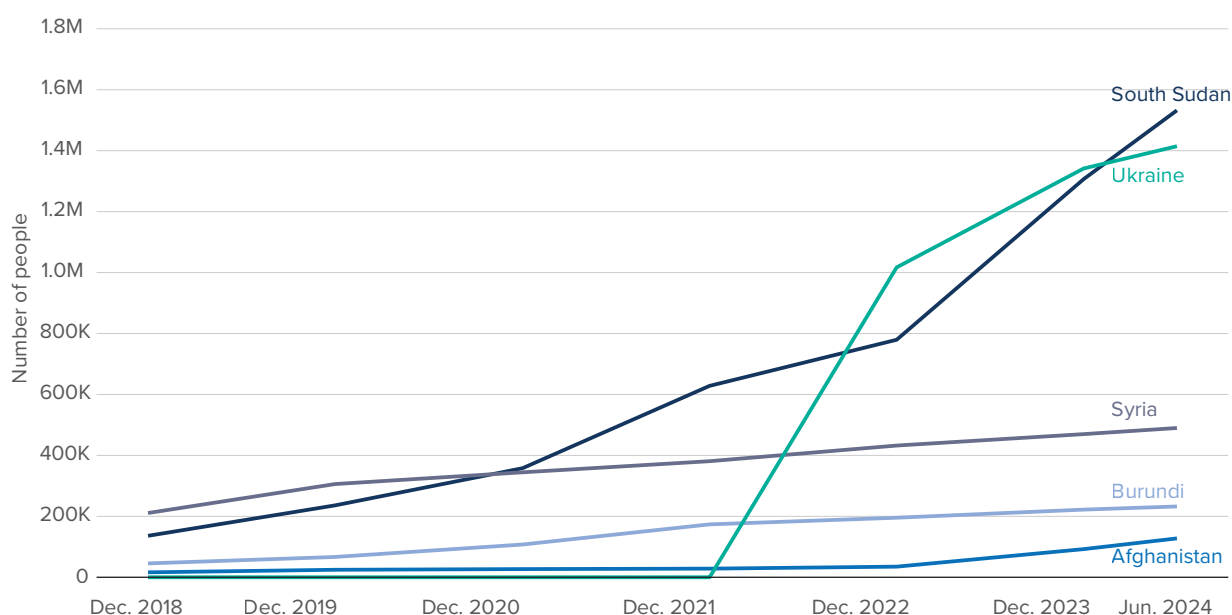
It is much less likely that returnees will be able to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity if the context of their return does not provide a sustainable foundation. For example, if returns occur in the absence of peace in the country of origin or are involuntary due to deteriorating conditions in the returnee’s country of asylum.

During the first six months of 2024, 433,600 refugees were estimated to have returned to their country of origin, an increase of 7 per cent (29,500)

compared to the same period in 2023 (see figure 10). Over half of them returned to **South Sudan**. Some 171,800 South Sudanese refugees returned from Sudan in the first half of 2024. Many were driven to return prematurely as the conflict in Sudan affected locations hosting refugees. Refugee returns to South Sudan from Ethiopia (44,900) in the first half of 2024 also remained elevated, continuing a trend already witnessed during the second half of 2023. Since July 2023, more than 152,800 refugees have returned from Ethiopia. Since 2018, more than 1.5 million South Sudanese refugees have returned from abroad (see figure 11).<sup>55</sup>

<sup>55</sup> As the period has simultaneously seen new refugee displacements from South Sudan to neighbouring countries, the overall number of South Sudanese refugees globally has remained little changed since 2017.

Figure 11 | Cumulative refugee returns by country of origin | 2018 - mid-2024



Based on the available statistics for returns from abroad, 73,100 **Ukrainian** refugees are estimated to have returned during the first half of 2024.<sup>56</sup> Most returned from Germany (17,600), Poland (15,300) and Czechia (6,000).<sup>57</sup>

Just over 35,200 **Afghan** refugees returned between January and June 2024, nearly all from Pakistan. However, this figure reflects only a small fraction of the number of Afghans returning from Pakistan since October 2023 when the Pakistani government implemented its *Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan*. As of September 2024, more than 720,000 people were estimated to have returned from Pakistan to Afghanistan.<sup>58</sup>

Returns of **Nigerian** refugees in 2024 rose to 29,300 by mid-year, returning from Niger (17,200) and Cameroon (11,900). Efforts are being made by the government and UNHCR to support Nigerian asylum-seekers and refugees living outside the country to return home voluntarily, in safety and dignity.<sup>59</sup>

## Refugee resettlement

Based on official government data, 22 countries reported 85,000 arrivals through resettlement, community sponsorship and other third-country solution programmes in the first half of 2024, a 43 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2023. Although more refugees have been resettled than in the same period during previous years, this represents only 4 per cent of the global estimate of 2.4 million people in need of resettlement.<sup>60</sup>

The United States of America received the most resettled refugees, with a total of 46,500, the majority originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (9,500), Afghanistan (7,100), Venezuela (4,800) and Syria (4,200). Canada resettled nearly 23,000 refugees, primarily from Afghanistan (6,200), Eritrea (5,500), and Syria (3,700). Australia welcomed 9,400 refugees, with most originating from Afghanistan (3,900) and Syria (1,500).

<sup>56</sup> The estimate is based on the [Ukraine — Returns Report — General Population Survey Round 17 \(August 2024\)](#), IOM. The returns during the first six months of 2024 were approximated using the total number of refugee returnees in the country and limiting it to returns that occurred in 2024. Returns that occurred less than three months prior to the measuring point were not considered, to ensure the intention of a stable return. The figures do not include refugees that returned to locations in Ukraine that are not their place of origin.

<sup>57</sup> The disaggregation of Ukrainian refugees by former country of asylum is based on the proportion of Ukrainian refugees in each country at end-2023.

<sup>58</sup> Total returns refer to all types of returns, including deportations, assisted voluntary repatriation and other returns of Afghans of all statuses in Pakistan, including undocumented Afghans. See the [Afghanistan situation overview](#), UNHCR.

<sup>59</sup> See [Can we end forced displacement in Nigeria?](#), UNHCR.

<sup>60</sup> See [Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2024](#), UNHCR.

## Refugee local integration

Local integration enables refugees to lawfully rebuild their lives in host countries, but comprehensive data remains scarce. Statistics on naturalization — the process by which refugees acquire citizenship in their host country — are used by UNHCR as an imperfect proxy for local integration. Yet even this data is limited to just a few countries.

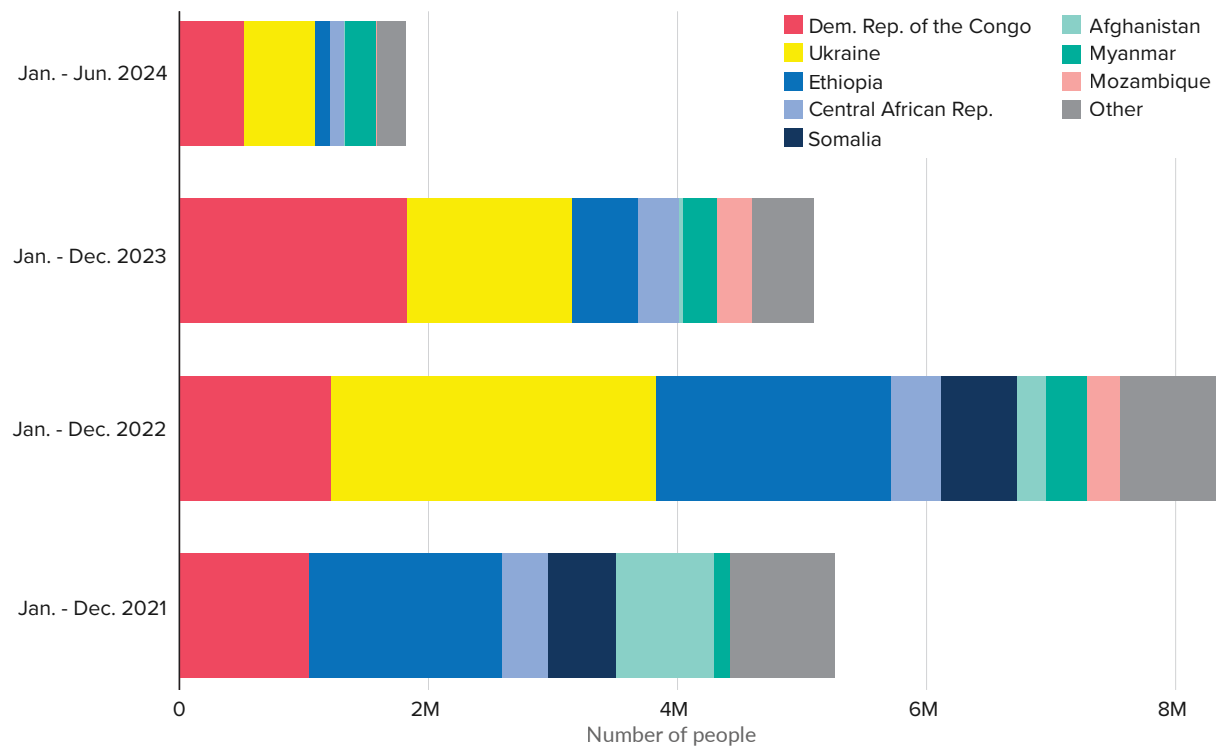
According to the available data on refugee naturalization from 19 refugee-hosting countries, at least 26,400 refugees from 150 different countries of origin obtained their host country’s citizenship in the first half of 2024. Most newly naturalized refugees were from Syria (4,500). As in recent years, refugees in Canada (11,200) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (10,500) accounted for almost all of those people who were reported to have naturalized or obtained permanent residence.

## Return of IDPs

The process of returning to one’s place of origin does not in itself reflect that a formerly displaced person has been able to overcome their **displacement-related vulnerabilities**. If returns occur in the absence of peace in the country of origin, the risk of renewed displacement remains especially high.

During the first half of 2024, more than 1.8 million internally displaced people are estimated to have returned to their place of origin (see figure 12). Nearly 9 in 10 IDP returns occurred in just five countries — **Ukraine** (571,000),<sup>61</sup> the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (520,600), **Myanmar** (251,600), **Ethiopia** (118,500) and the **Central African Republic** (118,000). As conflict intensity varies across different areas in countries and over time, waves of new internal displacement and return movements may follow each other. As such, in all of the countries noted above, except Ethiopia, large new internal displacements were also reported. In Ethiopia, more than 652,800 former IDPs are estimated to have returned in 2023 and 2024, after a peace agreement was signed in Northern Ethiopia in November 2022.

Figure 12 | IDP returns | January–December 2021 to January–June 2024



<sup>61</sup> The estimate is based on the [Ukraine — Returns Report — General Population Survey Round 17 \(August 2024\)](#), IOM. Returns during the first six months of 2024 were approximated using the total number of IDP returnees in the country and limiting it to returns that occurred in 2024.

## CHAPTER 6

# Stateless people

## 4.4 MILLION

People are estimated to be stateless at mid-2024 and the true number is likely to be much higher.

## 2 in 5

of all reported stateless people are Rohingya.

## Overview

At least 4.4 million people were reported to be stateless or of undetermined nationality<sup>62</sup> at the end of June 2024, consistent with the end of December 2023. The global total underestimates the true scope of statelessness. Approximately half of all countries do not report any data on statelessness, including many countries with known large stateless populations. Additionally, some countries only report statistics for parts of the known stateless population in the country.

40 per cent of all stateless people, for whom data is available, are stateless **Rohingya**, who originate from Rakhine State in Myanmar. Rohingya people are stateless due to restrictive provisions and application of the Myanmar citizenship law which primarily confers citizenship on the basis of race. They have faced discrimination and racially-based restrictions in law, policy and practice for decades. During a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State in August 2017, over three-quarters of a million Rohingya were forced to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh. They joined previous waves of Rohingya refugees who had fled earlier episodes of intense persecution

since the 1970s. As of June 2024, the number of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh had reached nearly 1 million people and there were nearly 1.8 million stateless Rohingya reported globally. The global figure includes other large populations of Rohingya refugees in Malaysia (109,700) and India (22,500), and smaller populations in other countries, as well as Rohingya who have remained within Myanmar – many in situations of internal displacement. In the absence of solutions that would enable access to citizenship, children born to stateless Rohingya parents are themselves also stateless. As a consequence, the number of stateless Rohingya increased by approximately 1 per cent during the previous six months.

The largest non-displaced stateless populations, as shown in figure 13, were registered in **Côte d'Ivoire** (931,000) and **Thailand** (586,500). In Côte d'Ivoire, many people are stateless due to historical gaps in nationality law that fail to protect children born in the country from becoming stateless. In Thailand, statelessness primarily affects ethnic minority groups. Globally, of the reported 4.4 million stateless people, approximately one-third are also forcibly displaced.

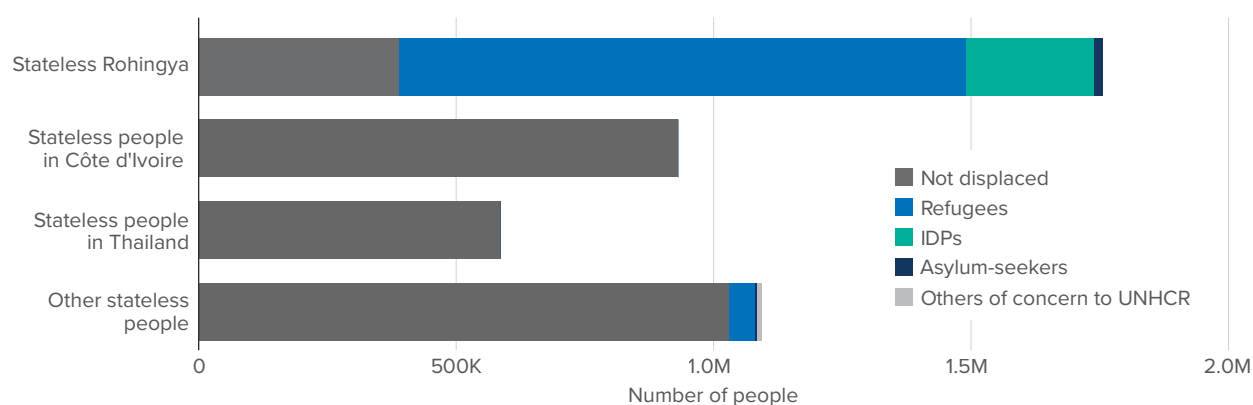
<sup>62</sup> See [Methodology](#) on the Refugee Data Finder.

**MONTENEGRO.** For Sadik, his wife Buqa and their family of seven, the journey out of legal invisibility has been a 25-year saga. Sadik fled Kosovo in 1999 when he was 6 years of age. He and his family were left without identity documents, which deprived them of basic human rights as well as services that most take for granted. With the support of UNHCR, Buqa obtained identity documents in 2024, enabling the registration of their five children's births. The new legal status has opened up opportunities for the family, giving them access to health care, education, social assistance and so much more. .

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Figure 13 | Largest stateless populations by displacement status | mid-2024



## Policy improvements during 2024

States have the powers and responsibility to adopt policy and legal reforms that effectively address statelessness. International and regional organizations as well as civil society, including stateless-led organizations, play an important role in support of these efforts.

In February 2024, a major regional milestone was achieved. The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted a Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights Relating to the Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality and Eradication of Statelessness in Africa. UNHCR had supported the development of the protocol in recent years. Some standards set by the protocol mark significant progress. For example, the mechanisms to effectively prevent generational statelessness, specific provisions for nomadic and cross-border populations, and strong due process protections regarding the right to a nationality. The protocol needs to be ratified by 15 African Union Member States to enter into force.

Several countries continued to take steps to resolve and prevent statelessness. In Kenya, UNHCR is collaborating with a parliamentary counsel on proposed amendments to the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, which will address challenges faced by stateless people and ensure their recognition under the law. Efforts also continued to address the situation of the remaining stateless groups in Kenya; over 2,400 stateless Rundi and individuals of Rwandan descent have been registered with the help of UNHCR's partner Haki Centre. The registration will support evidence-based data for advocacy and planning for solutions for these groups. This example

illustrates that transparent measuring and quantifying of statelessness helps design appropriate policy measures to address this problem.

In Iraq, the Ministry of Interior issued a directive simplifying the process through which Faili Kurds, a population which has historically experienced statelessness in Iraq, can have their Iraqi nationality confirmed. As a result of the directive, legal and administrative barriers previously faced by this population group have been removed. This will ensure that this population is treated in line with other Iraqi citizens on issues relating to citizenship and access to civil documentation. The decision to issue the directive is an example of efforts by the Government of Iraq, UNHCR and other actors in recent years to address statelessness through data collection/surveys, legal assistance and the provision of civil documentation.

In Mauritania, the Government conducted a major civil registration enrolment exercise from July 2023 to February 2024. According to the Government, over 600,000 people, including spontaneous returnees, were registered through simplified and expedited procedures. Good practices employed for the exercise included reduced evidentiary requirements and mobile missions to isolated locations. In addition to preventing statelessness for the registered individuals, the exercise provided improved information on populations that may be at risk of statelessness and the barriers they face to access civil registration.

A key step towards improving national legal and policy frameworks on statelessness is to accede to the two UN Statelessness Conventions, the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Sao Tome and Principe acceded to both Conventions in January 2024, becoming the 98<sup>th</sup> State party to the 1954 Convention and the 80<sup>th</sup> State party to the 1961 Convention.

# MID-YEAR TRENDS 2024

PRODUCED BY UNHCR  
(09 October 2024)

## FRONT COVER

**CHAD.** More than 216,000 Sudanese refugees fled the outbreak of conflict in the Sudan in April 2023. They are living in makeshift shelters at the spontaneous refugee site in the border town of Adré, Chad, with limited access to basic services and an urgent need for relocation to safer areas.

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## 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 <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/methodology/> for the detailed description and definitions of who is included in these statistics.

## Annex tables

Annex tables can be viewed on the UNHCR website at: <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/insights/annexes/trends-annexes.html>

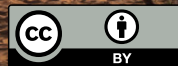
All data are provisional and subject to change.  
Data is available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>



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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>



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