

MID-YEAR TRENDS

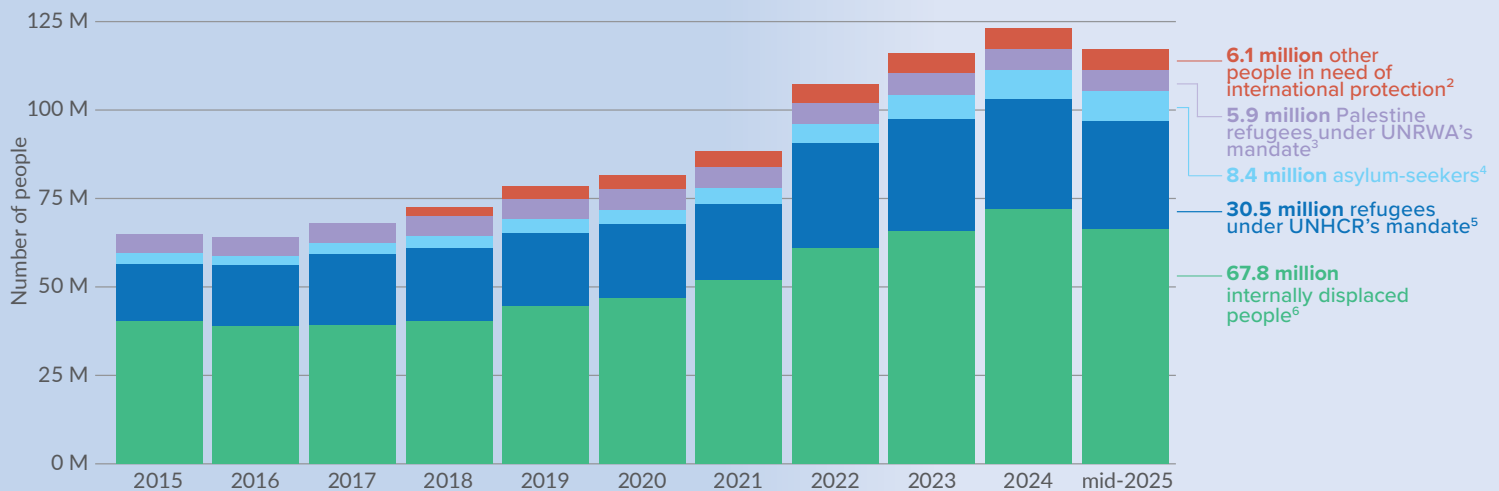
2025



Trends at a Glance

117.3 MILLION FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE¹

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



LOW-AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES HOSTED

71%

of the world's refugees and other people in need of international protection.⁷ The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 25 per cent of the total.

1 IN 8
ARE DISPLACED

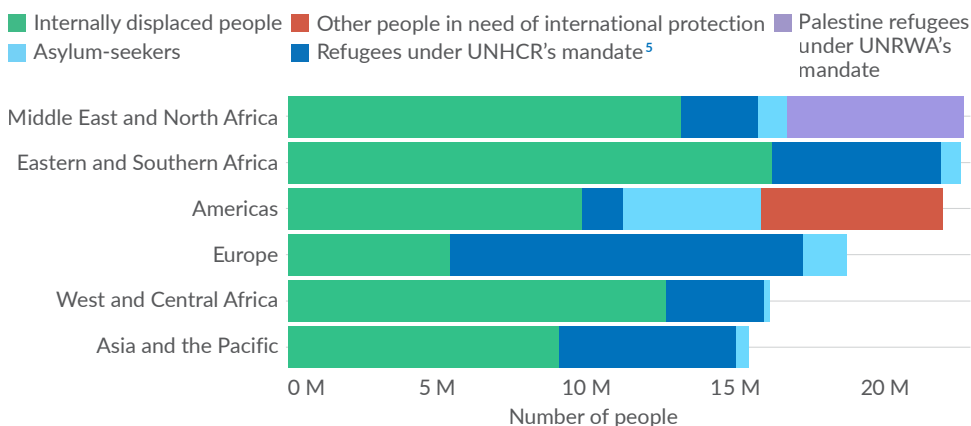
Relative to their national populations.¹⁰ Lebanon (1 in 8) hosted the largest number of refugees, followed by the island of Aruba (1 in 9), Chad (1 in 15), Curaçao (1 in 16), Colombia (1 in 19), South Sudan (1 in 21) and Jordan (1 in 21).

891,300
NEW CLAIMS

Asylum-seekers submitted 891,300 new claims.¹¹ The largest recipient of new individual asylum applications was Egypt (162,200),¹² followed by four European countries, Spain (77,300), Germany (61,300), Italy (60,300) and France (60,200).

DISPLACEMENT BY UNHCR REGION

After the closure of its Regional Bureau for Southern Africa,⁸ UNHCR has six Regional Bureaux.⁹ Countries within the Eastern and Southern Africa region (24.7 million) host the largest number of forcibly displaced people, followed by countries in the Middle East and North Africa region (24.4 million) and the Americas region (21.3 million).



SOLUTIONS

6.9 MILLION
DISPLACED PEOPLE RETURNED

6.9 million displaced people returned to their areas or countries of origin during the first half of 2025, including nearly 5 million internally displaced people and almost 2 million refugees.¹³ Many of the returns have occurred under adverse conditions and to areas where insecurity persists.

28,600
REFUGEES WERE
RESETTLED

28,600 arrivals through resettlement or sponsorship pathways¹⁴ between January and June 2025, according to government statistics. UNHCR submitted 21,900 refugees to States for resettlement.

- 1 The total number of people forcibly displaced is calculated using statistics by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). See [What is the difference between population statistics for forcibly displaced and the population that UNHCR protects and/or assists?](#) UNHCR, for more information. UNRWA estimates that 70 per cent of the 2 million IDPs in the Gaza Strip at mid-2025 were Palestine refugees under its mandate. These internally displaced refugees under UNRWA's mandate are only counted once in the global forcibly displaced total.
- 2 See [Methodology, Refugee Data Finder](#), UNHCR, for a definition of each population group.
- 3 The number of Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate is as of end-2024. See [UNRWA in action](#), June 2025, UNRWA.
- 4 Comprehensive statistics from the United States of America, including those on asylum applications, decisions and pending cases, were last reported up to mid-2024.
- 5 All references in this infographic to refugees under UNHCR's mandate includes people in a refugee-like situation.
- 6 This estimate is calculated using IDMC's end-2024 figure (73.5 million people) as a base. It only reflects changes in the statistics in the 38 countries in which UNHCR reported internal displacement during the first six months of 2025, which show 5.7 million fewer IDPs at mid-2025.
- 7 See [Key facts for countries hosting the world's refugees](#), UNHCR.
- 8 See [UNHCR announces closure of its Southern Africa Bureau as part of realignment review](#), September 2025, UNHCR.
- 9 See the updated regions in [annex 18: countries and regions](#), UNHCR.
- 10 Limited to countries hosting at least 10,000 people. The comparison includes other people in need of international protection in Aruba, Colombia and Curaçao. 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 1.4 million Syrians (some 716,300 registered by UNHCR) and 10,600 asylum-seekers and refugees of other nationalities. When the 486,300 Palestine refugees in Lebanon and 2.4 million Palestine refugees in Jordan registered with UNRWA are included, the proportions in Jordan and Lebanon increase to one in four and one in five.
- 11 See footnote 4.
- 12 As of June 2025, 737,400 Sudanese were registered by UNHCR in Egypt as refugees or asylum-seekers, including 149,000 who newly submitted their applications during the first six months of the year. The Government of Egypt reported 1.5 million Sudanese people having arrived in the country since the onset of the crisis. See also [Sudan Situation](#), UNHCR (accessed 26 October 2025).
- 13 The reported refugee returns may include the return of registered refugees as well as other people that had been forced to leave their country of origin. In large scale return movements, it is often extremely challenging to differentiate returnees based on their legal status in their country of displacement.
- 14 Arrivals through resettlement or sponsorship pathways are according to official government data on resettlement arrivals and UNHCR statistics on resettlement departures. See also the [UNHCR master glossary of terms](#), UNHCR (accessed 26 October 2025). Sponsorship pathways are mainly reported by Australia and Canada. See also , June 2025, UNHCR for more details about complementary pathways, including sponsorship pathways.

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

This report's main focus is the analysis of changes and trends in forced displacement from January to June 2025 among people covered by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency's mandate.¹⁵ The data presented are based on information received as of 14 October 2025 unless otherwise indicated.

At the end of June 2025, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide was estimated at **117.3 million**.¹⁶ This figure encompasses refugees under UNHCR's mandate, 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 it 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 the end of June 2025, this figure stood at **121 million** people.

These two categorizations are compared in the graphic below. A detailed breakdown of the population

that UNHCR protects and/or assists is provided in the [annex tables](#) by category and country.

The statistics in this report have been produced following UNHCR's Statistical Quality Assurance Framework for Official Statistics.¹⁷ The figures are based on data reported by governments, non-governmental organizations, UNHCR and other UN agencies. Statistics were received or compiled for 188 countries, two fewer than at the end of 2024.

The supervisory role of UNHCR concerning the application of refugee law instruments involves, inter alia, obtaining from Governments information and statistical data concerning the condition of refugees.¹⁸ In addition, the mandate of UNHCR on statelessness “encourages States which are in possession of statistics on stateless persons or individuals with undetermined nationality to share those statistics with UNHCR and calls on UNHCR to establish a more formal, systematic methodology for information gathering, updating and sharing”.¹⁹

Numbers are rounded to the closest hundred or thousand. As some adjustments may appear later in the year in the Refugee Data Finder,²⁰ 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 2025.

UNHCR only reports statistics on the demographics and sub-national locations of forcibly displaced people annually. Hence, the latest available statistics with this disaggregation are as of the end of 2024.

¹⁵ See [Methodology, Refugee Data Finder](#), UNHCR, for a definition of each population group.

15 See [Methodoid](#).

16 See footnote 1.

¹⁷ See [Statistical quality assurance framework for official statistics](#), June 2025, UNHCR.

¹⁸ See [Convention relating to the status of refugees](#), 1951, Article 35, paragraph 2, December 2010, UNHCR.

18 See [Convention relating to the status of refugees](#), 1951, Article 35, paragraph 2, December 2010;
19 See [A thematic compilation of executive committee conclusions](#), 7th edition, June 2014, UNHCR.

20 See [Refugee Data Finder](#), UNHCR, [https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/iraq](#) (last visited Aug. 10, 2023).

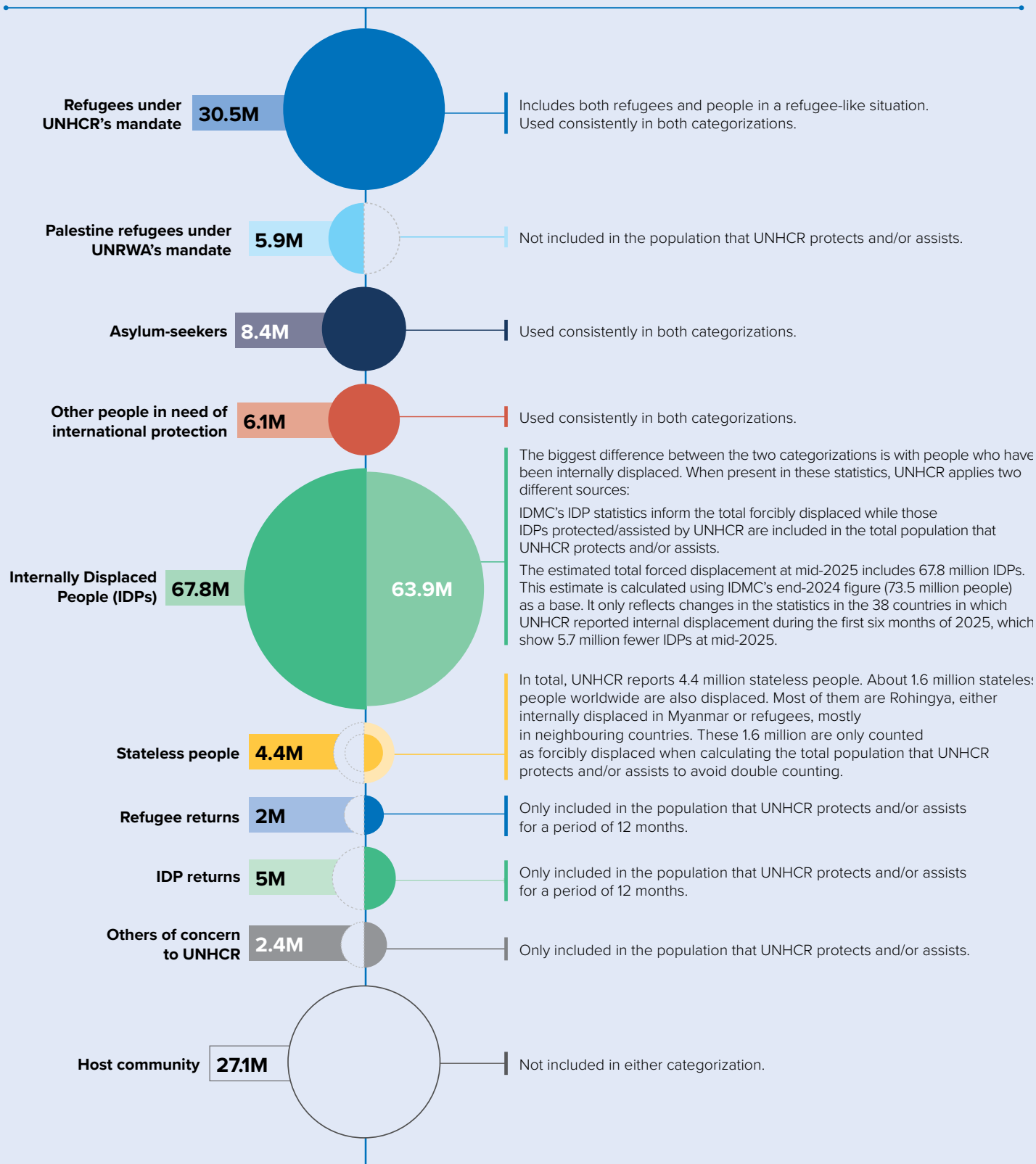


[View maps showing totals by population group and country.](#)

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

Forcibly displaced people 117.3 million²¹ Population UNHCR protects and/or assists 121 million



²¹ See footnote 1.

CHAPTER 1

Global forced displacement

Overview

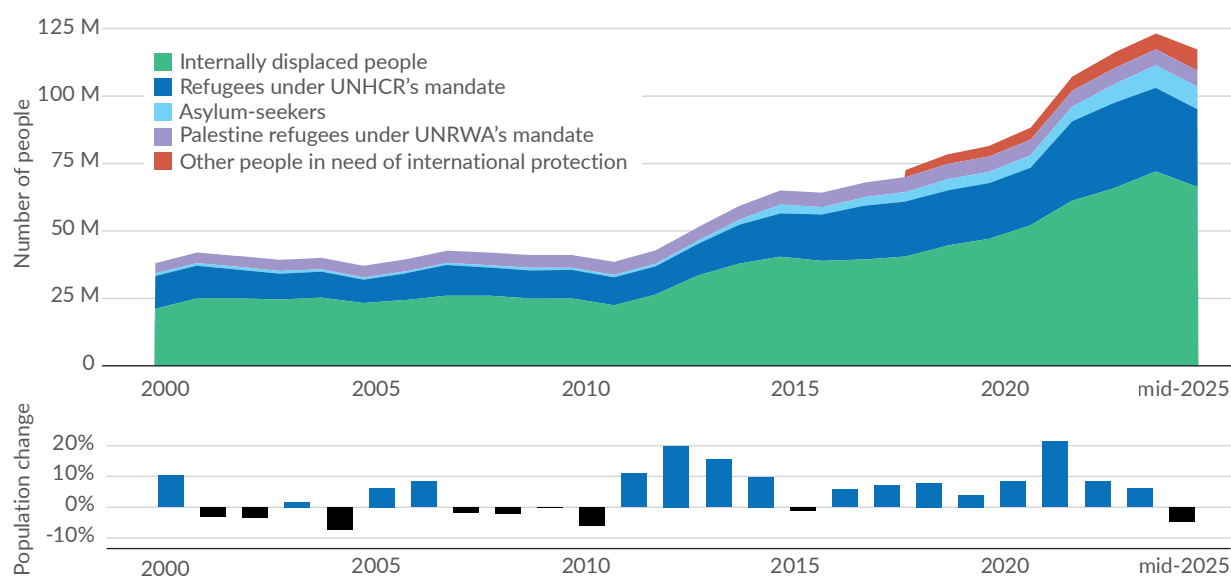
Based on the reported statistics, the number of people worldwide forced to flee persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order and who remained displaced at the end of June 2025 fell for the first time in a decade to **117.3 million**. This represents 5.9 million fewer people remaining displaced than at the end of 2024, a decline of almost 5 per cent. This change reflects a sharp increase in the returns of refugees and internally displaced people in some of the world's largest displacement situations, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Syria. However, many of the returns

occurred under adverse circumstances and the reintegration conditions remain challenging.

When publishing Global Trends in June this year, UNHCR estimated that global forced displacement had fallen from the end of 2024, with an initial estimate of 122.1 million as of the end of April.²²

The lower estimated total at mid-2025 reflects the greater availability of statistics for 2025 for most displacement situations worldwide, as well as increased returns observed between April and June. As shown in Figure 1, during the first quarter of this century, only in 2006 and 2011 have there been larger relative reductions in the global forcibly displaced population. By contrast, there have been 14 years during which the number of people forced to flee grew by more than 5 per cent.

Figure 1 | **Global Forced Displacement | 2000 – mid-2025**



²² See [Global trends: Forced displacement in 2024](#), June 2025, UNHCR.

The number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate, including people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection, fell by just over a quarter of a million people to **36.6 million** at mid-2025. In addition, **5.9 million** refugees were under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).²³ Despite a 53 per cent decline in new asylum applications during the first half of the year, the estimated number of asylum-seekers awaiting decisions on their claims increased slightly to just over **8.4 million**.²⁴ Internally displaced people accounted for 58 per cent of all those forced to flee, with an estimated **67.8 million** remaining in displacement, 8 per cent, or 5.7 million, fewer than at the end of 2024.²⁵

Between January and June 2025, at least **5.1 million people were forced to flee**, seeking safety either within their own country (2.9 million)²⁶ or abroad (2.2 million),²⁷ predominantly in neighbouring countries. Conflict and violence in just 5 countries accounted for nearly two-thirds (65 per cent) of all new displacements in 2025: the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1.5 million), Sudan (518,900), Ukraine (480,500), South Sudan (421,800) and Myanmar (391,400).

Returns of refugees and internally displaced people increased three-fold compared to the first half of 2024, reaching just over 6.9 million, surpassing even the levels observed in the second half of 2024, which was one of the highest return periods on record.²⁸ However, many of the returns have occurred under adverse conditions and to areas where insecurity persists and access to basic services is lacking or severely limited, raising concerns about the sustainability of these returns. Returns to and within 7 countries - the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(1.9 million), Syria (1.5 million), Sudan (1.2 million),²⁹ Afghanistan (874,900), Ethiopia (438,100), Myanmar (261,500) and Ukraine (306,300) - accounted for 95 per cent of all returns of forcibly displaced people during the first half of 2025.

While the number of refugees that arrived through resettlement or sponsorship pathways³⁰ in 2024 was the highest for at least four decades, that momentum has not been sustained. In the first half of 2025, reported arrivals through resettlement or sponsorship pathways fell sharply, as there were fewer arrivals in major resettlement countries, such as Australia, Canada and the United States of America.³¹ Only 28,600 refugees were resettled in the first half of the year, a drop of two-thirds compared to the same period last year. This sharp decline comes at a time when UNHCR estimates that 2.9 million refugees need resettlement in 2025, underscoring the growing gap between needs and available solutions.³² Positively, 40,000 refugees acquired the citizenship of their country of asylum or were granted permanent residence, 51 per cent more than the first half of 2024.

Key displacement situations

More than two years after its onset, the conflict in **Sudan** remains the largest displacement situation globally, with 13.4 million Sudanese refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs remaining displaced as of mid-2025.³³ Fighting remained intense in parts of the country, particularly in North Darfur, newly displacing hundreds of thousands of people, such as during the attack on the Zamzam IDP camp in April 2025, which led to at least 400,000 people being newly displaced.³⁴ Conditions are especially severe in areas of Darfur and Kordofan where fighting has

²³ The number of Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate is as of end-2024.

²⁴ See footnote 4.

²⁵ This estimate is calculated using IDMC's end-2024 figure (73.5 million people) as a base. It only reflects changes in the statistics in the 38 countries in which UNHCR reported internal displacement during the first six months of 2025, which show 5.7 million fewer IDPs at mid-2025.

²⁶ When calculating new internal displacements, UNHCR attempts to report the number of people who were newly displaced, instead of individual movements. As such, multiple or repeat movements are counted only once when possible. This approach differs from IDMC's calculation of new displacement, see also [IDMC main metrics and indicators](#), [About our data](#), IDMC (accessed 26 October 2025). Further, the number of people newly displaced reflects only the 38 countries in which UNHCR reported on internal displacement.

²⁷ This figure includes those that applied for asylum on an individual basis (905,000), were recognized through group procedures (456,700) or were granted temporary protection (489,000). It also includes new arrivals of people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection. See the [Forced displacement flow dataset](#), UNHCR.

²⁸ See footnote 13.

²⁹ See [UNHCR guidance note on the international protection needs of people fleeing Sudan](#), paragraph 22, April 2025, UNHCR.

³⁰ See footnote 14.

³¹ Refugee admissions data for the United States of America for this period was not publicly reported, however arrivals were impacted following Executive Order 14161 signed on January 20, 2025, which suspended the entry of most refugees through the USA's resettlement programme.

³² See [Projected global resettlement needs 2025](#), June 2024, UNHCR.

³³ The figure also includes people who were internally displaced prior to conflict.

³⁴ See [DTM Sudan focused flash alert: Al Fasher \(Zamzam IDP Camp\), North Darfur, Update 008](#), April 2025, IOM.

continued and access to humanitarian assistance has been hindered. Famine was officially declared in parts of the country at the end of 2024, with nearly 20 per cent of the population assessed as facing very high or catastrophic levels of food insecurity.³⁵ Yet, during the first half of the year, pockets of relative stability emerged in other parts of Sudan, largely in the east and in the capital Khartoum, allowing an increasing number of IDPs to return to their places of origin. Nearly one million IDPs returned, primarily to the regions of Al Jazirah and Khartoum.³⁶ As a consequence, the total number of IDPs in Sudan fell to 10.1 million by mid-2025. By contrast, the number of Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers globally increased by 19 per cent, reaching 3.3 million, with new influxes since April, particularly to northern Chad. Neighbouring countries - Chad (1.3 million), Egypt (737,400),³⁷ South Sudan (551,300), Libya (386,200),³⁸ Ethiopia (96,600) and the Central African Republic (39,000) - as well as nearby Uganda (85,400), hosted 96 per cent of all Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers worldwide. Humanitarian resources in Chad and South Sudan, which has also absorbed more than 800,000 refugee returnees, are stretched extremely thinly.³⁹

Rising tensions and inter-communal conflicts, particularly in Upper Nile State, in **South Sudan** have displaced hundreds of thousands of people both within the country and into neighbouring countries.⁴⁰ As a result, the South Sudanese refugee population increased by 41,900 to 655,000 in Sudan and grew by 41,200 to reach just over 1 million in Uganda.

The complex and protracted humanitarian crisis in **Myanmar** continued in 2025, with repeated clashes in Rakhine State displacing at least 263,000 people within the country. As of end-June 2025, 3.5 million people were internally displaced and 1.5 million were refugees or asylum-seekers. In Bangladesh, the refugee population from Myanmar

increased by 137,600 to over 1.1 million, reflecting the registration of refugees who had arrived during the last 18 months and, to a smaller extent, children born to already registered refugees. As humanitarian resources in Myanmar and major host countries in the region are becoming increasingly strained, thousands of Myanmar refugees are undertaking dangerous journeys in search of protection, safety, family reunification and livelihoods. As of the end of August, 43,000 people fleeing Myanmar, or travelling onwards from countries of asylum, have attempted to find safety and protection via dangerous land and sea routes, with the number of such movements increasing compared with 2024.⁴¹

Gang violence in **Haiti** has continued to drive internal displacement, within and increasingly also beyond the capital, Port-au-Prince. Fleeing the escalating violence, more than 243,400 people were newly internally displaced. As a result, 1.3 million people remained internally displaced by mid-2025, equivalent to more than one in ten Haitians nationwide.⁴² Haiti was therefore one of the countries with the highest per-capita levels of conflict-driven internal displacement in the world at mid-2025.⁴³

Since the end of 2024, the conflict in the eastern **Democratic Republic of the Congo** has led to rapidly worsening security and humanitarian conditions, particularly in South and North Kivu. Grave violence, atrocities committed by parties against the civilian population, deliberate destruction of settlements hosting displaced populations, and severe human rights violations forced at least 1.5 million people to flee in the first half of 2025.⁴⁴ Of these, 1.4 million were newly displaced within the country, and nearly 100,000 Congolese fled abroad, with neighbouring Uganda and Burundi accounting for more than 75 per cent of new arrivals. More than 1.9 million IDPs returned home since January. For some, return offered a glimmer of hope as security and stability

³⁵ See [Global report on food crisis 2025: September update](#), September 2025, Food Security Information Network.

³⁶ See [DTM Sudan return monitoring snapshot, Update 05](#), June 2025, IOM.

³⁷ See footnote 12.

³⁸ The increase in the number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya is due to the arrival in the first half of 2025 of a total of 130,500 Sudanese. Almost 15,500 of them were registered as asylum-seekers by UNHCR in 2025. A further 313,000 Sudanese are reported as people in a refugee-like situation based on estimates derived from the issuance of health cards in areas outside of Tripoli.

³⁹ See [UNHCR warns crisis reaching breaking point as Sudanese refugee numbers triple in Chad](#), June 2025, UNHCR. See also [UNHCR raises alarm on surge of new arrivals in South Sudan](#), December 2024, UNHCR.

⁴⁰ See [Protecting the most vulnerable in South Sudan](#), June 2025, UNHCR and [South Sudan situation: Displacement overview, as of 27 July 2025](#), July 2025, UNHCR.

⁴¹ See [A route-based snapshot: Data and trends for refugees from Myanmar, as of end-August 2025](#), September 2025, UNHCR.

⁴² See [Report on the displacement situation in Haiti, Round 10, June 2025](#), June 2025, IOM.

⁴³ Only Syria (1 in four), Sudan (1 in five), Somalia (18 per cent), Colombia (13 per cent) and Yemen (11 per cent) have a higher per-capita level of IDPs in the country.

⁴⁴ See [DRC: UN report raises spectre of war crimes and crimes against humanity in North and South Kivu](#), September 2025, OHCHR.

in their areas of origin improved; for most of the others, their return followed the forced closure of IDP settlements around Goma and Nyiragongo by M23 and the de facto authorities controlling Goma and the nearby region.⁴⁵ Overall, the humanitarian situation remains dire, with 5.2 million displaced within the country, 1.3 million Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers, and a record 27.7 million people acutely food insecure.⁴⁶ The peace agreement signed in June 2025 in Washington between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and the declaration of principles signed by the Congolese authorities and M23 in Doha still have to translate into real improvements on the ground, especially for the civilian population. At the time of writing it is hoped that renewed mediation efforts may finally translate into a lasting cessation of hostilities and violence in the Eastern provinces.⁴⁷

As the situation in **Syria** continues to transform after more than a decade of war, increasing numbers of displaced people have been returning. This is despite continued insecurity in parts of the country, which has led to over 103,000 new arrivals of Syrians in Lebanon between December 2024 and July 2025.⁴⁸ Within Syria, approximately 52,300 people were newly displaced between January and June 2025. During the same period, nearly one million IDPs returned, with the number of IDPs remaining displaced at mid-2025 reducing by 13 per cent to 6.5 million. In addition, at least 526,200 Syrians also returned from abroad during the first half of the year, with the number of Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers globally at mid-2025 declining to 5.6

million. Returns have continued to accelerate in the subsequent months, with operational data showing that by mid-September around one million Syrians had returned home from abroad.⁴⁹

In 2025, the Governments of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran enacted or implemented policies to return Afghans, including registered refugees, to **Afghanistan**. While some returns to Afghanistan were voluntary, a significant proportion were forced returns.⁵⁰ Operational data up to early October estimate that as many as 2.2 million returns to Afghanistan have taken place in 2025, the vast majority from the Islamic Republic of Iran (some 1.7 million), with peaks of up to 40,000 people a day recorded in July.⁵¹ Official statistics between January and June 2025, indicate that at least 874,800 Afghans have returned. These large-scale return movements have placed severe pressure on Afghanistan's already overstretched resources and basic services. As a result of the increased returns to Afghanistan, the number of Afghans forcibly displaced beyond their country decreased by 16 per cent to 5.2 million.

An estimated 142,000 **Ukrainians** were newly displaced within their own country as the international armed conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation continued, with civilian infrastructure repeatedly targeted in deadly aerial attacks.⁵² An estimated 3.8 million people remained internally displaced at mid-year. A total of 354,800 Ukrainians were granted temporary protection during the first half of 2025, notably in Germany, Poland and

⁴⁵ See [DR Congo crisis: Thousands of displaced in Goma forced to flee again](#), February 2025, UN News.

⁴⁶ See [Democratic Republic of the Congo: Acute food insecurity projection update for January - June 2025](#), March 2025, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (accessed 26 October 2025).

⁴⁷ See [DR Congo: UN envoy points to 'real hope' for ceasefire and peace in the east](#), October 2025, UN News.

⁴⁸ See [Lebanon: Syrian returns and movements snapshot, as of 31 July 2025](#), August 2025, UNHCR.

⁴⁹ See [A million Syrians have returned home, but more support needed so millions more can follow](#), September 2025, UNHCR. Returns from Syria, refer to Syrians who were previously residing in neighbouring countries (both refugees and other Syrians) and have crossed back into Syria, intending to return either in their place of origin or another location within the country.

⁵⁰ On 7 March 2025, the Government of Pakistan announced the resumption of the 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan', initially targeting Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC) holders, who were instructed to leave voluntarily by 31 March or face deportation from 1 April. On 31 July, the Government expanded the plan to also include Afghan refugees holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards. In parallel, following headcount slip expiry on 20 March 2025, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran launched a regularization/return scheme for some two million affected Afghans where the majority were expected to return to Afghanistan by the Government deadline of 6 July 2025 or face deportation.

⁵¹ The total return figure encompasses deportations, assisted voluntary repatriations and other returns of Afghans of all statuses, including PoR cardholders, ACC holders, Amayesh card holders, headcount slip holders and the undocumented. It excludes passport/visa holders. See also [Returns to Afghanistan dashboard](#), UNHCR (accessed 10 October 2025).

⁵² The figure is as of April 2025. See [Ukraine internal displacement report: General population survey, Round 20, April 2025](#), April 2025, IOM.

Czechia.⁵³ At least 5.3 million Ukrainian refugees remained displaced globally in 73 countries.⁵⁴

As the conflict in the Gaza Strip in the **State of Palestine** approaches its third year, the humanitarian situation remains devastating for the civilian population. After a brief glimmer of hope during an initial ceasefire, the agreement collapsed in March 2025 and fighting resumed, with thousands of reported civilian casualties and further widespread destruction across the territory.⁵⁵ Distributions of humanitarian supplies were heavily restricted leading to the declaration of famine in Gaza in August 2025.⁵⁶ An estimated 90 per cent of the population, around 2 million people, are displaced.⁵⁷ Most have been forced to flee multiple times, as repeated evacuation orders, intense combat and aerial bombardments have consumed areas previously designated as safe. Since March alone, more than 1 million people have been newly displaced.⁵⁸ The situation remains fragile following the ceasefire that came into effect on 10 October.

From return to reintegration: the path towards durable solutions

There are 5.9 million fewer people forcibly displaced at mid-2025, the first meaningful decrease in a decade and there are indications that this trend could continue. Yet, it is important to emphasize that once forcibly displaced people return, reintegration in their country or place of origin takes time and that lasting return requires peacebuilding, social cohesion and integration so that areas of return are genuinely stable and people do not face renewed

displacement due to the dire conditions at home. For returnees to overcome their displacement-related vulnerabilities and reestablish rights, humanitarian and recovery support may continue to be required, while broader development assistance to their country of origin will be necessary to increase the capacity of national health, education, social protection and economic systems.

Returns that are involuntary or driven by adverse conditions in displacement locations, make the sustainable reintegration of returnees extremely challenging. This is especially true, when many people return in a short timeframe. Reabsorbing more than 2.2 million returnees in Afghanistan poses substantial challenges. Research into Afghan returnees from Pakistan in early 2024, prior to the large number of returns witnessed this year, shows reintegration to be a slow and difficult process. Among returnees, food insecurity and indebtedness rise in the months after return, once the initial resources and humanitarian assistance provided to returnees have been depleted.⁵⁹ Furthermore, returnees from neighbouring countries face increased protection risks. Conditions for female returnees are particularly precarious, as restrictions on their fundamental rights place them at heightened risk of exclusion, poverty, abuse, exploitation and violence.⁶⁰ These discriminatory measures faced by Afghan women and girls have been considered to be persecution on gender grounds.⁶¹ In South Sudan, the 800,000 refugees who have returned since April 2023, face major livelihood barriers, including limited access to farmland and the lack of livestock, amid severe economic vulnerabilities and a lack of access to services such as health and education. Some 85 per cent of South Sudanese refugee returnees

⁵³ Temporary protection granted to Ukrainians does not necessarily reflect new displacement since it could include reapplications or reactivations from those refugees who were already granted refugee status following temporary visits to Ukraine as well as duplicated registrations across countries. Furthermore, Ukrainians that have been granted temporary protection may also have lodged individual asylum applications. See [Ukraine refugee situation: Population movements, Factsheet #2](#), February 2025, UNHCR.

⁵⁴ Moreover, as of mid-2023 an estimated 1.2 million Ukrainians were recorded in the Russian Federation under different legal forms of stay (other than refugee or temporary asylum status) and reported by UNHCR as people in a refugee-like situation. However, this figure has not been updated since June 2023 and therefore can no longer be included in UNHCR's official statistics. In addition, since February 2022, a number of Ukrainians have reached countries beyond Europe, where they are staying under various legal statuses. See the [Ukraine Situation](#), UNHCR, for up-to date statistics of refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe and beyond.

⁵⁵ See [Palestinian casualties: Casualties as reported by Palestinian Ministry of Health since 7th of October 2023](#), Health Cluster and WHO (accessed 26 October 2025).

⁵⁶ See [Famine review committee: Gaza strip, August 2025](#), August 2025, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification.

⁵⁷ See [Country profile: State of Palestine](#), IDMC (accessed 26 October 2025).

⁵⁸ See [UNRWA situation report #189 on the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem](#), September 2025, UNRWA and [Gaza protection analysis update](#), July 2025, Global Protection Cluster.

⁵⁹ See [Rebuilding lives: How return duration shapes income generation and reintegration dynamics for Afghan returnees](#), August 2025, UNHCR, and [Post return monitoring survey](#), April 2025, UNHCR.

⁶⁰ See [Protection landscape for women and girls: Afghanistan](#), September 2025, UNHCR.

⁶¹ See [Guidance note on Afghanistan, Update II](#), September 2025, UNHCR.

faced high levels of acute food insecurity from April to July 2025.⁶²

Many of the returns of refugees and IDPs registered in 2025, took place in the absence of lasting peace and stability within their countries. Without peace, returns are likely to be just temporary, followed by new displacement cycles. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan, IDPs managed to return to small areas of relative stability, while in other parts of the country – or even within the same region – fighting and new displacement continued.⁶³

The movements back to Syria reflect the desire among Syrians abroad to return and rebuild their lives at home. A survey conducted in neighbouring countries in June 2025 found that four out of five Syrians expressed a wish to return to Syria one day, with 18 per cent making concrete plans to do so within the next 12 months.⁶⁴ Yet the realization of these aspirations depends on developments inside Syria, including improved security and stability, increased investment in and access to basic services and the availability of adequate housing and expanded economic and employment opportunities. Underscoring the magnitude of the reconstruction challenge, 40 per cent of Syrian households reported owning property, yet 87 per cent of them indicated that their houses were destroyed or severely damaged, rendering them uninhabitable.⁶⁵

Access to fair and effective asylum procedures in countries of asylum as well as to life-saving assistance in areas of displacement for people forced to flee must continue to ensure that people are not compelled to prematurely return because of their current situation or while sustainable conditions for return to their country or area of origin are not yet established. UNHCR assesses that the funding cuts in 2025 have led to around 11.6 million people forced to flee being at risk of losing urgently needed assistance worldwide this year.⁶⁶ The impact of these cuts is already being felt: displaced families whose reduced financial aid is no longer sufficient to afford food, healthcare and shelter; refugee and host community students whose schools have been forced to close; and newly displaced people arriving in fragile border areas where reduced operational capacity prevents rapid relocation to safer locations.

The lack of funding also threatens the data, registration and survey systems that underpin humanitarian responses. Accurate and timely data on people forced to flee, including in hard-to-reach locations, is essential to measure displacement, identify protection risks, understand needs and vulnerabilities and guide lasting solutions. The quality of these systems also underpins the trust and confidence placed in the very figures that describe to the world how many people have been forced to flee.

⁶² See [Global report on food crisis 2025: September update](#), September 2025, Food Security Information Network.

⁶³ In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during May and June alone, the Ituri province in the East of the country, saw both 173,400 new displacements and 94,700 return movements. See [République démocratique du Congo : Personnes déplacées internes et retournées \(juillet 2025\) \[Democratic Republic of the Congo: Internally displaced people and returnees \(July 2025\)\]](#), September 2025, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

⁶⁴ See [Enhanced regional survey on Syrian refugees' Perceptions and intentions on return to Syria](#) Enhanced regional survey on Syrian refugees' Perceptions and intentions on return to Syria, September 2025, UNHCR.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ See [On the brink: The devastating toll of aid cuts on people forced to flee](#), July 2025, UNHCR.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA. In 2022, Matin, a 20-year-old Afghan refugee, came to Bosnia and Herzegovina, seeking safety. After receiving international protection status in 2023, he gained access to employment on par with citizens—thanks to the efforts of UNHCR, Catholic Relief Services and the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees. Today, Matin works in a Sarajevo textile company warehouse, demonstrating how inclusive systems empower refugees to rebuild their lives and contribute to their communities.

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INSIGHT 1

The profiles, experiences and intentions of refugees and migrants in South-Eastern Europe: insights from UNHCR's protection monitoring exercises

In South-Eastern Europe,⁶⁷ refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants travel along numerous, interlinked routes. The region serves as both a transit corridor for those aiming to reach other countries, mainly in Western and Northern Europe, and as a destination in itself for those seeking international protection or better economic opportunities. In the first half of 2025, more than 5,100 refugees and migrants transited through the Western Balkans, a subregion of South-Eastern Europe. This is similar to the numbers reported during the first half of 2024. The overall number of people transiting in 2024 was sharply lower (-46 per cent) than during the same period of 2023. As of June 2025, approximately 2,100 refugees and migrants remained in the region, primarily in Bosnia and Herzegovina (40 per cent) and Serbia (29 per cent). Afghans (14 per cent) and Syrians (9 per cent) were the most common nationalities.⁶⁸

To better understand the dynamics of mixed movements⁶⁹ and the protection risks faced by people on the move, UNHCR, together with its partners, conducts protection monitoring across South-Eastern Europe. Between January and August 2024, 3,200 interviews were conducted with refugees, asylum-seekers and others involved in mixed movements. A further 500 interviews were conducted between January 2024 and April 2025 with women across the

same countries to explore gender-specific protection risks and challenges. These findings are complemented by qualitative insights from focus group discussions. The analysis presented below is based on the findings from these exercises.⁷⁰

Most respondents cited threats to their lives and insecurity as the primary reasons for leaving their countries of origin, while others identified limited access to livelihoods and basic services as driving factors. The majority of respondents (63 per cent) indicated that they were forced to leave due to generalized violence, threats to their life or discrimination. These factors were especially prevalent among Afghans (94 per cent) and Syrians (82 per cent), who overwhelmingly cited insecurity and threats to their life as the main drivers for their departure. In contrast, a smaller portion of respondents, particularly from Morocco and Pakistan, indicated that they left their countries primarily due to limited employment prospects and inadequate access to basic services.

While both men and women frequently mentioned threats to personal safety and generalized violence as a reason for leaving, **notable gender-based differences were observed.** Female respondents were more likely to mention family reunification as a contributing factor, with 6 per cent compared to 1

⁶⁷ South-Eastern Europe encompasses Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999).

⁶⁸ See [Western Balkans: Refugees, asylum-seekers and other people in mixed movements, as of end June 2025](#), July 2025, UNHCR, and [Western Balkans: Refugees, asylum-seekers and other people in mixed movements, as of end December 2024](#), January 2025, UNHCR. The number of refugees and migrants who transited the Western Balkan countries is estimated considering pushback and inverse flows based on the data of new arrivals.

⁶⁹ Mixed movements refers to the cross-border movement, generally in an irregular manner, involving individuals and groups who travel alongside each other, using similar routes and means of transport or facilitators, but for different reasons. Onward movement refers to the movement of refugees and asylum-seekers from one country of asylum to another country where they may request international protection. See [UNHCR master glossary of terms](#), UNHCR (accessed 26 October 2025), and [Global trends: Forcibly displaced in 2023](#), June 2024, UNHCR.

⁷⁰ See [Mixed movements in South-Eastern Europe: Challenges along the route and drivers of onward movements](#), December 2024, UNHCR, and [Mixed movements in South-Eastern Europe: The experiences of women on the move](#), August 2025, UNHCR.

per cent of men. In addition, focus group discussions suggested that women often considered the well-being, education and long-term prospects of their children when making decisions about leaving their countries of origin.

Respondents highlighted their **long journeys through multiple countries**, followed by **challenges upon arrival in host countries, including denial of entry and inadequate reception conditions**. Although the majority of female respondents had left their countries of origin several years ago, most had only recently arrived in their current host country, suggesting prolonged periods spent in transit. Nearly 70 per cent reported transiting through more than one country, with some journeys including as many as 13 countries reflecting the complexity of these movements.⁷¹

Focus group discussions further highlighted the difficult nature of these journeys, which often involved travelling long distances on foot with exposure to harsh environmental conditions. Participants also described experiencing limited access to food, water and shelter during their travels. Among those surveyed, women were denied entry or exposed to violence at borders slightly more often than men. More specifically, 20 per cent of women reported having been previously denied entry to their current host country, with 9 per cent experiencing violence during these incidents.

Upon arrival in host countries, individuals continued to face obstacles. Fifteen per cent of respondents reported having been previously denied entry into their current host country, with four per cent experiencing violence or mistreatment during the process. In many cases, these rejections were reported to have occurred without legal or procedural safeguards, including the mechanisms designed to identify asylum-seekers and individuals with specific needs. Conditions within reception centres were also of concern in focus group discussions with issues relating to hygiene, privacy and infrastructure identified.

Two in three respondents have a destination in mind, mostly in Western Europe, but they are willing to remain in their current host countries, particularly if they are granted legal status and employment opportunities. Germany was the most frequently cited destination, named by 42 per cent of those who

stated a preferred country, primarily due to family ties, employment opportunities and safety considerations. Italy was the next most frequently cited intended destination (18 per cent) and employment prospects were the most critical factor informing this choice.

Despite having a destination in mind, 44 per cent of all respondents indicated a willingness to remain permanently in their current host country if the conditions were supportive. Overall, women were more likely to express a willingness to remain permanently in their current host countries (53 per cent compared with 42 per cent for men). Obtaining the legal status to remain, securing the right to work, receiving assistance with finding employment and opportunities to reunite with family members were all cited as important factors in respondents' decision on whether to remain. Focus group discussions supported these findings, with participants expressing fatigue from continued movement and a strong desire to rebuild their lives.

Overall, the findings indicate that access to legal recognition, economic opportunities and social support often outweigh the choice of a particular destination. Enhancing such support in what are currently considered as primarily transit countries could reduce the need for individuals to undertake dangerous journeys in search of better conditions elsewhere. **Limited access to rights, poor integration prospects and lengthy asylum procedures in respondents' current host countries commonly led to the decision to move onwards in search of better conditions.**

The survey and focus group discussions revealed multiple factors influencing individuals to consider leaving their current host country. This is illustrated by the experiences of some respondents who had previously been recognized as refugees in other countries. Many left former countries of asylum due to difficulties with securing employment, limited access to education for themselves or their children and complex family reunification processes.

Focus group discussions reinforced these findings, with participants underscoring that gaps in support systems and limited access to rights contribute directly to decisions to move onward. In the absence of adequate conditions and opportunities in their current host countries, many are likely to continue their journeys in search of better conditions.

⁷¹ Ibid., and note that all respondents in this survey were women.

SOUTH SUDAN. Solar-powered water points in Maban provide safe, reliable water for refugees and the host community—serving not just as lifelines, but as gathering spaces that foster connection, resilience and peaceful coexistence.

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CHAPTER 2

Refugees

42.5 MILLION

refugees as of June 2025, including:

- **3.3 million** people in a refugee-like situation (-19 per cent).
- **6.1 million** other people in need of international protection (+3 per cent).
- **5.9 million** Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.⁷²

2 in 3

refugees under UNHCR's mandate, including other people in need of international protection, originate from just five countries.

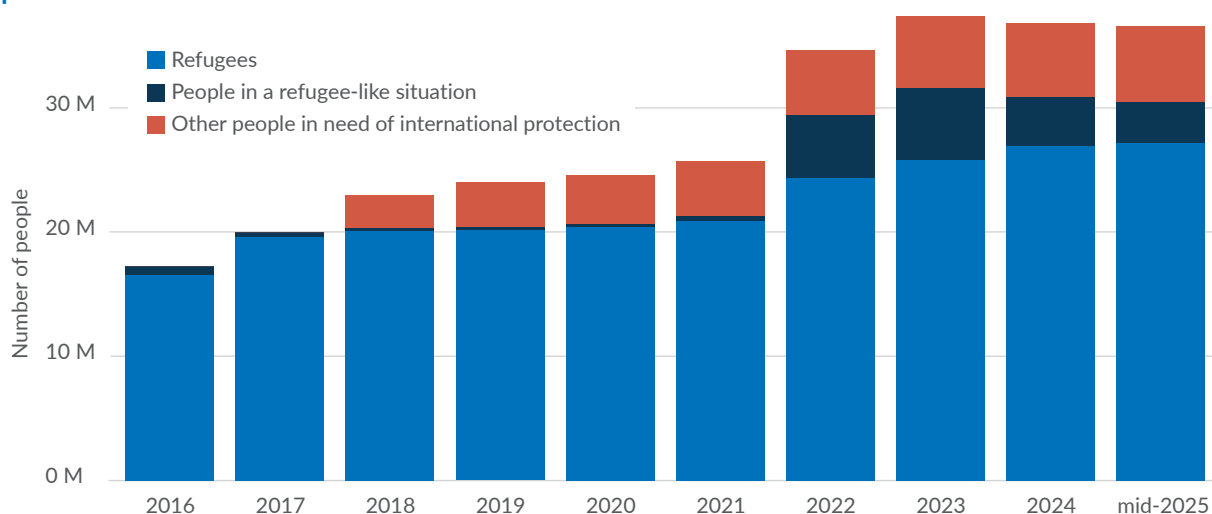
Overview

The number of refugees globally fell slightly, to 42.5 million people by mid-year, one per cent less than at the end of 2024, and two per cent fewer than at the end of 2023 (see figure 3). The global total included 3.3 million people in a refugee-like situation and 6.1 million other people in need of international protection. All further references to refugees in this chapter include the 27.2 million refugees under

UNHCR's mandate as well as people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection, unless otherwise stated.⁷³

Between January and June 2025, 1.3 million people were granted international protection. This total includes 305,500 individuals who received a positive decision on their individual asylum claims, 456,700 who were recognized on a group basis, and 489,000 who were granted temporary protection (see Chapter 4 for more details).

Figure 3 | **Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection | 2016 – mid-2025**



⁷² The figure for Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate is as of end-2024.

⁷³ This does not include Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

By country of origin

Similar to recent years, two-thirds of refugees and other people in need of international protection are from just five countries: Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Ukraine and Venezuela (see figure 4). By mid-2025, there were 6.5 million **Venezuelan** refugees and other people in need of international protection, the majority of whom have been granted residence permits and regular stay documentation. This represents an increase of 214,200 people (+3 per cent), as estimates in Brazil and Chile were updated.

Between January and June 2025, the number of **Syrian** refugees declined by 467,600 people (-8 per cent) to reach 5.5 million. Therefore, Syrians accounted for 1 in 7 refugees globally, compared to nearly 1 in 3 in 2016. The largest host countries continued to be Türkiye (2.6 million, -9 per cent), Lebanon (716,300, -5 per cent), Germany (695,400, -4 per cent) and Jordan (511,200, -16 per cent). The decline in the number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries followed the fall of the Assad government in December 2024, after which the number of Syrians returning to their country sharply increased. Many other Syrian refugees have also expressed their desire to return, particularly from neighbouring countries. However, significant challenges to return and sustainable reintegration remain, including insecurity in parts of the country, destroyed or damaged accommodation and infrastructure and absent or inadequate basic services.⁷⁴

The **Ukrainian** refugee population grew by 180,200 (+4 per cent) to reach just over 5.3 million at mid-2025, accounting for 1 in 7 of the global refugee population.⁷⁵ Germany hosted nearly one-quarter of them (23 per cent or 1.2 million), slightly fewer than at the end of 2024, while Poland hosted nearly one million Ukrainians, slightly more than six months prior. There were also large numbers of Ukrainian refugees living in Czechia (378,300, -3 per cent), the

United Kingdom (262,400, +3 per cent) and Spain (237,000, +6 per cent). The rise in the number of Ukrainian refugees globally was driven in particular by an updated estimate of 232,400 people in a refugee-like situation in Canada, three times more than the end of 2024.⁷⁶

Of the 4.8 million **Afghan** refugees and people in a refugee-like situation globally, the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted most of them, with a reported total of 2.5 million at the end of June 2025. This was 29 per cent less people than at the end of 2024 and followed the expiry of the headcount slips on 20 March 2025.⁷⁷ Pakistan hosted 1.5 million Afghans (-1 per cent) while Germany hosted 280,300 Afghans (+0.2 per cent). Together with France (98,600, +6 per cent) and the United Kingdom (60,700, +10 per cent), these five countries hosted over 94 per cent of all Afghan refugees globally.

By mid-2025, there were 18 per cent more **Sudanese** refugees and the total stood at 2.5 million, hosted primarily in neighbouring countries. Chad accommodated more than half of the total, with 1.3 million people (+13 per cent). South Sudan followed with 551,300 refugees (+13 per cent). Almost all of the remaining Sudanese refugees resided in Libya (314,800, +58 per cent),⁷⁸ Ethiopia (96,200, +6 per cent), Uganda (85,200, +30 per cent), the Central African Republic (38,900, +30 per cent), Egypt (31,400, +13 per cent),⁷⁹ France (30,900, +5 per cent) and the United Kingdom (21,000, +11 per cent).

Nearly 9 in 10 **South Sudanese** refugees were hosted in Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia and the total worldwide reached 2.4 million at mid-2025 as a result of the growing instability in several areas of South Sudan. Uganda accommodated just over one million of them, representing 43 per cent of all South Sudanese refugees globally. The number of South Sudanese refugees hosted in Uganda was 4 per cent more than at end-2024. Despite continuing to experience internal conflict and instability, Sudan

⁷⁴ See [Enhanced regional survey on Syrian refugees' Perceptions and intentions on return to Syria](#) and [Enhanced regional survey on Syrian refugees' Perceptions and intentions on return to Syria](#), September 2025, UNHCR, and [Intentions and perspectives of Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe](#), May 2025, UNHCR.

⁷⁵ See footnote 54.

⁷⁶ Updated figures for the number of Ukrainians within the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) program led to an increase of 158,600 from the previously reported figure to 242,100.

⁷⁷ See [CAFIA announcement on the decision for headcount slip holders](#), March 2025, UNHCR.

⁷⁸ See footnote 38.

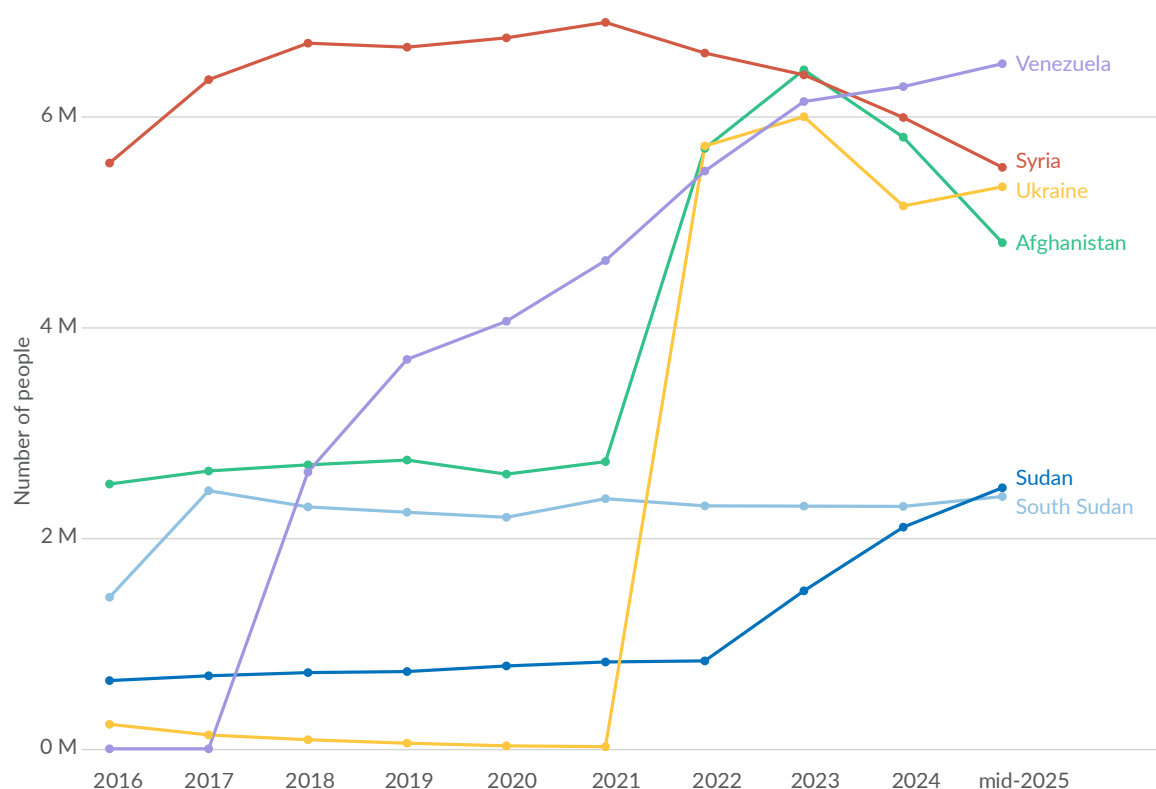
⁷⁹ Most countries neighbouring Sudan that host Sudanese refugees apply group recognition procedures. However, in Egypt, refugee status is determined by UNHCR on an individual basis. As of June 2025, 737,400 Sudanese were registered with UNHCR in Egypt as refugees or asylum-seekers. See also footnote 12.

followed with 655,000 South Sudanese refugees (+7 per cent) while Ethiopia hosted 420,500.

Other large countries of origin were Myanmar (1.5 million, +11 per cent), the Democratic Republic of the

Congo (1.1 million, +8 per cent), Somalia (903,900, +1 per cent) and the Central African Republic (683,200, -1 per cent). In total, 85 per cent of refugees globally originated from one of these ten countries.

Figure 4 | **Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection by major country of origin | 2016 – mid-2025**



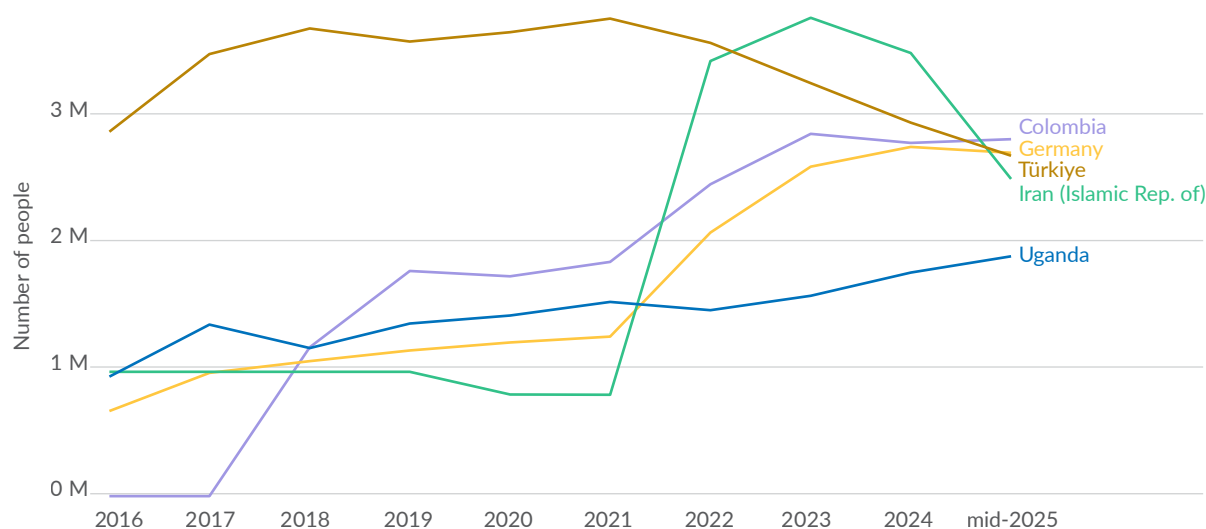
By country of asylum

At mid-2025, one-third of all refugees, people in a refugee-like situation or other people in need of international protection were hosted by five countries: Colombia, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Türkiye and Uganda (see figure 5). Colombia hosted more than 2.8 million Venezuelan other people in need of international protection (+1 per cent compared to the end of 2024). Germany hosted approximately 2.7 million refugees (-2 per

cent), most of whom were Ukrainian (44 per cent) or Syrian (26 per cent).

Türkiye was home to 2.7 million refugees (-9 per cent), almost all of whom were Syrians. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the number of refugees and people in a refugee-like situation fell by 28 per cent to 2.5 million, as a result of the government implementation of a return and regularization plan of Afghans within the country. Uganda provided shelter to 1.9 million refugees (+7 per cent), over half of whom had fled from South Sudan.

Figure 5 | **Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection by major country of asylum | 2016 – mid-2025**



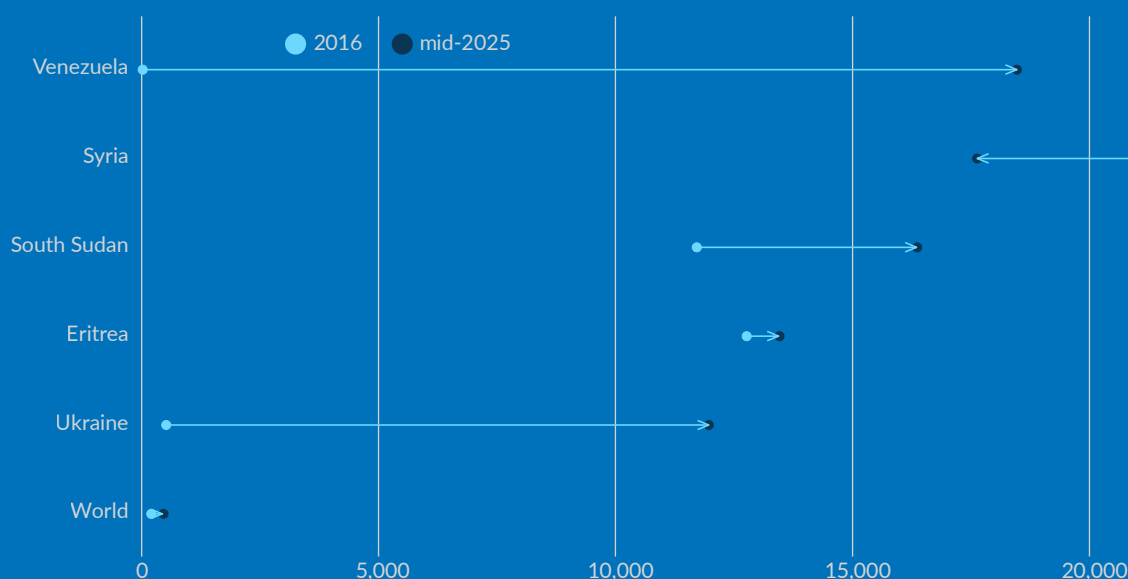
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – INDICATOR 10.7.4

SDG Indicator 10.7.4 tracks the proportion of a country's population who become refugees or other people in need of international protection.⁸⁰ Globally, 450 people out of 100,000 were refugees at mid-2025 (see figure 6). The three countries with highest proportion of their national population who have become refugees or other people in need of international

protection were: Venezuela (18,500 refugees and other people in need of international protection per 100,000 national population), Syria (17,600 refugees per 100,000 national population) and South Sudan (16,400 refugees per 100,000 national population).



Figure 6 | **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 | 2016 and mid-2025**



⁸⁰ See SDG indicator metadata of indicator 10.7.4, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) (accessed 26 October 2025). The indicator is computed as follows: $[\text{Number of refugees by country of origin at end-year} / (\text{End-year population in country of origin} + \text{number of refugees by country of origin at end-year})] \times 100,000$. 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.

Table 1 | **Key facts for countries hosting refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection | mid-2025⁸¹**

66 per cent were hosted by neighbouring countries	Most people fleeing conflict and persecution remain near their country of origin. By June 2025, 66 per cent of refugees were hosted in neighbouring countries, consistent with the previous year.
71 per cent were hosted by low- and middle-income countries⁸²	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 0.3 per cent of global gross domestic product, yet they hosted 20 per cent of refugees. This included very large refugee populations in Uganda, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lower-middle-income countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Kenya and Jordan, hosted 17 per cent of refugees at mid-2025. The proportion of refugees hosted in upper-middle-income countries fell to 34 per cent. The decrease reflected fewer refugees hosted in this income group of countries, including Türkiye and the Islamic Republic of Iran. High-income countries, which account for most of the global wealth, ⁸³ hosted 29 per cent of refugees at mid-2025.
25 per cent were hosted by the Least Developed Countries⁸⁴	The Least Developed Countries consist of 44 countries, including Bangladesh, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Niger, 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 25 per cent of all refugees worldwide. ⁸⁵ This is similar to the percentage of refugees hosted by Least Developed Countries at the end of 2024. At mid-2025, the number of refugees in Least Developed Countries stood at 9 million.
66 per cent were in protracted situations	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.⁸⁶ This definition should be seen as a reflection of the situation as a whole and does not refer to the circumstances of individual refugees. At mid-2025, an estimated 23.9 million refugees and other people in need of international protection were in 59 protracted situations, in 37 host countries.

⁸¹ See [Key facts for countries hosting the world's refugees](#), UNHCR. Includes people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection. Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate are excluded from this analysis.

⁸² See [World Bank country and lending groups](#), World Bank (accessed 26 October 2025).

⁸³ High-income countries account for 62 per cent of global gross domestic product (Source: World Bank GDP statistics). This compares with 0.3 per cent, 7 per cent and 28 per cent for low-, lower-middle- and upper-middle-income countries respectively. Classifications are unavailable for a further 2 per cent.

⁸⁴ There are 44 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) classified by UNSD. See [List of LDCs and country fact sheets](#), UNSD (accessed 26 October 2025). 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.

⁸⁵ Data source of gross domestic product (in current US dollars) in 2024 is the World Bank.

⁸⁶ 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.



MOZAMBIQUE. Viaze smiles from the doorway of her small shop in Cabo Delgado, stocked with everyday essentials. Displaced by conflict, Viaze rebuilt her life with support from UNHCR's gender-based violence and mental health programmes. A start-up grant and livelihoods training helped her launch her own business, showcasing the transformative potential of psychosocial support with economic empowerment.

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CHAPTER 3

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

67.8
MILLION

people were estimated to remain internally displaced due to conflict or violence as of June 2025, 8 per cent fewer than at the end of 2024.⁸⁷

10.1
MILLION

Sudan remained the largest internal displacement crisis, while the number of people displaced within the country decreased by 1.5 million and stood at 10.1 million at mid-2025.

2.9
MILLION

new internal displacements due to conflict or violence were reported worldwide between January and June 2025. Nearly eight in ten of these displacements occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Myanmar and South Sudan.

**ALMOST
5 MILLION**

IDPs returned to their place of origin, more than 2.5 times the returns reported in the same period in 2024. Most returnees were reported in Ethiopia, Sudan, Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (See the Solutions chapter for details).

Internal displacement overview

During the first half of 2025, UNHCR reported on internal displacement situations in 38 countries worldwide, with the total number of internally displaced people falling by 6 per cent to 63.9 million by the end of June (see figure 7).⁸⁸ The drop was the first such recorded decline globally since 2016, a decade ago, and it reflects fewer people displaced during the first half of the year as well as much greater numbers of IDPs returning to their homes. Unless otherwise noted, the figures in this chapter refer to IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR.

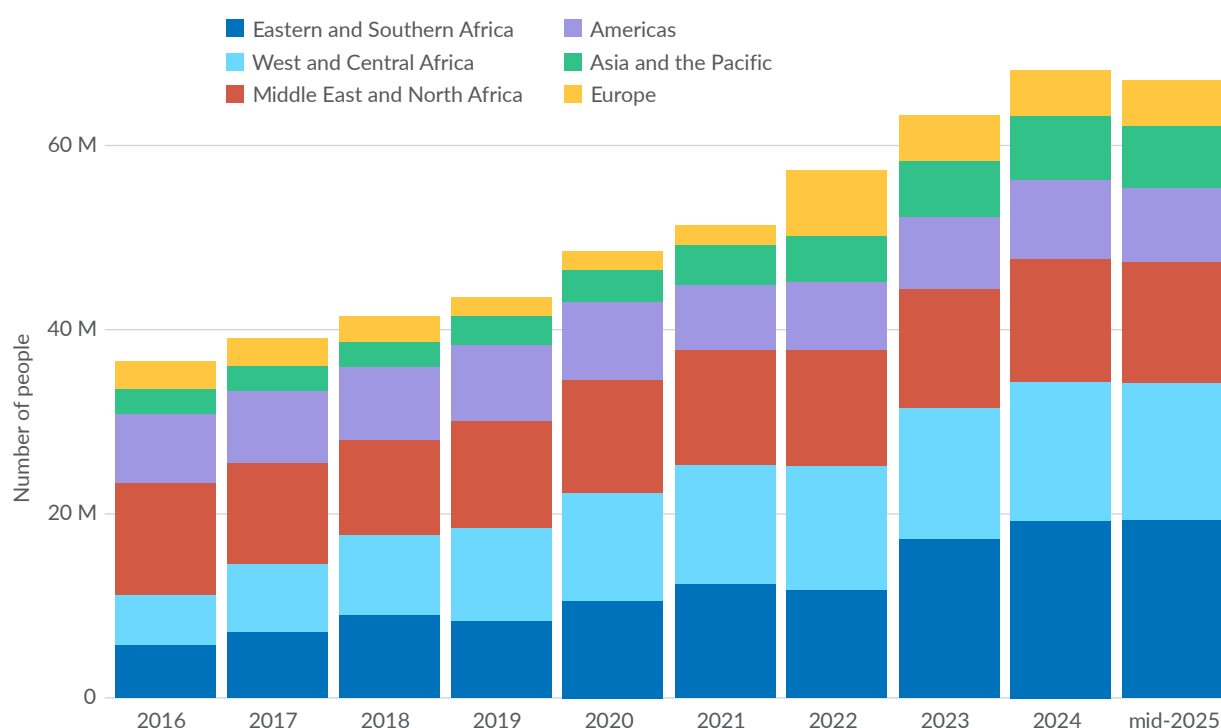
In the first six months of 2025, more than 2.9 million people were forced to flee within their country, 39 per cent fewer than in the first half of the previous year. At the same time, almost 5 million IDPs returned to their areas of origin (see the Solutions chapter for more details), nearly 3 times more than the same period of 2024. Many of the returns have been under adverse conditions and it remains unclear how sustainable these returns will be. The mid-2025 total also includes the first official estimate of the number of IDPs in Guatemala. The figure of 573,000 IDPs is derived from the 2023 National Living Conditions Survey.⁸⁹

⁸⁷ This estimate is calculated using IDMC's end-2024 figure (73.5 million people) as a base. It only reflects changes in the statistics in the 38 countries in which UNHCR reported internal displacement during the first six months of 2025, which show 5.7 million fewer IDPs at mid-2025.

⁸⁸ See [Who is included in statistics on internal displacement?](#), UNHCR and [What is the difference between population statistics for forcibly displaced and the population that UNHCR protects and/or assists?](#), UNHCR.

⁸⁹ See [El INE y ACNUR presentaron datos sobre desplazamiento interno en Guatemala](#) (the Instituto Nacional de Estadística and UNHCR presented data on internal displacement in Guatemala), September 2025, Instituto Nacional de Estadística.

Figure 7 | Number of internally displaced people | 2016 - mid-2025



Key changes in internal displacement by country

While new internal displacement was reported in 17 countries in the first six months of the year, just six of them - the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1.4 million), South Sudan (325,000), Myanmar (263,000), Haiti (243,400), Ukraine (142,000) and Nigeria (139,000) - accounted for 88 per cent of the 2.9 million people that were displaced during this period. At the same time, in Sudan, the number of IDPs estimated to remain displaced at mid-2025 fell to just over 10 million as nearly one million IDPs returned to their place of origin, notably in Al Jazirah, Khartoum and Sennar states. Nevertheless, Sudan remains the country with the highest recorded number of internally displaced people worldwide. In Syria, the number of IDPs fell by 13 per cent (-940,300) to stand at 6.5 million as nearly a million IDPs returned home.

The number of IDPs in **the Democratic Republic of the Congo** dropped by just over 1.7 million (or

-25 per cent) compared to the end of 2024 as the number of IDPs who returned (1.9 million) during the first half of 2025 exceeded the 1.4 million people newly displaced in the country. The number of IDPs remaining displaced in the country was also revised downwards by 1.7 million people.⁹⁰ Both the new displacements and the return movements were largely driven by advances of the M23 non-state armed group in the eastern regions of the country, gaining control of several urban centres and other territories including Goma, Nyabibwe and Bukavu. Attacks against civilians perpetuated by all parties to the conflict and recurrent human rights violations including conflict-related sexual violence prompted civilians to flee areas of conflict. At the same time, tens of thousands of households were compelled to return as M23 ordered the closure of all IDP settlements in and around Goma. IDPs living in the dismantled sites were forced to return to their areas of origin in unsafe and undignified circumstances or relocate to other areas with limited or no humanitarian aid.⁹¹

⁹⁰ The revision was based on the results from OCHA's May 2025 data.

⁹¹ See [DR Congo: M23 drives displaced people from Goma camps](#), February 2025, Human Rights Watch.

The situation in **South Sudan** has deteriorated sharply during 2025. Clashes between factions, state and non-state actors and intercommunal conflict have escalated and the country is teetering on the brink of renewed civil war.⁹² During the first six months of the year, 325,000 people were newly displaced as a result of conflict and instability in several states. Seasonal flooding also made the situation worse. The growing insecurity and the financial constraints experienced by many humanitarian actors have placed severe pressure on already overstretched humanitarian services, leaving many newly displaced families in urgent need of shelter, food, protection services and medical assistance. Efforts to support returns or relocation to stable areas have been hindered by continued insecurity and inadequate infrastructure. Overall, the number of IDPs decreased by 13 per cent from 944,600 at the start of the year to 818,400 by June 2025. This drop reflected updated survey estimates showing that some 451,300 people have either settled in areas of displacement or may have returned to their area of origin.

The humanitarian and protection situation in **Myanmar** has continued to deteriorate despite the ceasefire announced after the March 2025 earthquake. New displacement is nearly 3.5 times lower than during the first half of 2024. However, persistent violence, human rights violations, inter-communal tensions and discrimination have driven just over a quarter of a million people to flee in search of safety within the country during the first six months of 2025. During the same period, a similar number of IDPs returned to their places of habitual residence with the number of IDPs in the country consequently remaining unchanged at 3.5 million at mid-year.

Gang violence in **Haiti** has continued to drive displacement, within and increasingly also beyond the capital, Port-au-Prince. Over 3,100 people have been killed and almost a quarter of a million people have been displaced since the start of the year.⁹³ The violence has continued to spread beyond Port-au-Prince, particularly within the Artibonite and Centre departments. Killings, violence and abuses have been attributed to both armed gangs and

self-defence groups, overwhelming state capacity and the UN-mandated multinational security support mission. The violence in Haiti also risks destabilizing other countries in the Caribbean.⁹⁴ In the first half of 2025, 243,400 people were forced to seek safety elsewhere within Haiti, and the number of IDPs remaining displaced at mid-2025 consequently rose from 1.0 million to 1.3 million.

International armed conflict between **Ukraine** and the Russian Federation continued to have a devastating humanitarian impact, with millions in need of assistance, particularly in the eastern regions of the country. Some 142,000 people were displaced within the country in the first six months of 2025, 75 per cent less than the first half of the previous year.⁹⁵ At mid-2025, nearly 3.8 million Ukrainians (+3 per cent) remained displaced within the country.

In **Nigeria**, an estimated 139,000 people were displaced in the first half of the year, most commonly in the Northwest and Northcentral regions. The displacement has continued to be driven by insecurity, banditry and violent inter-communal clashes between farmers and herders.⁹⁶ The number of IDPs in the country rose by 4 per cent during the same period and stood at 3.6 million at mid-2025.

⁹² See [South Sudan at 'turning point' amid worsening violence, humanitarian crisis, speakers tell security council, urging renewed dialogue, end to fighting](#), August 2025, United Nations Security Council.

⁹³ See [At least 1,617 people killed in the first quarter of 2025 in Haiti](#), February 2025, United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), and [Haiti: At least 1,520 people killed in violence during the second quarter of 2025](#), August 2025, BINUH.

⁹⁴ See [Spreading gang violence poses major risk to Haiti and Caribbean sub-region, UN human rights report warns](#), July 2025, BINUH.

⁹⁵ See footnote 54.

⁹⁶ See [Report of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria 2023](#), September 2024, National Bureau of Statistics.

MEXICO. *Fleeing violence in Haiti, Giovanni (left) found safety and freedom in Mexico City where he was recognized as a refugee. With the support of UNHCR and its partners, he is rebuilding his life—learning Spanish, working as a delivery assistant while waiting for his nursing qualifications to be validated. “For the first time, I could live without fear, without stress,” he says.*

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CHAPTER 4

Asylum trends

1.8 MILLION

people sought international protection in the first half of 2025 (–31 per cent compared to the same period last year).

891,300 **456,700** **489,000**

new individual asylum applications were reported as registered (–54 per cent).

people were recognized as refugees on a group basis (+22 per cent).

people received temporary protection (+35 per cent).

305,500

people were granted refugee status through individual status determination procedures (–23 per cent).

44 PER CENT

was the total protection rate in individual procedures in the first half 2025.⁹⁷

8.4 MILLION

asylum-seekers were pending a decision on their claims at mid-2025 (+1 per cent).

Overview

During the first six months of 2025, 1.8 million people applied for asylum on an individual basis, were recognized as refugees through group procedures or were granted temporary protection. Overall, this represents a 31 per cent decrease compared to the same period in the previous year, although the number of people recognized on a group basis or granted temporary protection both rose.

The number of people recognized through group procedures rose by 22 per cent to 456,700. As in the first half of 2024, Sudanese nationals, predominantly hosted in Chad and South Sudan, accounted for more than half of all people recognized through group procedures globally (232,900).

Temporary protection was granted to more people in the first half of 2025 than the same period in 2024, with the global total rising by 35 per cent to 489,000. During the first half of the year 302,300 Ukrainians received temporary protection, predominantly within countries in Europe.⁹⁸ While the overall number of Syrian refugees decreased at mid-2025, a further 62,000 Syrians were newly granted temporary protection, almost all in Türkiye.

Conversely, between January and June, the reported total new individual asylum applications was significantly lower than during the same period in previous years, decreasing to 891,300, some 54 per cent less than the first six months of 2024.⁹⁹ This continues a downwards trend already observed in the second half of 2024 when approximately 1.1 million new individual asylum applications were reported. While part of the decrease in individual asylum

⁹⁷ See [How are asylum indicators calculated?](#), UNHCR

⁹⁸ See footnote 53.

⁹⁹ New individual applications for asylum do not necessarily mean new displacement since it could include applicants that had arrived prior to the reporting period.

applications can be accounted for by the lack of comprehensive reported asylum statistics from the United States of America,¹⁰⁰ asylum applications in all other countries worldwide were nearly one quarter lower during the first six months of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. The largest decreases in new individual asylum applications were reported in Germany (-60,100 to 61,300), Kenya (-49,000 to 17,300), Egypt (-46,800 to 162,200), Canada (-34,300 to 58,400) and Italy (-21,000 to 60,300). Recent policy changes by several countries, can be expected to lead to a further substantial reduction of new asylum applications. The reported statistics on individual asylum applications are therefore likely to become less reflective of the true number of people who would like to seek asylum. As well as the 891,300 new individual applications, 235,900 repeat or appeal applications were made for review by courts or other appellate bodies.¹⁰¹ As such, a total of 1.1 million individual asylum applications were registered in 132 countries by States or UNHCR worldwide in the first half of 2025.

The largest recipient of new individual asylum applications was Egypt (162,200), followed by four European countries, Spain (77,300), Germany (61,300), Italy (60,300) and France (60,200). Sudanese nationals (171,000) lodged the most new individual asylum applications, accounting for 1 in 5 new applications globally, with more than 90 per cent of them lodged in Egypt. New individual asylum applications by nationals of other major countries of origin were significantly lower during the first half of 2025, including by Venezuelans (-98,100 compared with the first half of 2024 to 81,900), Afghans (-17,400 to 41,100) and Syrians (-48,700 to 28,600).

Despite the steep decline in reported asylum applications during the reporting period, the number of substantive decisions on asylum applications decreased only by 2 per cent from 711,100 to 695,800, compared to the same period the year before.¹⁰² Additionally, 379,800 asylum applications were closed for administrative reasons. Nearly 305,500 decisions resulted in the recognition of the applicant's refugee protection status. The global Total Protection Rate,¹⁰³ which measures the percentage of substantive decisions in individual procedures that resulted in some form of international protection, therefore decreased substantially from 55 per cent in the first half of the previous year to 44 per cent in 2025. The decrease reflects lower acceptance rates for nationals of major countries of origin, including Afghanistan and Syria. Temporary protection and protection on a group basis are not included in this ratio. Both are important mechanisms that help increase the efficiency of asylum systems to manage situations where large numbers of people with clear international protection needs are displaced.

Figure 8 shows the trends across the last two-and-a-half years in new individual asylum applications, decisions on asylum applications, group recognition and temporary protection. While new individual asylum applications have decreased significantly from their peak in the second half of 2023, the number of decisions on asylum applications have remained relatively constant although the proportion of decisions that has resulted in a negative outcome has increased. The number of people recognized on a group basis has remained stable. Similarly, the number of people receiving temporary protection remains broadly in line with figures observed during the previous half-year periods.

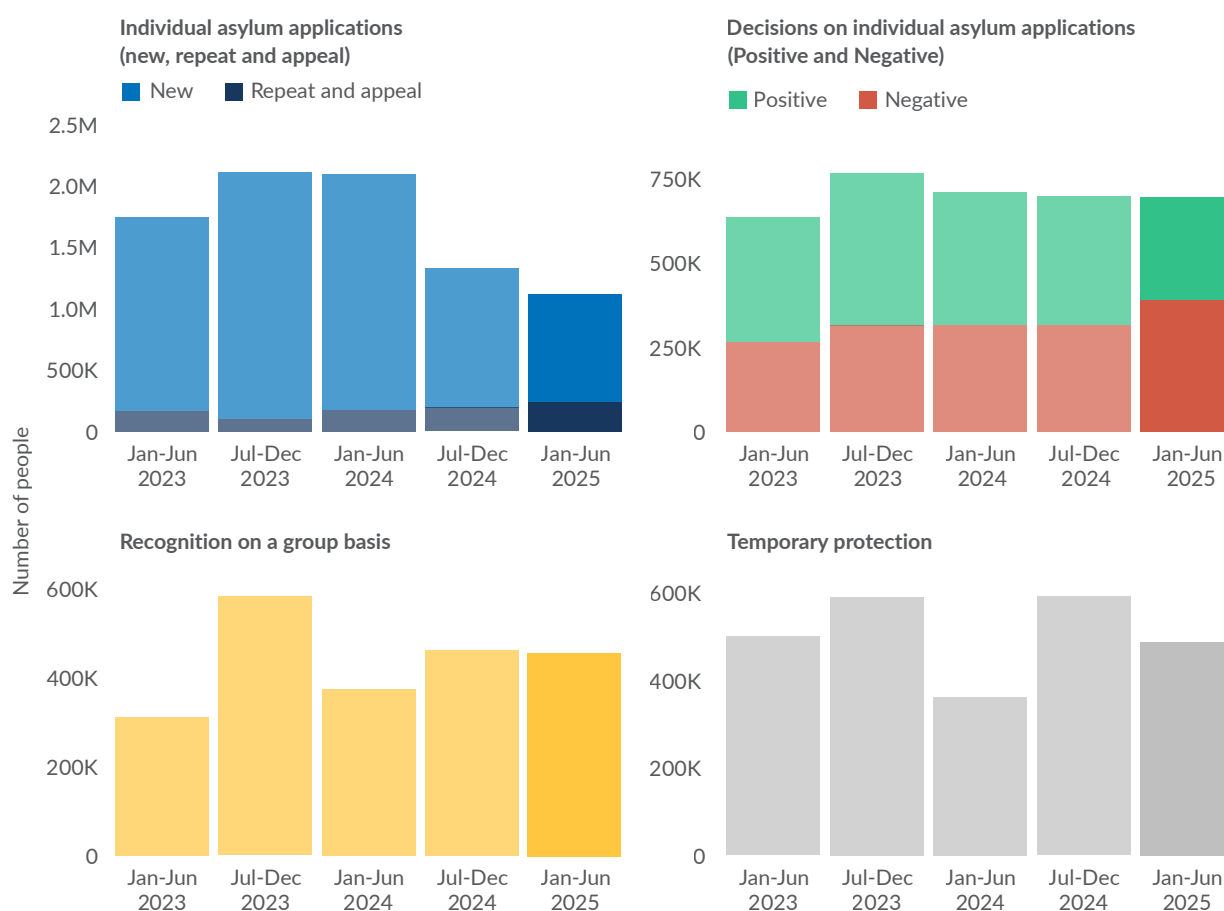
¹⁰⁰ See footnote 4.

¹⁰¹ In Australia, Bulgaria, Japan, Slovakia, South Africa and Yemen, the data on asylum applications is provided together without distinction between new, repeat and appeal applications.

¹⁰² See [How is refugee status granted?](#), UNHCR.

¹⁰³ See [How are asylum indicators calculated?](#), UNHCR.

Figure 8 | Trends in asylum applications, decisions, group recognition and temporary protections | 2023 - mid-2025 (by half year)



As the number of new asylum applications outpaced the number of substantive decisions for a ninth consecutive year, the number of asylum-seekers waiting for a decision at the end of June 2025 stood at 8.4 million, a slight increase of 1 per cent from end-2024. These figures include the 3.2 million pending asylum-seekers reported as of June 2024 within the United States of America,¹⁰⁴ which represents nearly 40 per cent of all asylum-seekers awaiting a decision globally at mid-2025. After the United States of America, Egypt (776,200, +21 per cent), Peru (548,300, +2 per cent), Germany (320,200, -8 per cent), Canada (303,400, +4 per cent), Spain (276,500, +5 per cent) and Kenya (228,300, +4 per cent) are home to the largest asylum-seeker populations.

Key asylum flows

During the first half of 2025, there were three notable trends in the registration of new individual asylum applications, recognition on a group basis or the granting of temporary protection (see figure 9). Firstly, Sudanese nationals continued to flee the devastating war in the country, with most seeking protection in neighbouring Egypt, Chad and South Sudan. Secondly, in Europe, new individual asylum applications have fallen and recognition rates for several major origin countries have decreased, notably Afghans and Syrians. Ukrainians continue to account for most people receiving international protection in Europe. Thirdly, the number of reported new individual asylum applications registered for all nationalities from Latin America and the Caribbean are sharply lower.

¹⁰⁴ See footnote 4.

Forced displacement from Sudan to neighbouring countries

During the first half of 2025, 403,900 Sudanese nationals sought international protection, a decrease of 13 per cent compared to the number during the first half of 2024. The vast majority were received by neighbouring countries and Egypt (149,000, - 23 per cent) accounted for the largest share, with the total number of Sudanese asylum-seekers in the country rising to 706,000 at mid-2025.¹⁰⁵

Chad hosts the largest number of Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers globally (1.3 million). Just over 144,000 Sudanese who fled their country received refugee protection on a group basis in Chad during the first half of 2025. South Sudan received 60,500 Sudanese refugees as the number of Sudanese refugees in the country grew to 551,300. A further 19,900 Sudanese became refugees in Uganda during the same period. Just 3 per cent of Sudanese nationals who sought international protection in the first half of 2025 fled to countries that do not directly neighbour Sudan (12,400).

Asylum applications in Europe

Countries in Europe, including Türkiye, received 415,100 new asylum applications, almost a quarter less than during January to June 2024. The drop in new asylum applications was registered in nearly all major asylum countries in Europe, including Germany (61,300, -49 per cent), Spain (77,300, -12 per cent), Italy (60,300, -26 per cent) and France (60,200, -7 per cent). In the United Kingdom, new applications grew slightly by 6 per cent to 49,700. These five countries accounted for 75 per cent of all new applications in Europe during the first half of the year.

In recent years, new individual asylum applications were most commonly made by Syrians and Afghans in Europe. However, during the first half of 2025, applications by these two nationalities were much lower (-63 per cent or 27,600 and -22 per cent or 38,400, respectively). By contrast, the 48,700 new individual asylum applications by Venezuelans in Europe represented a nearly one-third increase compared to the same period in 2024.

The Total Protection Rate for all asylum-seekers across Europe, declined from 49 per cent during the first half of 2024 to 35 per cent, with a total of 181,200 positive asylum decisions between January and June 2025. The decline was driven by a sharp drop in the number of substantive decisions issued to Syrian applicants, as most European Union countries temporarily paused the processing of Syrian asylum claims. This was combined with a lower recognition rate among Syrian applicants, largely driven by procedural factors.¹⁰⁶ At the same time, recognition rates for some other major countries of origin also fell, in particular for Afghans, Iranians, nationals of Türkiye and Ukrainians. Globally, the Total Protection rate for Syrians dropped from 96 per cent to 57 per cent between the first six months of 2024 and 2025, while for Afghans this rate reduced from 87 per cent to 67 per cent during the same period.

Just 20,600 Ukrainians lodged new individual asylum applications in Europe as nearly all Ukrainians continued to receive protection in Europe under the region's temporary protection directive. During the first half of 2025, 302,300 Ukrainians were granted temporary protection, primarily in Germany (72,200), Poland (59,000) and Czechia (34,600).¹⁰⁷

Asylum applications in the Americas region

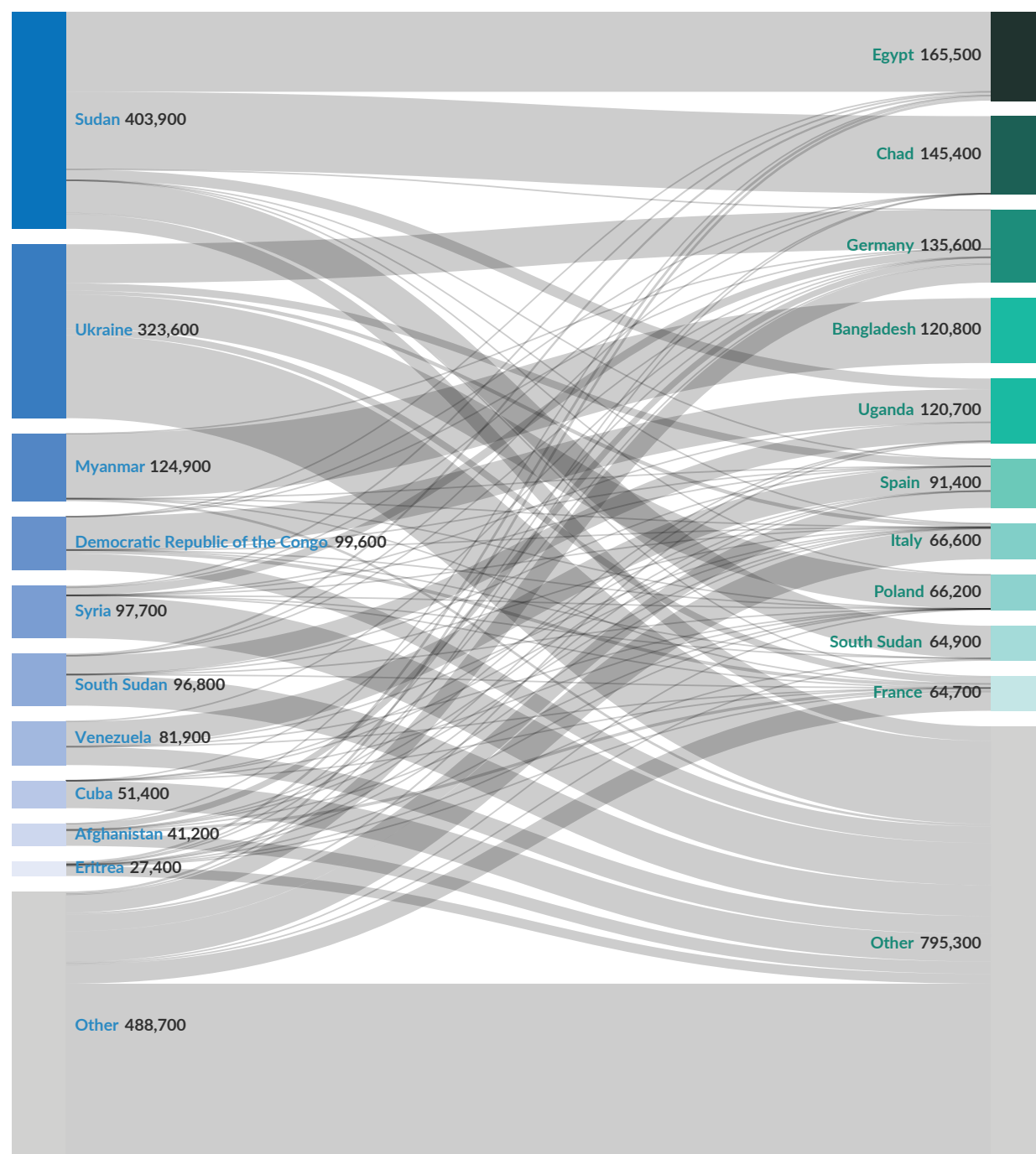
Asylum applications in the Americas region show different trends and an overall analysis is impacted by the lack of comprehensive reported data from the United States of America. Comparing the first half of 2025 with the first half of 2024, the reduction also stems from a 37 per cent decrease in the number of new individual asylum applications reported in Canada (58,400). By contrast, other countries in the region reported increases in the number of new individual asylum applications compared to the first half of 2024, including Mexico (+10 per cent to 45,500), Brazil (+16 per cent to 35,100) and Costa Rica (+39 per cent to 16,100). While new individual asylum applications from nearly all origin countries decreased in the region, applications by Cubans grew by 45 per cent to 51,100, with almost all lodged in Mexico (22,100, +150 per cent), Brazil (19,400, +155 per cent) and Uruguay (7,300, +168 per cent).

¹⁰⁵ See footnote 12.

¹⁰⁶ See [Latest asylum trends: January to June 2025](#), European Union Agency for Asylum (accessed 26 October 2025).

¹⁰⁷ See footnote 53.

Figure 9 | **Key flows of people registering new individual asylum applications, recognised on a group basis or granted temporary protection** | January – June 2025





CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. After fleeing conflict in Baoro, Francine with her 5 children returned home five years later. Now working in a shelter construction project for returnees, internally displaced persons and host community members, she earns an income and mobilizes other women to pursue financial independence and peace. “Let’s mobilize, all of us, to support the project and offer a better future to our children,” she concluded.

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CHAPTER 5

Solutions

6.9 MILLION

forcibly displaced people returned during the first half of 2025

- **Nearly 2 million** refugees returned to their countries of origin.
- **Almost 5 million** IDPs returned to their place of origin.

28,600

refugees were resettled or arrived via sponsorship pathways.¹⁰⁸

40,000

refugees were naturalized or granted permanent residency.

Overview

In the first six months of 2025, the reported statistics on IDP and refugee returns as well as refugees that have found solutions through resettlement or sponsorship pathways are markedly different from recent years. The fall in the number of people remaining forcibly displaced globally was primarily because of the large number of returnees in the first six months of the year.

Slightly more than 6.9 million refugees and IDPs returned, three times as many as the same period in the previous year, but many of the returns have been as a result of adverse conditions and it remains unclear how sustainable these returns will be. Many Syrian and Sudanese refugees and IDPs returned home. In Syria, active conflict has abated, yet insecurity persists in parts of the country and basic services remain absent or inadequate. In Sudan, returns have occurred often under adverse conditions, to small areas of relative stability, while fighting and new displacement continued elsewhere in the country. Afghan refugees had no other option

but to return under adverse circumstances from their hosting countries after the enactment of restrictive policies in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. Congolese IDPs were compelled to return to unstable areas after the dismantling of displacement sites by armed groups after they took control of Goma and surrounding territories.

By contrast, the number of refugees arriving via resettlement or sponsorship pathways was nearly three times lower than the same period in 2024, dropping from 85,000 to 28,600, according to government statistics.

Refugee returns

During the first half of 2025, 2 million refugees¹⁰⁹ were estimated to have returned to their home country, a five-fold increase compared to the same period in the previous year. Over four in five of the returnees were Afghans (874,800, 25-fold more than the same period in 2024), Syrians (526,200, 26-fold more) or Sudanese (291,200, 77 times more), as shown in figure 10.

¹⁰⁸ See [UNHCR master glossary of terms](#), UNHCR (accessed 26 October 2025).

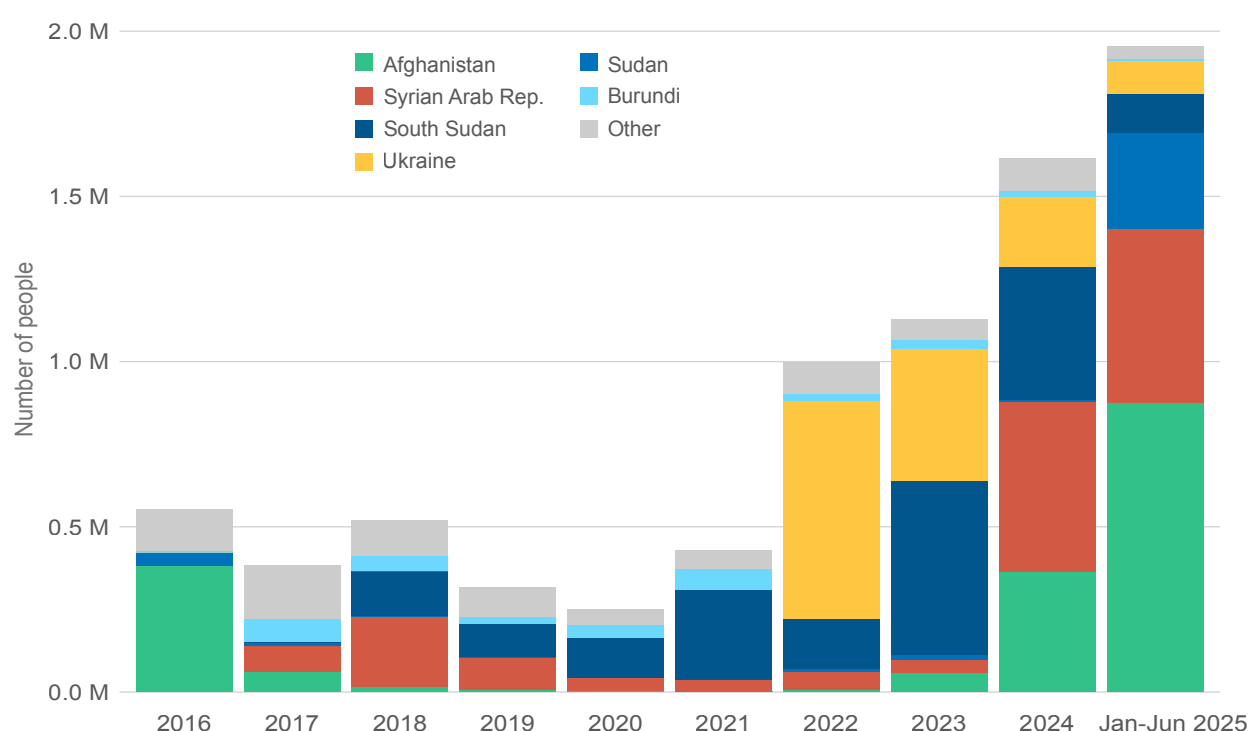
¹⁰⁹ See footnote 13.

Some 874,800 **Afghans** returned, almost all from the Islamic Republic of Iran (810,100) and Pakistan (64,100).¹¹⁰ After the fall of the Assad government in December 2024, many more **Syrians** have considered returning than in recent years, particularly those hosted in countries neighbouring Syria. In the first six months of 2025, at least 526,200 Syrians returned.¹¹¹ While the conflict in **Sudan** continues, small pockets of stability emerged in the first half of 2025. At the same time, conditions in some host countries deteriorated leading to some returns occurring under adverse conditions. Most Sudanese

returnees came back from Egypt (178,800) and South Sudan (110,300). Returns of refugees to **South Sudan** (119,100) and **Ukraine** (98,300) also continued.

While there are no official statistics on returns of Venezuelan refugees and other people in need of international protection, the Venezuelan authorities have reported some 300,000 Venezuelans have been repatriated since 2018 through the government-sponsored Plan Vuelta a la Patria while others have spontaneously returned to Venezuela over the last few years.

Figure 10 | Number of refugee returnees by country of origin | 2016-mid-2025



Refugee resettlement

In the first half of 2025, 18 countries reported 28,600 arrivals through resettlement and sponsorship pathways,¹¹² according to official government data on resettlement arrivals and UNHCR statistics on

resettlement departures. This is almost 3 times fewer than during the same period of 2024 and one-third lower than the average for the same period during the last five years. Consequently, so far in 2025, the total arrivals only accounted for one per cent of the

¹¹⁰ More than 2.2 million Afghans returned between January and early October 2025, including about half of them between January to June. For details, see the [Afghanistan situation](#), UNHCR (accessed 26 October 2025). In October 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced a new 'Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan', unveiling a scheme to expel all undocumented foreigners. On 23 February 2025, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that headcount slips for Afghans will not be extended beyond 20 March 2025. After this date, headcount slip holders are treated as individuals holding the same documentation status as undocumented foreigners with no access to healthcare, medical services, real estate transactions and other public services, marking a significant shift from previous policies toward Afghans.

¹¹¹ By mid-September, approximately 1 million Syrians have returned. See footnote 49.

¹¹² See footnote 14.

2.9 million individuals globally identified by UNHCR in 2025 as in need of resettlement.¹¹³

Figures for most receiving countries¹¹⁴ were one-quarter lower than during the same period of 2024, with almost all countries reporting lower figures. Three countries accounted for 86 per cent of total reported arrivals through resettlement and sponsorship pathways in the first half of 2025. **Canada** received 15,800 arrivals, 31 per cent less than the same period in the previous year. Most of them originated from Eritrea (4,500), Afghanistan (2,200), Somalia (1,700), Syria (1,400) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1,300). Approximately 7,900 resettled refugees arrived in **Australia** and 1,000 arrived in **France**. Overall, Afghans (6,200) accounted for the largest number of arrivals, followed by Eritreans (5,100), Syrians (3,900) and Congolese (2,200).

Refugee local integration

Comprehensive data on local integration remains scarce. As a proxy, statistics on naturalization and the granting of permanent residence permits are used to assess local integration outcomes. Positively, the number of refugees who acquired citizenship in their host countries or were granted permanent residency increased by 51 per cent, with 40,000 recorded during the first six months of 2025.

Based on the data received from 18 host countries, this total included refugees from 158 countries of origin. Just over 85 per cent of the reported total occurred in Canada (8,600, -23 per cent compared to the first half of 2024), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (7,100, -32 per cent), Armenia (6,700, a three-fold increase), Sweden (6,600) and Norway (5,000). Reporting on naturalization in Sweden and Norway only commenced at the end of 2024. Most of the refugees who naturalized or were granted permanent residence were from Syria (8,600), Azerbaijan (6,800), Afghanistan (2,500) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (2,300).

IDP returns

Whether a formerly displaced person has been able to overcome their displacement-related vulnerabilities is not necessarily indicated by the process of their return to their place of origin. If returns occur under adverse circumstances forcing them to prematurely and involuntarily leave their displacement areas, or if their areas of origin remain unstable, or if the prospects for reintegration are limited, the risk of renewed displacement remains high.

Thirteen countries reported a total of 5 million IDP returnees during the first six months of 2025. Just three countries accounted for almost four in five of all returnees (see figure 11). In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, an estimated 1.9 million IDPs returned.¹¹⁵ This was the largest number of returns during the period and a four-fold increase from the same period of the previous year. IDP settlements around Goma were forced to close by M23 after they took control of the city and surrounding areas. This led to many IDPs having to return to areas of origin still marred by active conflict or relocate to other areas with limited or no humanitarian aid.¹¹⁶

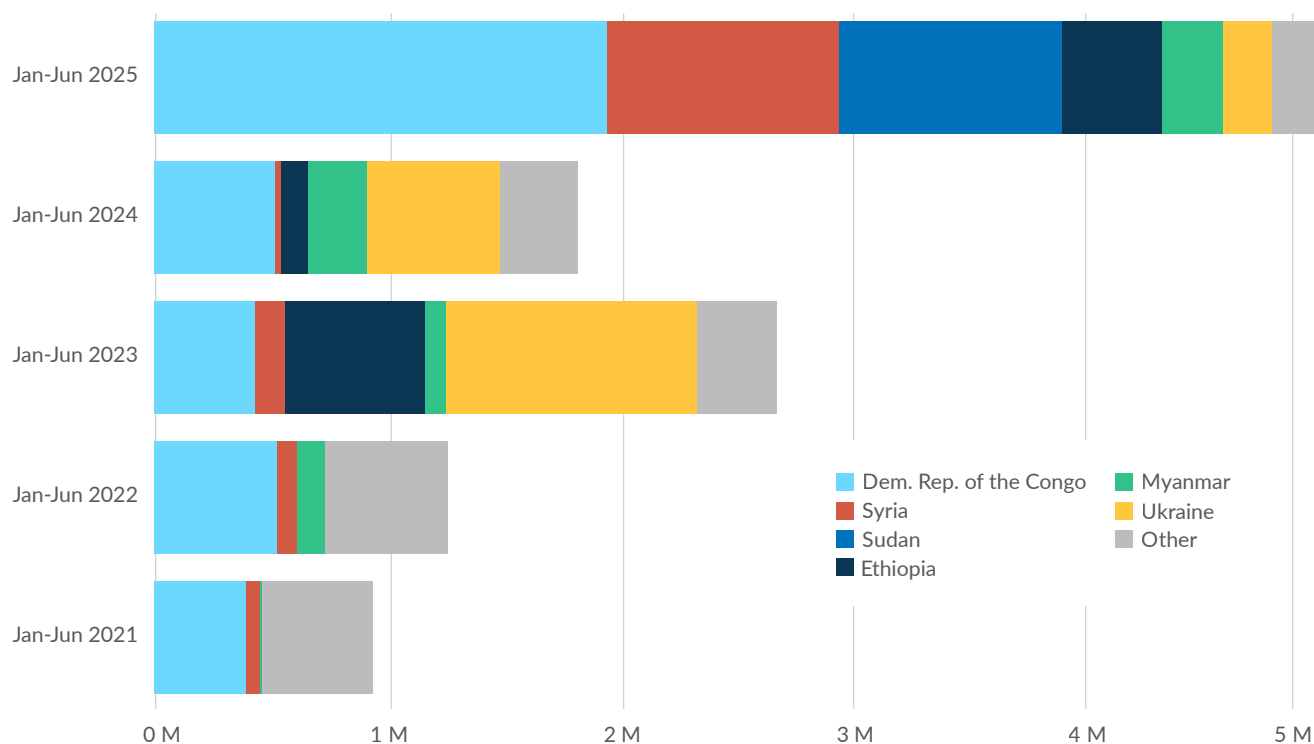
In the same period, almost one million IDPs in **Syria** (992,500) returned to their place of origin. Growing numbers of Syrians have aspired to return home following the fall of the Assad government in December 2024. In **Sudan**, nearly a million IDPs (958,000) returned to areas no longer affected by active conflict. Elsewhere, large numbers of returns were also reported within **Ethiopia** (434,200), **Myanmar** (261,400) and **Ukraine** (208,000).

¹¹³ See [Projected global resettlement needs 2025](#), June 2024, UNHCR.

¹¹⁴ See footnote 4.

¹¹⁵ The number of IDP returnees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo covers January to May 2025. See [Democratic Republic of the Congo: Displacement, Returnees, Site assessment](#), OCHA (accessed 26 October 2025).

¹¹⁶ See [Back to ruins: The displaced Congolese forced home by M23 rebels](#), July 2025, The New Humanitarian.

Figure 11 | **Number of IDP returns by country** | January to June 2021 – January to June 2025

ETHIOPIA. Jamil, 41, a Syrian refugee after fleeing the conflict in his country with his wife and three children found a fresh start in Bishoftu. Thanks to the Ethiopian Government's initiative to integrate refugees and asylum-seekers in the Fayda digital national ID system which grants refugees access to healthcare, education and business licenses, he opened a pastry shop and now supports his family—proof that inclusive policies can transform lives.

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CHAPTER 6

Stateless people

4.4 MILLION

people are estimated to be stateless at mid-2025 and the true number is likely to be much higher.

7 in 10

are reported in only four countries.

2 in 5

reported stateless people are Rohingya, of whom more than 80 per cent are also forcibly displaced.

Overview

An estimated 4.4 million people were reported to be stateless or of undetermined nationality at mid-2025, a slight increase from recent years.¹¹⁷ The increase of 71,400 people since the end of 2024 is mainly due to a rise in the number of Rohingya reported in Bangladesh. The estimated global total encompasses stateless people — those not recognized as nationals by any country — and persons with undetermined nationality, who lack proof of nationality and have ties to multiple states or are treated by the country of residence as having potential claims to nationality elsewhere.

At the end of June 2025, 101 countries reported data on known stateless populations based on various sources encompassing censuses, surveys, and quantitative and qualitative studies. The true number of stateless people is, however, considered to be much higher than the reported global total. This is because under half of all countries do not report any data on statelessness to UNHCR, including several with significant known stateless populations, and

some countries provide data for only a portion of the stateless population within their borders.

More than 70 per cent of the reported global total lived in only ten countries. The largest stateless population at mid-2025 remained the Rohingya from Myanmar (1.8 million, +4 per cent). Approximately 83 per cent of them are forcibly displaced, with **Bangladesh** hosting 1.1 million of them as refugees, an increase of 14 per cent from the end of end-2024. This increase was due to the reporting of new arrivals from Myanmar to Bangladesh that have been identified since February 2021,¹¹⁸ almost all of whom are stateless, as continued persecution of the Rohingya in Rakhine State and the ongoing conflict in Myanmar, have forced many to flee to Bangladesh. An additional 137,600 stateless Myanmar nationals were reported in Bangladesh by the end of June 2025, reflecting the registration of refugees who had arrived during the last 18 months and, to a smaller extent, children born to already registered refugees. Within **Myanmar**, there are 550,500 reported stateless Rohingya, a decrease of 11 per cent or 68,900 people compared to end-2024. Close to 43 per cent of them are also forcibly displaced within the country. There

¹¹⁷ See [Methodology, Refugee Data Finder](#), UNHCR.

¹¹⁸ New arrivals biometrically identified by Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR. See [Myanmar situation](#), UNHCR (accessed 26 October 2025).



NORTH MACEDONIA. After living over 50 years without a nationality, Amina smiles proudly, holding her new identity card. "I felt imprisoned, as if locked away, while everyone else was free to travel", she recalls. With support from UNHCR and the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, she gained Macedonian citizenship in 2025, a moment she describes as being "born again".

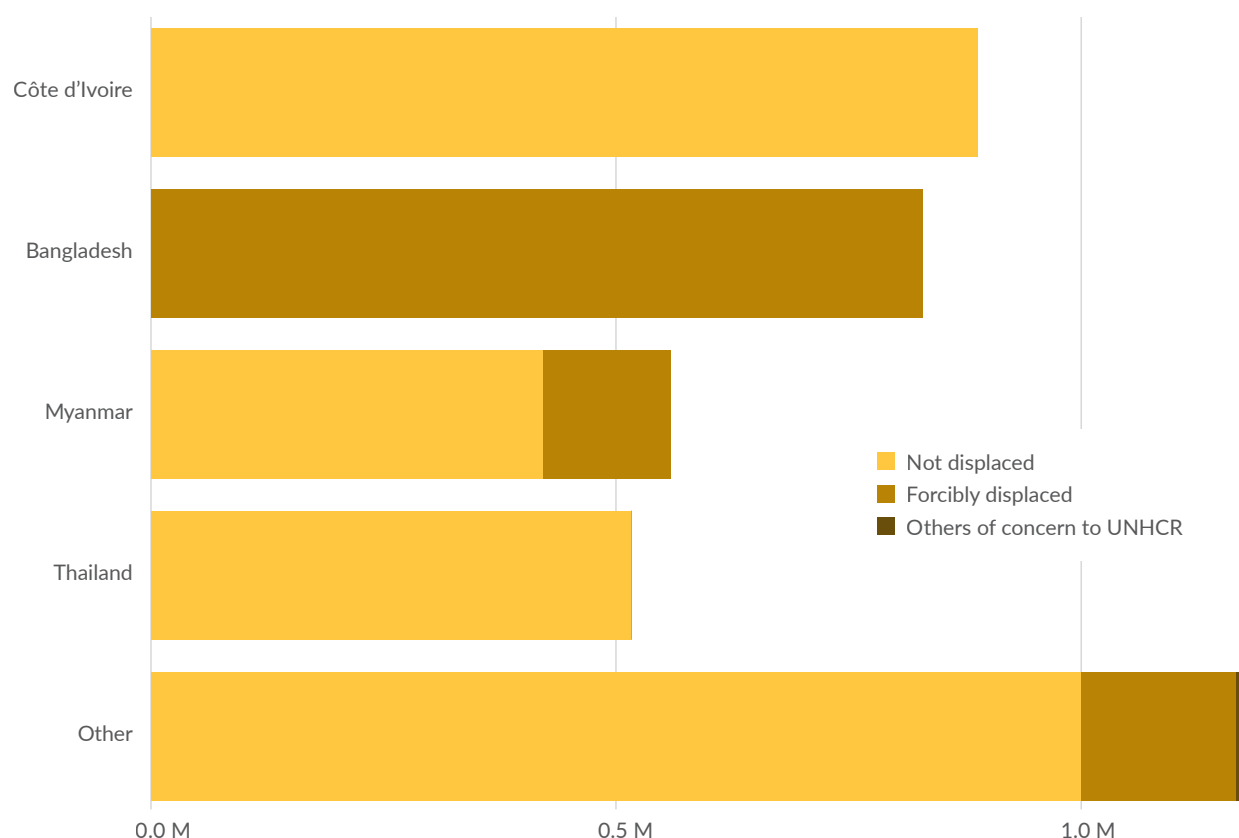
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were also large stateless Rohingya populations reported in e.g. Malaysia (119,100) and India (23,300).

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the reported total number of stateless people or persons of undetermined nationality remained at 931,000 (see figure 12). The root causes of statelessness in Côte d'Ivoire relate to the complicated nationality law framework and the civil status and identification systems, intertwined with the country's migration history.¹¹⁹

In **Thailand**, some 612,000 people are reported as stateless, most of whom belong to ethnic minorities. With the recent decision by the Royal Thai government to accelerate pathways to permanent residency and nationality for stateless people in the country,¹²⁰ the number is expected to drop significantly as the implementation of the decision progresses.

Figure 12 | Stateless people by country and displacement status | mid-2025



Progress by mid-2025

Several countries made important progress towards reducing and preventing statelessness and protecting stateless people. **North Macedonia** became the first country in Europe to resolve all known cases of statelessness due to the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Since

2001, nearly 20,000 stateless people have acquired citizenship in North Macedonia.¹²¹ In line with the earlier announcement of an accelerated pathway for stateless people to permanent residency and nationality, **Thailand** simplified these application processes, including significant decreases in the processing times.¹²²

¹¹⁹ See [Statelessness and nationality in Côte d'Ivoire](#), December 2016, UNHCR.

¹²⁰ See [News comment: Thailand takes major step towards ending statelessness](#), November 2024, UNHCR, and [Thailand moves forward on historic statelessness resolution](#), May 2025, UNHCR.

¹²¹ See [North Macedonia ends statelessness caused by Yugoslavia's dissolution](#), July 2025, UNHCR.

¹²² See [A historic step towards ending statelessness in Thailand](#), July 2025, UNHCR.

In **Mali**, a new law guarantees equal rights of stateless people to health care, education, employment, housing and access to justice. This law also provides pathways to obtain Malian nationality and protects stateless people from penalties due to a lack of legal documents.¹²³ **Viet Nam** amended the law on acquisition of nationality to prevent Vietnamese living abroad from becoming stateless.¹²⁴ **Slovenia** acceded to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,¹²⁵ implementing its Global Refugee Forum 2023 pledge.

In the **Islamic Republic of Iran**, 4,900 identity booklets (Shenasnameh) were issued to children of Iranian mothers and non-Iranian fathers between March 2024 and March 2025. Since March 2019, a total of 31,000 have been distributed. In **Afghanistan**, some 2,500 people were registered to acquire identity documents, mainly identity cards and birth certificates, and in the **Philippines**, 4,200 individuals

at risk of statelessness were supported to register their births.¹²⁶

The Global Alliance to End Statelessness has gained significant support since it was launched in 2024; at its first anniversary in October 2025, it had 152 members, including 25 States, 15 intergovernmental organizations and UN agencies and 20 stateless-led organizations.¹²⁷ It is clear that the positive steps taken by many governments, along with the growing number of those joining the Global Alliance, demonstrate real momentum toward accelerating progress to end statelessness globally. It is critical that governments and other stakeholders step up their efforts to ensure this momentum is sustained and translated into concrete outcomes — both for those who remain stateless and to prevent new cases of statelessness.

¹²³ See [UNHCR applauds Mali's adoption of landmark law to protect stateless people](#), June 2025, UNHCR.

¹²⁴ See [Legislators approve revised law on Vietnamese nationality](#), June 2025, Government News.

¹²⁵ See [Slovenia ratifies the convention on the reduction of statelessness](#), January 2025, Republic of Slovenia.

¹²⁶ See [Spotlight on statelessness January-June 2025](#), September 2025, UNHCR.

¹²⁷ See [Global Alliance to End Statelessness](#).

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 downloaded from 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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MID-YEAR TRENDS 2025

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FRONT COVER

SYRIA. *Ikrimah, 78, and his two daughters, Basmah and Awatif, stand outside their damaged home in Daraa, southern Syria. He returned to Syria with his daughters after spending over 12 years as a refugee in Jordan. His three sons remain in Jordan, two in Irbid and one in Zaatari camp. Ikrimah hopes to reunite with his sons soon, with two of them planning to return. The family home requires rehabilitation to accommodate them upon arrival.*

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