



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

ASIA & THE PACIFIC REGIONAL TRENDS

FORCED
DISPLACEMENT
2021



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Front cover image: © UNHCR/Oxygen Film Studio (Afghanistan)

A child from a displaced family at a settlement for displaced people in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Figures at a glance

11.3 MILLION

TOTAL¹ PERSONS OF CONCERN
to UNHCR in Asia and the Pacific
at the end of 2021.

The total population of concern to UNHCR relates to the people UNHCR is mandated to protect and assist. It includes those who have been forcibly displaced (refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and Venezuelans displaced abroad); those who have returned home within the previous year; those who are stateless (most of whom are not forcibly displaced); and other groups of concern to whom UNHCR has extended its protection or provided assistance on a humanitarian basis.

4.4 MILLION
refugees, people in
refugee-like situations and
asylum-seekers

4.4 MILLION
internally displaced persons
(IDPs)

1.1 MILLION
IDP returnees

2.4 MILLION
stateless persons

98%
hosted in low-and
middle-income countries

88%
hosted in
neighbouring countries

52%
are children

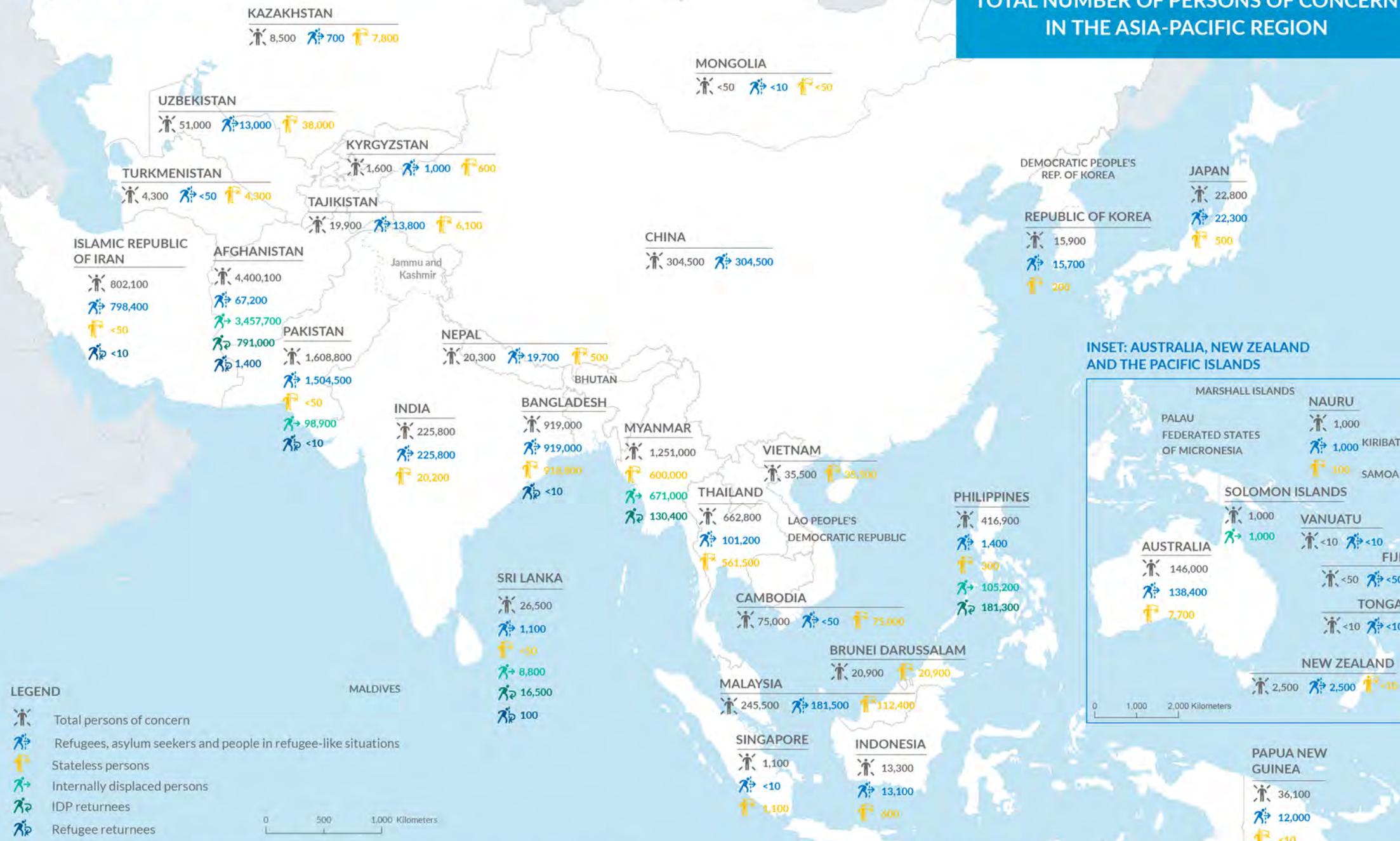
Children are disproportionately represented: they account for 28 per cent³ of the region's population, but make up 52 per cent of persons of concern in the region.

- ¹ Total does not add up because of double status of displaced stateless persons, who will be included in both stateless and other corresponding categories, like refugees, IDPs, or asylum-seekers.
- ² The proportion of children is based on the availability of disaggregated data by age and gender for all POCs (78% of 11.3 M)
- ³ Data Source: World Population Prospects 2019 (<https://population.un.org/wpp/>)

REFUGEES, STATELESS PERSONS, IDPS AND RETURNEES IN THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION as end of 2021

11.3 M

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS OF CONCERN IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The total number of persons of concern in Asia and the Pacific by the end of 2021 stood at 11.3 million, a 15 per cent increase from 2020. The region hosts 12 per cent of the global total of persons of concern to UNHCR (11.3 million out of 94.7 million). This includes 19 per cent of the world's refugees (4.2 million of 21.3 million) within UNHCR's mandate and 56 per cent of the world's recorded stateless population (2.4 million out of 4.3 million).

Figure 1 | Population groups in Asia Pacific | 2020 - 2021



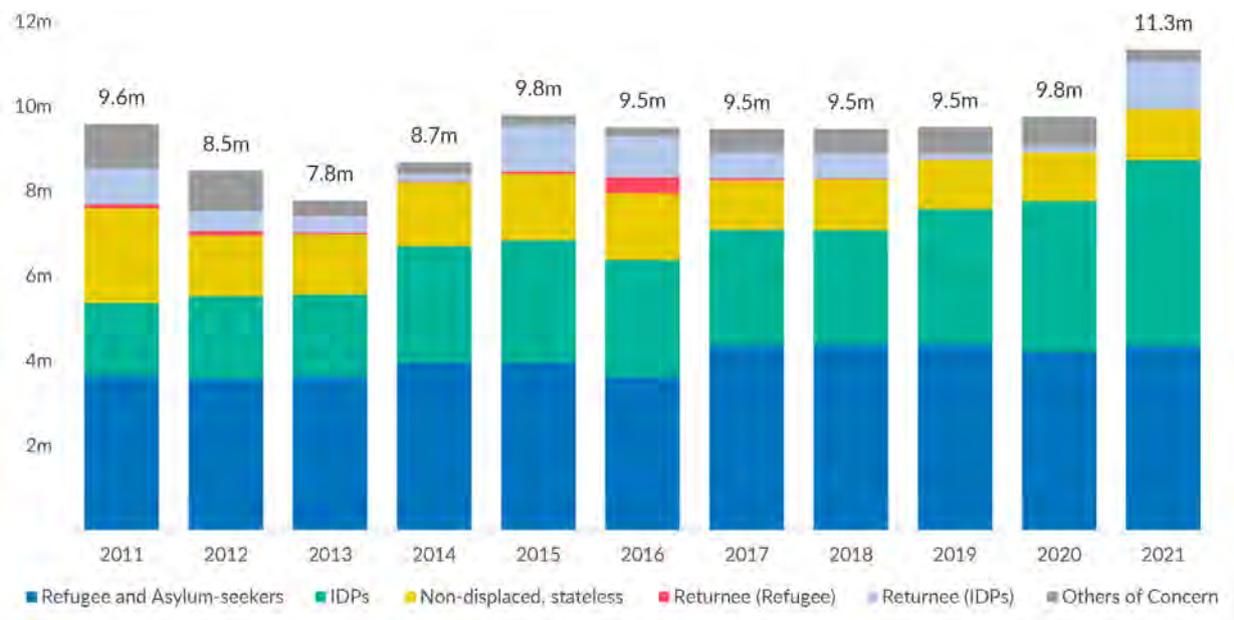
* Includes stateless displaced



Rohingya refugee girls attend a class in Kutupalong refugee camp, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

As of end-2021, there were 4.2 million refugees, 4.4 million IDPs, 2.4 million recorded stateless persons (including displaced stateless persons), 1.1 million IDP returnees, 0.2 million asylum-seekers, and some 1,600 refugee returnees in Asia and the Pacific. Compared to the previous year, the highest increases concern IDP returnees (an increase of 622 per cent) and IDPs (an increase of 23 per cent). There are slight increases in refugee and stateless population groups: 3 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

Figure 2 | Persons of concern in Asia Pacific | 2011 - 2021



Over the last decade, the overall trends in the region show a steady increase since 2011 with a spike in 2021. In the last 10 years, the population of refugees and asylum-seekers remained relatively stable with an average of +/- 5 per cent change between the end of each year. The non-displaced stateless population has declined by 47 per cent, from 2.3 million to 1.2 million. This reduction is due to actions undertaken by governments in providing nationality to stateless people. Over the years, the internally displaced population has become a major population group in the region, increasing by over 130 per cent since 2011. Overall trends of refugee returnees in the region during this period have been decreasing with a spike in 2016. Returned IDPs trends decreased during the first half of the decade with a spike in 2015 and 2016. In 2021, there is a steep increase of returned IDPs in the region.

The availability of disaggregated data by age and gender varies widely between countries and population groups. Demographics data is available for 78 per cent of persons of concern to UNHCR in Asia-Pacific, a big increase from 65 per cent in 2020. This progress was made possible by the collaboration between UNHCR and academia to use statistical modelling to impute the sex and age-distribution for missing demographic data of Afghan refugees in Iran.

Looking at the available demographic data of persons of concern, 76 per cent of them are women (18+ female) and children (under 18), and 4 per cent are elderly people above 60. 52 per cent of all of persons of concern in the region are children, which is almost double compared to the proportion of children in the region, where children make up 28 per cent of the region's population.

Figure 3 | **Percentage of children in populations of concern to UNHCR and total population in the region**

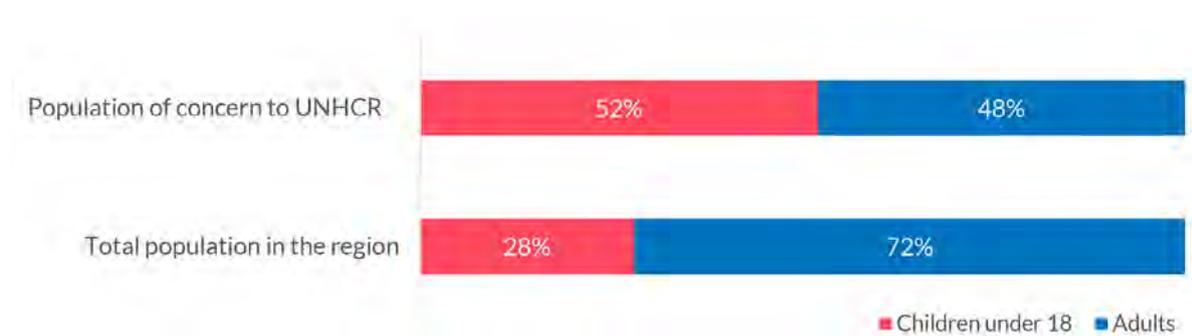
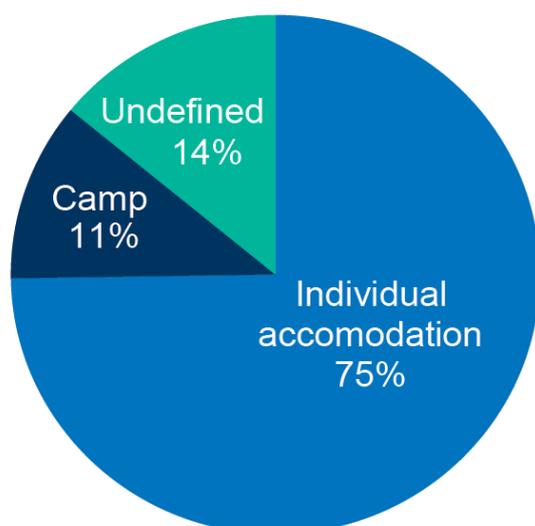


Figure 4 | **Accommodation type | 2021**



Of the total number of persons of concern in the region, 11 per cent resided in managed camp or camp-like settings, while 75 per cent resided out of camps with individual accommodation. Some 14 per cent lived in undefined accommodation types. Of those residing in camps, 56 per cent are in Bangladesh and 29 per cent in Pakistan.

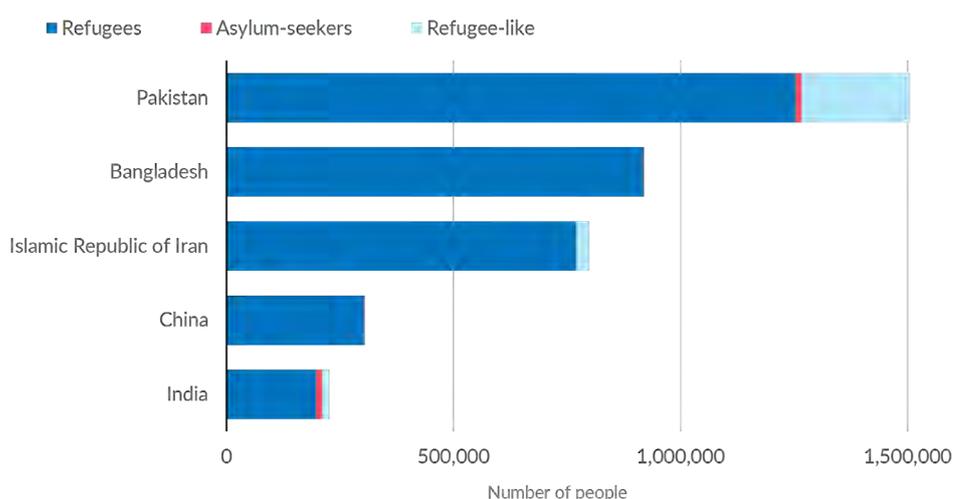
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Chapter 2

The number of refugees in the Asia and the Pacific region grew by 138,400 people in 2021, reaching 4.2 million, or 19 per cent of the global refugee population under UNHCR's mandate. This represents a 3 per cent increase compared to 2020. The number of asylum-seekers remains almost the same at 206,000. Most people fleeing conflict and persecution prefer to remain near their country of origin. In 2021, 88% of refugees and asylum-seekers in the Asia-Pacific are residing in neighbouring countries.

By country of asylum

Figure 5 | People displaced across borders by host country | 2021



Pakistan remains the largest hosting country⁴ in the Asia-Pacific region. The refugee and refugee-like populations in Pakistan, almost all of whom are Afghans, were almost 1.5 million. By the time of December 2021⁵, the Documentation Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE) in Pakistan recorded 1,252,800 registered Afghan Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders. A further 129,700 Unregistered Members of Registered Families (UMRFs) are pending verification at the time of reporting. During 2021, some 108,000 Afghans who fled to Pakistan were pre-screened by UNHCR. As of 28 February 2022, DRIVE conducted 1,418,676 interviews, including 135,745 UMRFs, and 886,903 new PoR smartcards had been received by refugees. This number will rise to approximately 1 million once all cards are distributed. After the completion of the DRIVE exercise at the end of February 2022, the registered Afghan refugee population was 1,282,963.

According to the government of Pakistan, as of June 2022 some 250,000 new Afghans have arrived since August 2021⁶.

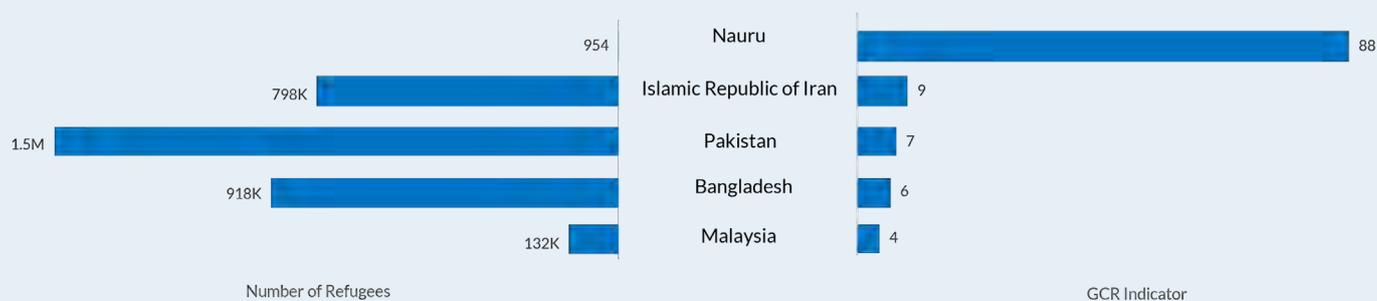
⁴ Fourth largest globally behind Türkiye, Colombia and Uganda.

⁵ As of 31 December 2021

⁶ Data source: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2022/6/62aca7074/unhcr-deputy-chief-concludes-visit-afghanistan-pakistan-urges-support-address.html>

Bangladesh is the second-largest hosting country with 918,900 refugees, followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, which hosted 798,300 refugees⁷. Some 304,000 refugees and asylum-seekers were hosted in China, among which 303,100 are Vietnamese refugees registered with the government⁸.

Figure 6 | **Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) Complementary Indicator | 2021**



95% of refugees in the region resides in developing (low- and middle-income) countries, while high-income countries hosted only 5 per cent of refugees. Comparing the size of the refugee population with that of the host country provides a complementary measure of the impact of hosting refugees and the scale of the burden. The number of refugees per 1,000 de facto inhabitants — a Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) complementary indicator — gives a relative perspective of the scale of burden in host countries. The top refugee-hosting countries in Asia-Pacific are Nauru⁹ (88 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants), Iran (9 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants), Pakistan (7 per 1,000), Bangladesh (6 per 1,000), and Malaysia (4 per 1,000).



A young Afghan refugee stands next to his father while he participates in a DRIVE exercise in Pakistan.

⁷ This includes around 770,500 refugees and 27,800 UNHCR pre-registered new arrivals. Based on information received from the Government in October 2020, the Islamic Republic of Iran hosts 800,000 refugees, of which 780,000 are Afghan Amayesh cardholders and 20,000 are Iraqi Hoviat cardholders. These cards effectively offer refugee status to their holders. UNHCR has been in continuous engagement with the authorities in relation to these figures ever since. In view of the absence of updated data, UNHCR sought to estimate the changes in the refugee population considering the natural growth and onward movements, estimating the total to be some 770,000 refugees (out of which 750,000 were Afghans and 20,000 Iraqis).

⁸ This group of people is well integrated and in practice receives protection from the Government of China.

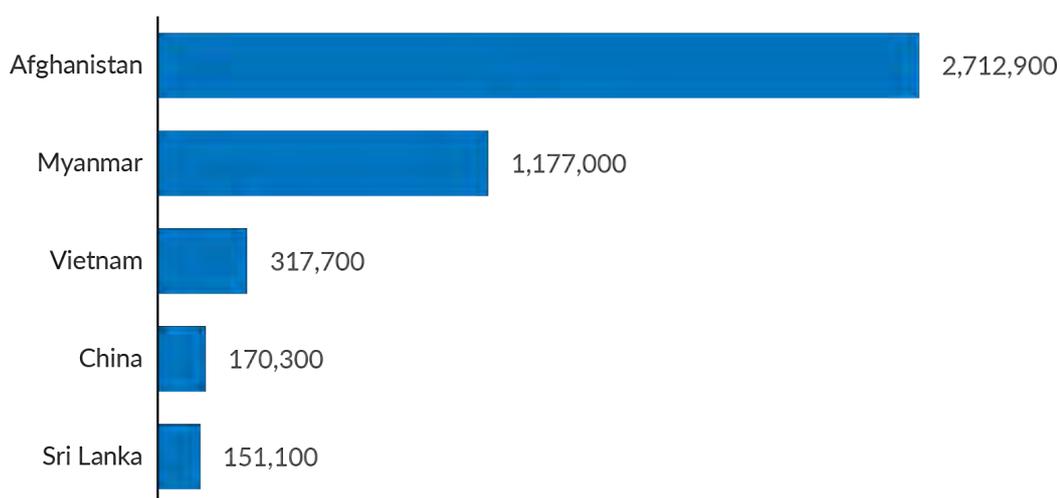
⁹ The Republic of Nauru is an independent UN member state and covered by the UNHCR Multi-Country Representation based in Australia, because of its small size with limited natural resources, narrow-based economies, large distances from major markets, and vulnerability to external shocks, such as COVID-19. The 88 per 1,000 is the standardized GCR complementary indicator based on 954 refugees hosted by this small country with a population of 11,000. The majority of the refugees have been evacuated to a processing centre in Australia for medical reasons.

By country of origin

The Afghan refugee population continues to be the largest in the region and the third largest¹⁰ refugee population globally, with 2.7 million refugees hosted by 98 countries. The numbers grew by almost five per cent (118,000) in 2021, driven by new outflows to neighbouring countries: Pakistan (108,000) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (27,800), as well as newly registered births and new recognitions in Europe (59,100) and Asia and the Pacific (6,000).

Myanmar is the second-largest country of origin of refugees in Asia-Pacific and the fifth largest in the world. In 2021, the number of refugees grew by seven percent (73,800) to reach 1.2 million, with more than three-quarters hosted in Bangladesh. The increase in 2021 was primarily due to the registration of new births, including the backlog from 2020, as registration resumed in 2021 after being suspended due to COVID-19. India and Thailand also received an estimated of 15,000 and 15,700, respectively, new arrivals from Myanmar in 2021. In Thailand, most of the new arrivals have returned to Myanmar.

Figure 7 | **Refugees by country of origin in Asia Pacific | 2021**



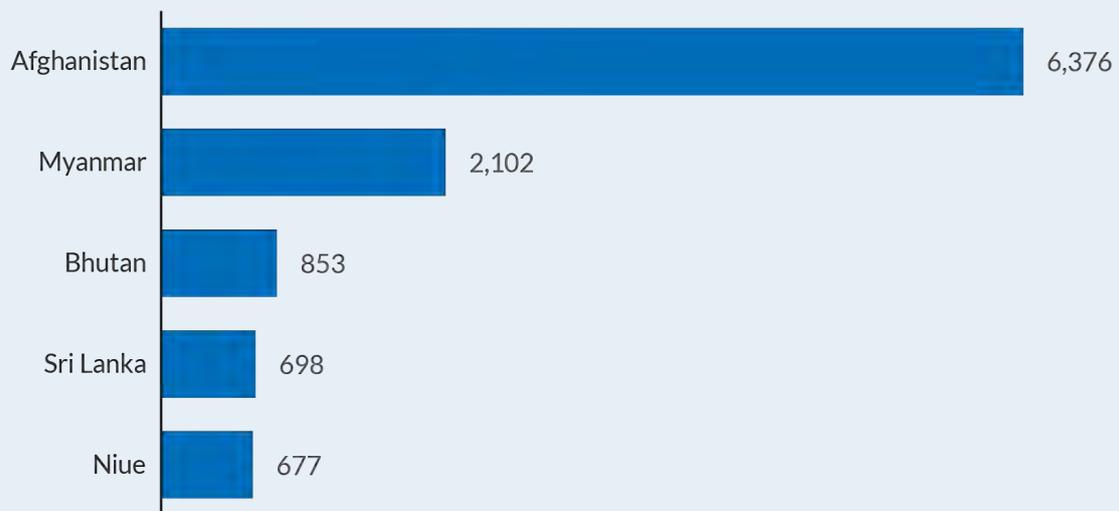
© UNHCR/Vincent Tremeau

Amir Khan, 65-year-old Rohingya refugee, works at sewing clothes in Kutupalong refugee camp, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

¹⁰ Following Syria (6.8 million) and Venezuela (4.6 million).



Figure 8 | **SDG Indicator 10.7.4 | 2021**

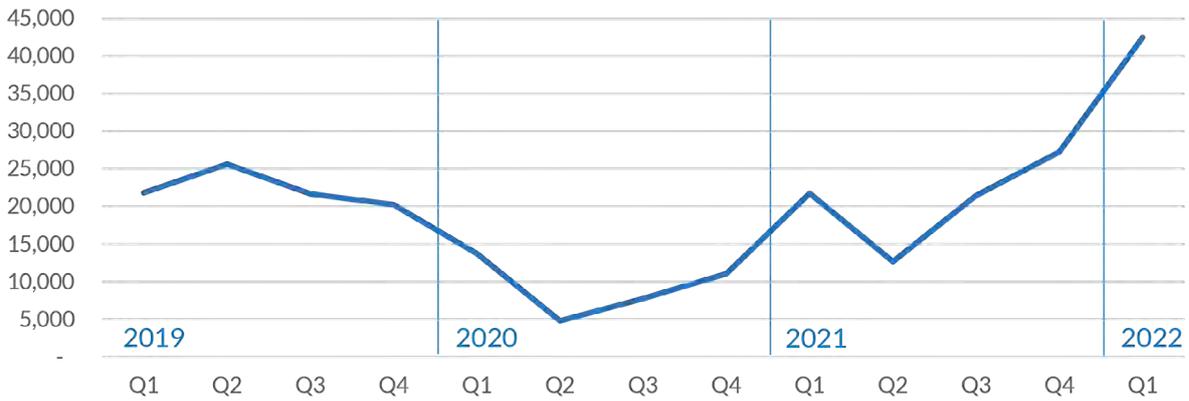


The proportion of a country's population who become refugees – SDG indicator 10.7.4 – is a useful way to identify the countries of origin with the most refugees relative to their number of inhabitants. The countries that have seen the greatest proportion of their national population becoming refugees are Afghanistan (6,376 per 100,000 inhabitants), Myanmar (2,102 per 100,000), Bhutan (853 per 100,000), Sri Lanka (698 per 100,000) and Niue¹¹(677 per 100,000).

¹¹ Niue is an independent state in a special relationship with New Zealand and is not a member of the UN. It is covered by the UNHCR Multi-Country Representation based in Australia, because of its small size with limited natural resources, narrow-based economies, large distances from major markets, and vulnerability to external shocks, such as COVID-19. The 677 per 100,000 is the standardized SDG indicator based on 11 refugees from 1,614 population.

New registration trends of refugees in PRIMES¹²

Figure 9 | **Estimated new registration trends by quarter in UNHCR operations using PRIMES | 2019 - 2022**



UNHCR operations using UNHCR PRIMES corporate tools show that registration numbers more than doubled (+122%) between 2020 and 2021. In 2021, several countries in the region reduced COVID-related restrictions, resulting in an improved access by refugees and asylum-seekers to UNHCR registration. In Bangladesh, the registration figures increased significantly (by 400%) as access to the camps to conduct new birth and new arrivals registration was reinstated. Similarly, registration figures in India increased compared to 2021, in particular for new asylum-seekers from Myanmar and Afghanistan approaching UNHCR in the first quarter of 2022, as the country opened up in-person registration. However, operations in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand were still impacted by sporadic COVID-19 restrictions throughout the year, resulting in slight reductions in new registration figures.



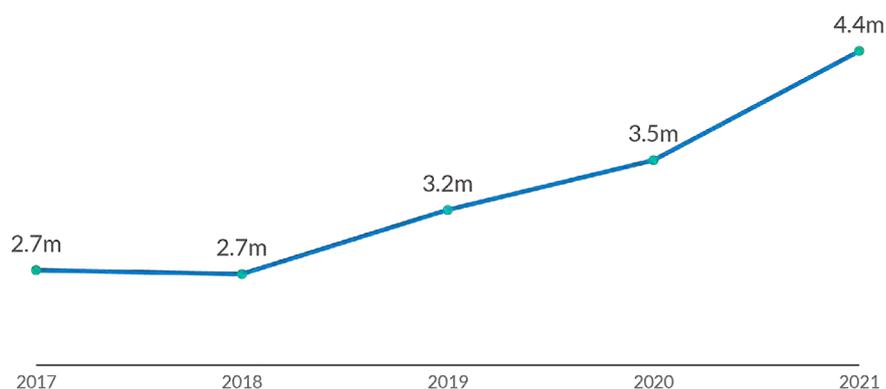
¹² Population Registration and Identity Management Eco-System: Platform for all UNHCR registration

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Chapter
3

Figure 10 | IDP trends in Asia Pacific | 2017 - 2021

In the region, the number of people displaced inside their own countries due to armed conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations continued to grow in 2021. By the end of 2021, there were 4.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the region, a 23 per cent increase compared to the end of 2020.

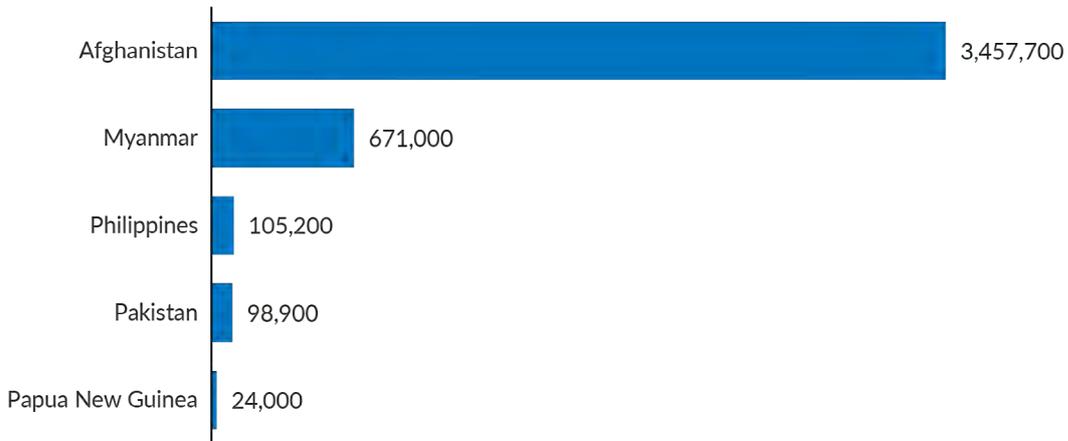


© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Gul Khan* and his family were forced to flee their home in Nangarhar province to Kabul in 2018 due to fighting between Taliban and government forces.

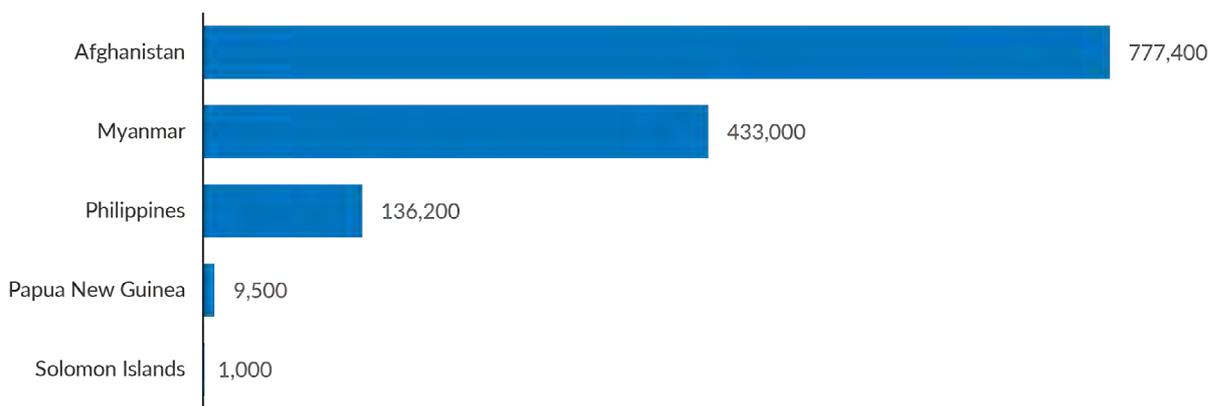
*Name changed for protection reasons

Figure 11 | Countries with the most conflict-induced IDPs | 2021



In the region, 7 countries reported conflict-induced IDPs. Countries with the most conflict-induced IDPs by the end of 2021 were Afghanistan (3.5 million), Myanmar (671,000), and the Philippines (105,200). In Afghanistan, around 777,400 Afghans¹³ were newly displaced in 2021 alone. For over four decades, Afghanistan experienced successive conflicts which forced millions to flee their homes. The latest conflict ran for 20 years and mainly pitted government and foreign forces against the Taliban; it ended with the Taliban takeover of Kabul in August 2021. In Myanmar, the military takeover in February 2021 ignited violence in existing and new locations, leading to 433,000 new displacements in 2021.

Figure 12 | Newly displaced IDPs in Asia Pacific | 2021



In the Philippines, 136,200 were newly displaced in 2021 which is an increase of 30 per cent compared to newly displaced in 2020. In the Pacific subregion, according to IDMC, there are newly displaced conflict-induced IDPs in Papua New Guinea¹⁴ (9,500) and Solomon Islands¹⁵ (1,000).

¹⁴ Source IDMC: Papua New Guinea | IDMC (internal-displacement.org)

¹⁵ Source IDMC: Solomon Islands | IDMC (internal-displacement.org)

HIGHLIGHT

AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

Overview:

6.4 MILLION
forcibly displaced Afghans globally

89 per cent resides in South-west

3 MILLION
refugees and asylum-seekers

79 per cent resides in South-west Asia
89 per cent resides in South-west Asia

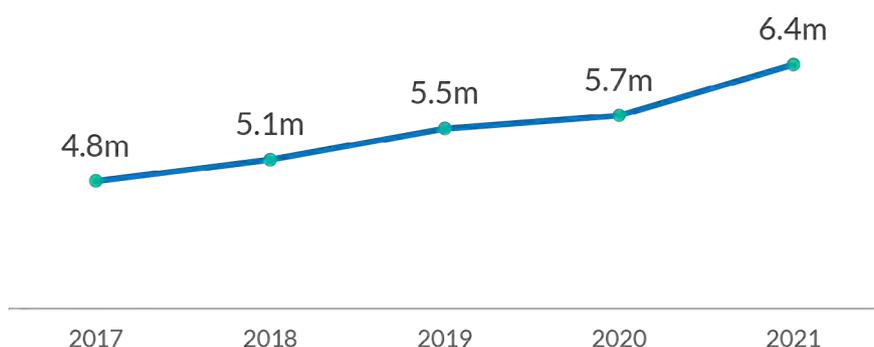
115 COUNTRIES
hosting Afghans

139,000
Afghans fled to neighbouring
countries in 2021

Afghanistan situation

For the past five years, Afghanistan's situation has been the largest situation in the region with a steady increase of forcibly displaced every year. In 2021, Afghanistan's situation deteriorated dramatically with a 12 per cent increase of forcibly displaced persons by the end of the year compared to end-2020. Globally, at the end of 2021, there were 6.4 million forcibly displaced Afghans, of which 89 per cent reside in the South-West Asia subregion.

Figure 13 | **Forcibly displaced Afghans | 2017 - 2021**



Neighbouring countries experienced influxes of Afghans fleeing the country. UNHCR in Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan pre-screened/pre-registered Afghans who may be in need of international protection. By the end of 2021, the number of new arrivals who approached UNHCR and Partners were the following: in Pakistan (108,000), Tajikistan (2,700) and Iran (27,800) reached 138,500.

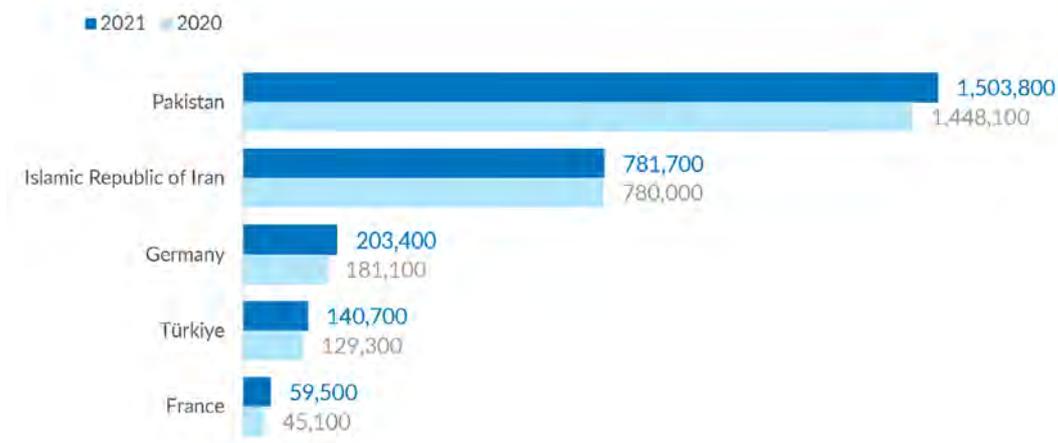
Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan January – December 2022 (RRP 2022)¹⁶

In August 2021, in order to prepare for a potential worst-case scenario of influx into neighbouring countries, UNHCR led an inter-agency Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan for the remainder of 2021. The plan, which had 11 partners across five countries (Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), focused on ensuring that emergency preparedness measures were in place, ensuring access to asylum including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, as well as reprioritizing certain underfunded elements of existing programmes for in-situ populations, in support of national systems. This was followed up by a subsequent Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2022 which has increased its partnership to include some 40 partners across the same five countries. RRP 2022 has broadened its focus to target existing populations, including registered Afghan refugees, Afghans of other status, in addition to potential new arrivals, and a portion of the host community in areas with a high concentration of refugees, representing an increase in responsibility- and burden-sharing and in line with the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). RRP 2022 targets some 5.7 million people across these populations in the five countries.

¹⁶ Data source: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/document/1292>

Pakistan remains the largest country of asylum for Afghans, with 1.5 million Afghans residing in Pakistan. This includes POR card holders, unregistered nuclear family members of POR card holders (UMRF), asylum-seekers, and newly arrived Afghans in 2021. Afghans refugees and asylum-seekers figures increased in various countries compared to 2020, notably in Pakistan (+56,000, +4%), Germany (+22,000, +12%), Türkiye (+11,000, +8%) and in Tajikistan (+8,000, +130%).

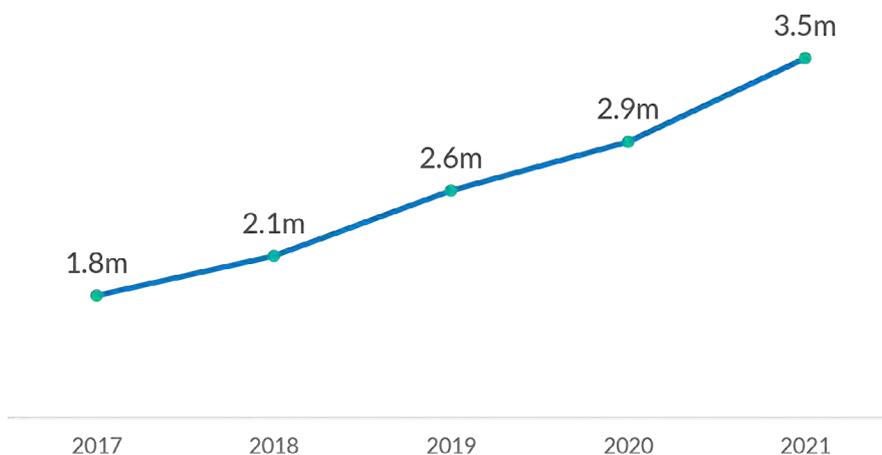
Figure 14 | Countries of asylum for Afghans | 2020 - 2021



Conflict-induced internally displaced persons in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, the number of internally displaced persons have been increasingly rapidly in the past 5 years. Globally, Afghanistan remains the 6th largest IDP country and the largest IDP population in the Asia and the Pacific region at 3.5 million — a 20 per cent increase compared to the previous year. By the end of 2021, there were 777,000 newly displaced Afghans during the year, due to the deterioration in conflict and insecurity in Afghanistan. 58 per cent of the IDP population in Afghanistan are children under 18 and 21 per cent are women (18+).

Figure 15 | IDP trends in Afghanistan | 2017 - 2021





Nine-year-old Fauzia* and her three-year-old sister Aseela*, in their temporary accommodation in Kabul, fled with their family from Jalalabad during the 2021 Taliban takeover.

© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

*Names changed for protection reasons

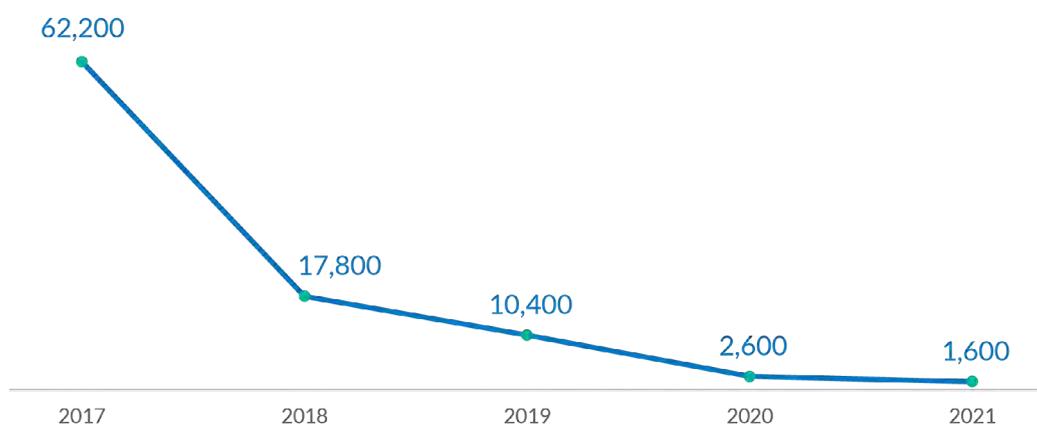
Durable solutions include voluntary repatriation, resettlement to a third country, local integration, naturalization and return to the place of origin prior to displacement. However, a growing number of displaced populations have limited opportunities for a durable solution.

As new refugee situations intensify and existing ones remain unsolved, there is an acute and growing need for durable solutions. Despite the increase in return of IDPs in Afghanistan due to the change in the situation since 15 August 2021, durable solutions have struggled to keep up given the rapid pace of new displacement over the last 5 years. From 2017 to 2019, resettlement arrivals to resettlement countries within the region were around 4,000-5,000, however, in 2020 there was a drastic drop to around 800 due to border restrictions in place because of COVID-19. In 2021, resettlement arrivals increased to some 3,000 as the pandemic situation improved.

Voluntary repatriation

The region has experienced a constant decline in the number of voluntary refugee repatriations since 2017 with an initial sharp drop followed by gradual reduction each year. In 2020 and 2021, reductions in voluntary repatriation were due mainly to travel restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, only some 1,600 refugees returned to the region, including some 1,400 Afghans, some 100 Sri Lankans, and other nationalities returning to their country of origin.

Figure 16 | **Voluntary repatriation trends | 2017 - 2021**



Returnee IDPs

Returned IDP numbers in the region have also seen a downward trend in previous years, reaching the bottom in 2019 with 127,100 IDP returns. In 2021, returned IDP increased to 1.1 million mainly due to increases from Afghanistan (791,000) and Myanmar (130,000). Most of the returned IDPs in Afghanistan are people who were displaced within the year. In Myanmar, some IDPs returned when the security situation demonstrated signs of stabilization in certain locations – however, displacement remained fluid with many IDPs displaced multiple times. In Sri Lanka, 16,500 IDPs were considered as returned or locally integrated during an assessment conducted in 2021 by the Sri Lankan government.

Figure 17 | Returnee IDP trends | 2017 - 2021

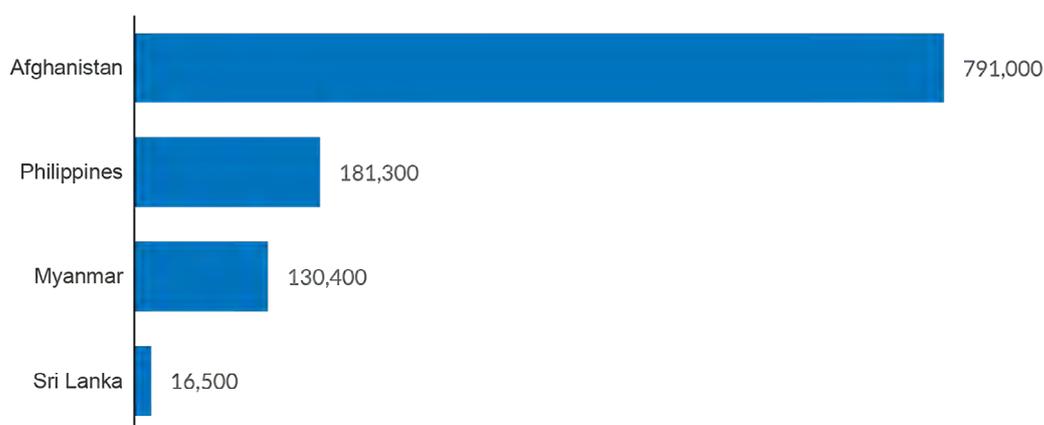


Figure 18 | Returnee IDPs in Asia and the Pacific | 2021



Naturalization (of refugees)

Within the region, there was an increase in naturalization of refugees, growing from 17 in 2020 to 114 in 2021. The main countries providing naturalization to refugees in the region in 2021 were India (84), and Kyrgyzstan (24).

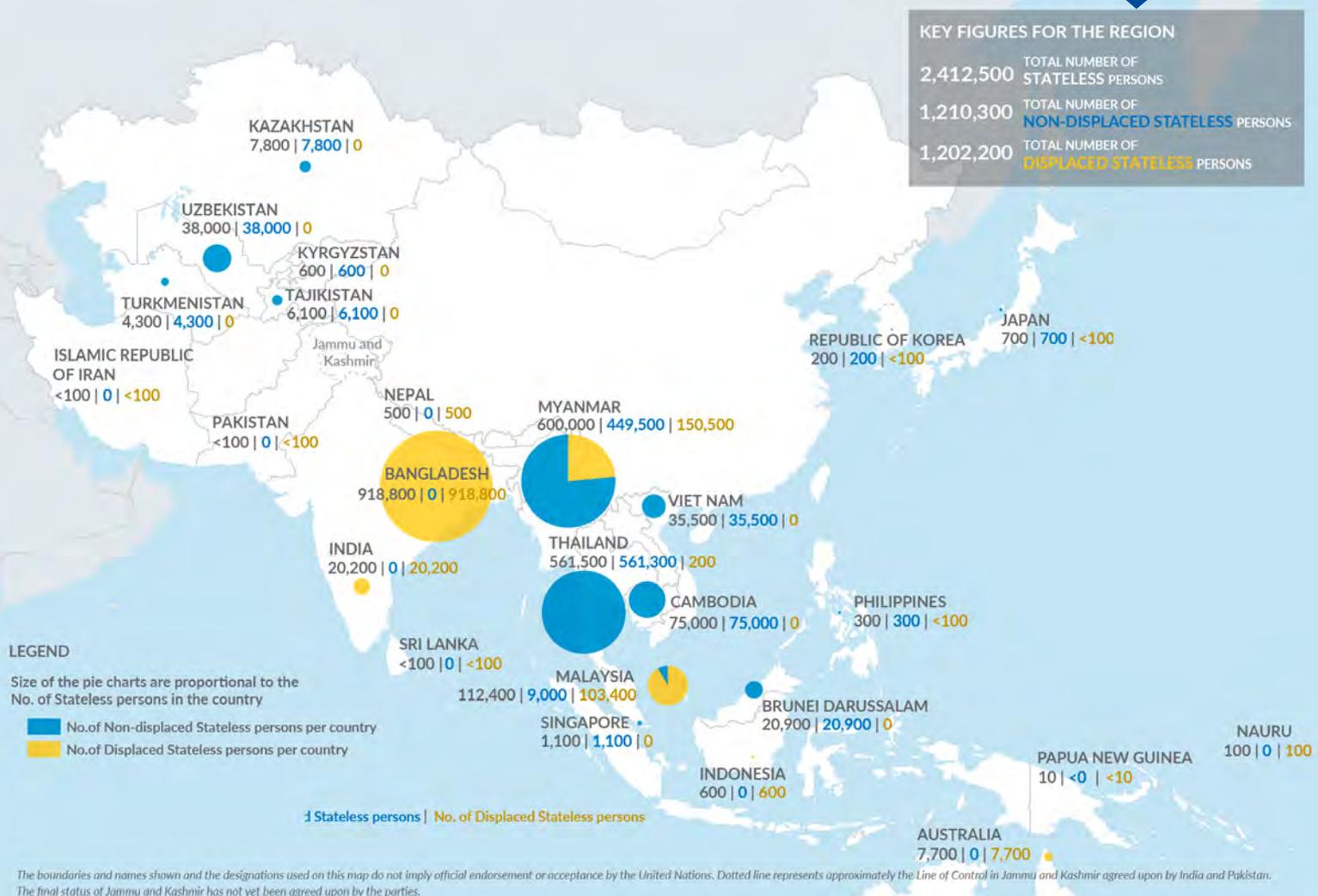
Resettlement (of refugees)

UNHCR-assisted resettlement departures from the region in 2021 were comparatively lower than in previous years. Major countries of refugee resettlement included Canada, United States of America, Sweden, and Australia. There was a 24 per cent reduction in resettlement departures from the region in 2021 (2,600), compared to 2020 (3,400), and 70 per cent reduction compared to 2019 (9,000), due to travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Some notable drops include a reduction by 65 per cent in India, by 50 per cent in Thailand, and by 33 per cent in Sri Lanka.

Resettlement arrivals to resettlement states in the region were equally affected by the pandemic and while the total arrivals declined only slightly (3 per cent) in 2021 (4,000) compared to 2020 (3,900), it was 80 per cent lower than in 2019 (19,300).



STATELESS POPULATION



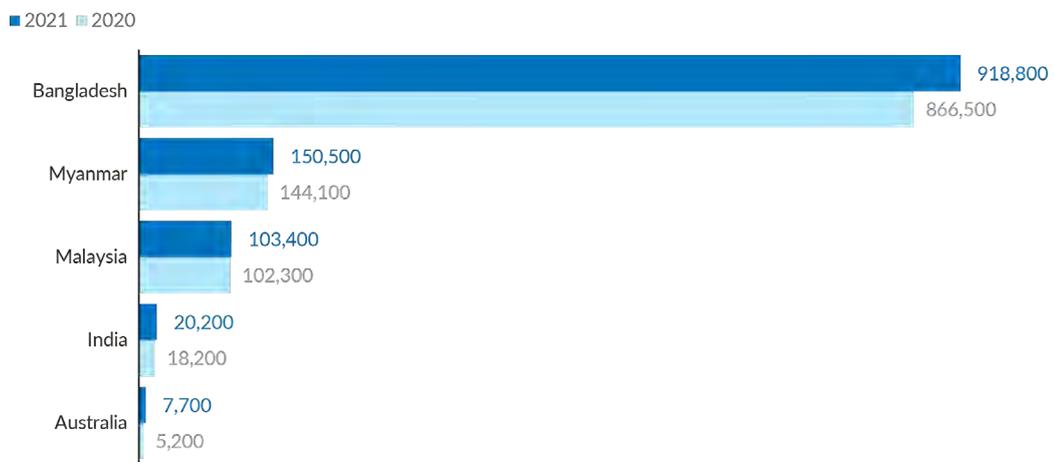
The Asia-Pacific region hosts 56 per cent of the world’s recorded stateless population. In the region, there are a total of 2.4 million stateless persons of which 1.2 million are non-displaced stateless and 1.2 million displaced stateless persons. Displaced stateless persons in the region include those who are refugees, asylum-seekers or IDPs and are not considered nationals by any State. Compared to end-2020, by the end of 2021 there was a 6 per cent increase in the stateless population in the region. 68 per cent of the stateless population are Rohingya¹⁷.

¹⁷ Details can be found in the Myanmar situation highlight section (page 26)

Displaced stateless persons in Asia and the Pacific

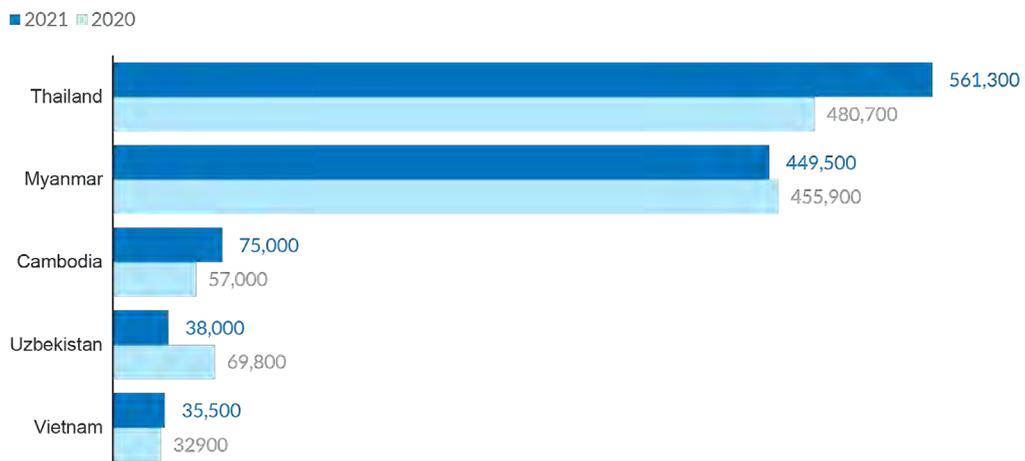
The 1.2 million displaced stateless persons consist of 1 million refugees, 0.15 million IDPs, and some 19,000 asylum-seekers. This represents a 9 per cent increase in displaced stateless persons compared to 1.1 million at the end of 2020. Of the 1.2 million displaced stateless persons in the region, 98 per cent are Rohingya from Myanmar. Bangladesh, Myanmar, Malaysia, and India are the top countries where the displaced Rohingya reside.

Figure 19 | **Top countries hosting displaced stateless persons in Asia and the Pacific | 2020-2021**



The other 2 per cent of displaced stateless persons in the region originate from various, partly unknown countries. Australia hosts 7,700 displaced stateless refugees and asylum-seekers. Displaced stateless persons in Australia have increased from 5,200 to 7,700 in 2021.

Figure 20 | **Top countries hosting non-displaced stateless persons in Asia and the Pacific | 2020-2021**



Non-displaced stateless persons in Asia and the Pacific

There are increases in the non-displaced stateless population in 2021 in several countries in the region compared to the end of 2020. In Thailand, the increase by some 85,000 persons results from the registration of newborns and persons with no nationality who had not previously been registered in Thailand with identification documentation. In Central Asia, new registrations by governments and UNHCR partners show an increase of some 13,000 stateless persons in the sub-region.

In 2021, progress continued and the number of stateless people was reduced through the acquisition or confirmation of nationality in line with Action 1 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness by 2024. During the year, some 43,400 stateless persons acquired nationality and permanent residence within the region. Notably, in Uzbekistan the government continues to implement provisions that provide eligibility to citizenship for stateless persons with some 32,000 stateless acquiring nationality or citizenship in 2021.

UNHCR Asia Pacific has put efforts to improve stateless population data by engaging with national authorities and national statistics offices to highlight issues of statelessness. Census results can provide data on the demographic characteristics of stateless persons, the extent and causes of statelessness, to inform policymakers on how these can be speedily resolved and prevented in the future. In Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, UNHCR supported the capacity building of National Statistics Offices and provided expertise in formulating nationality and statelessness-mapping questions in the census questionnaires. In addition, with support of the UNHCR and World Bank Joint Data Center, data collection exercises on statelessness were launched in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The projects include socioeconomic surveys on both refugee and stateless populations, modernization of the census/NSO's portals on statistical data, improved capacity of NSOs and improved access to censuses for stateless people.

The General Assembly (GA) tasked UNHCR to identify, reduce and prevent statelessness and protect stateless persons. UNHCR, as the custodian UN agency for statelessness statistics, collects and compiles global statistics on stateless persons and persons of undetermined nationality as one of its mandated responsibilities. UNHCR follows the overall guidance set by the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS), whose mandate was extended to incorporate the development of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS). IROSS is being developed in collaboration with affected countries and international experts through an EGRIS subgroup. It aims to provide a statistical framework on statelessness which will be instrumental for enhancing the quality and comparability of national statistics. As a result of UNHCR's Data Transformation Strategy and the regionalization process in Asia and the Pacific, improving data quality and collaborating with National Statistical Offices in the production of data on stateless is a key priority.

HIGHLIGHT

MYANMAR SITUATION

Overview

2.4 MILLION
persons of concern from Myanmar

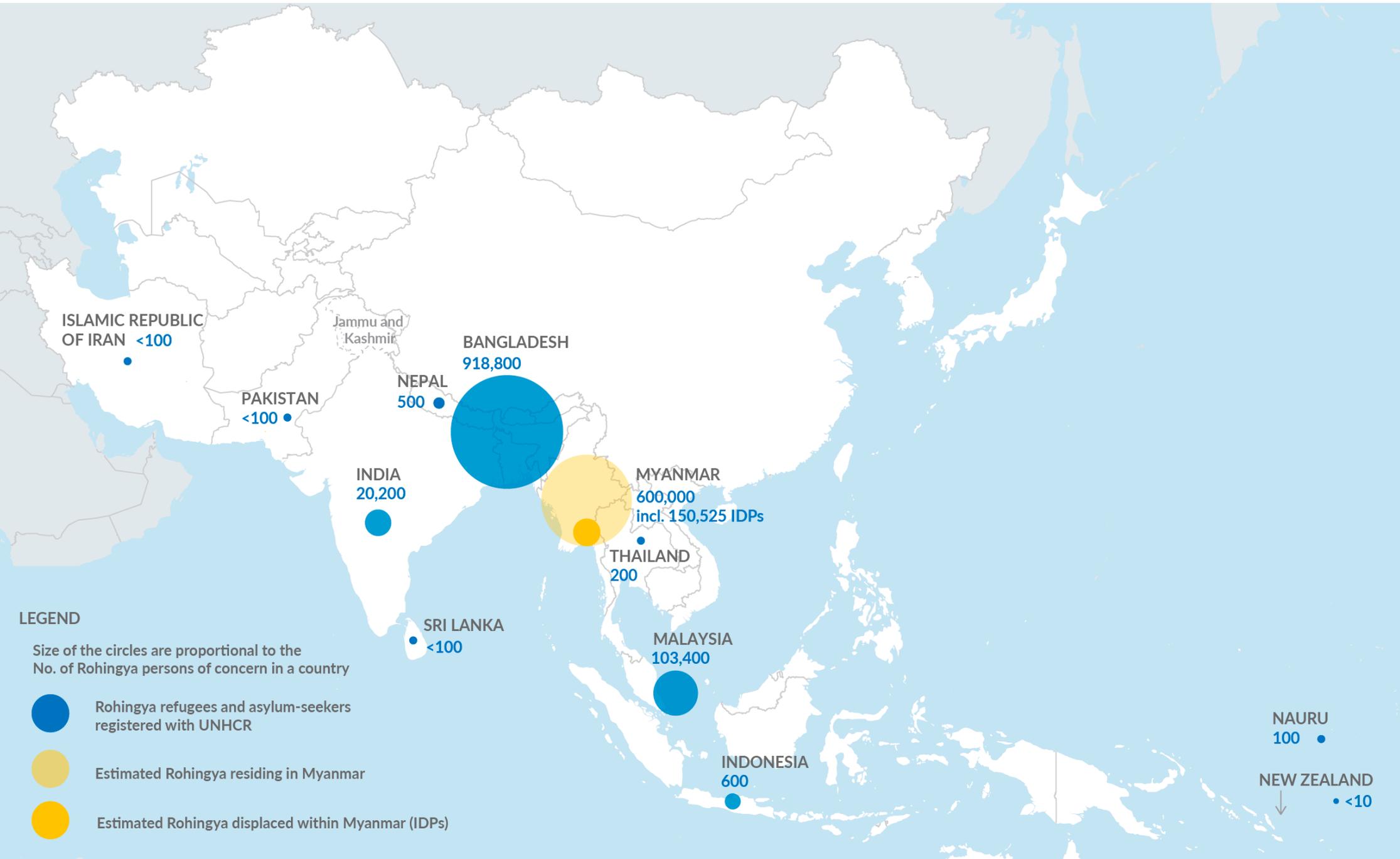
67%
are stateless persons (Rohingya)

50%
are refugees or asylum-seekers

27%
are internally displaced persons

30,700
fled to a neighbouring country in
2021, following 1 February 2021

ROHINGYA IN THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION as end of 2021

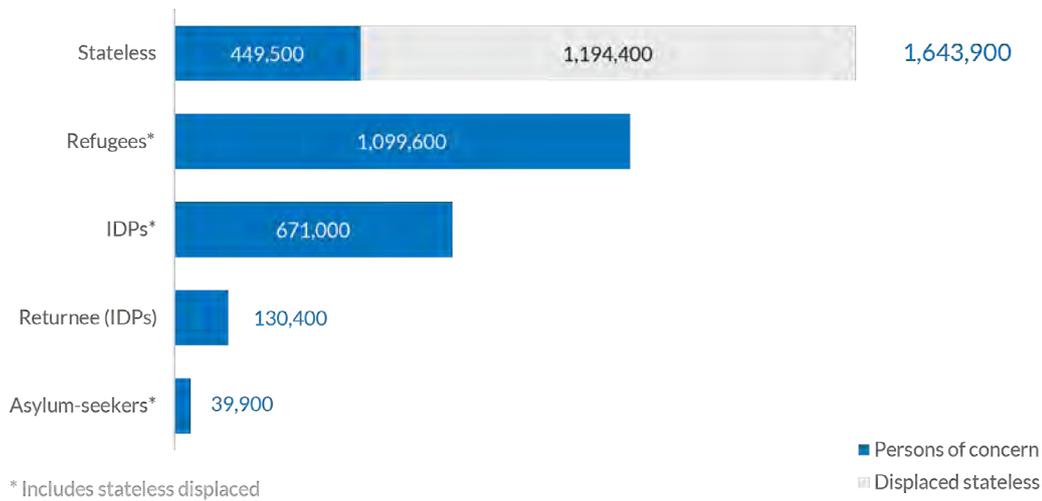


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Myanmar situation

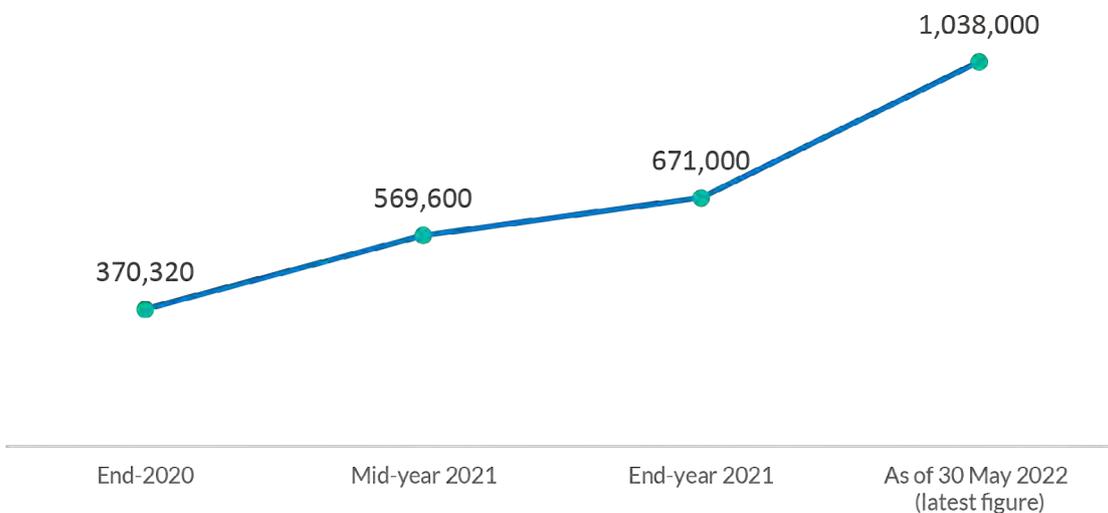
Myanmar is the fifth largest displacement situation globally and the country of origin with the largest displaced stateless population in the region. The Myanmar situation refers to forcibly displaced (internal displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees) and stateless persons originating from Myanmar. The total reported figure for the Myanmar situation has increased from 1.96 million in 2020 to 2.5 million in 2021 - a 28 per cent increase. The increases were largely related to fighting following the military takeover in February 2021.

Figure 21 | Myanmar situation: Persons of concern by legal status | 2021



The resumption or intensification of armed conflict resulted in new displacement of around 320,900 people, bringing the total number of displaced people across the country to approximately 671,000 by the end of 2021. The increasing trends of internally displaced persons in Myanmar continue into 2022. The latest report on IDP figures as of 30 May 2022 shows that Myanmar has surpassed 1 million IDPs.

Figure 22 | Internally displaced persons in Myanmar | End of 2020 - 30 May 2022

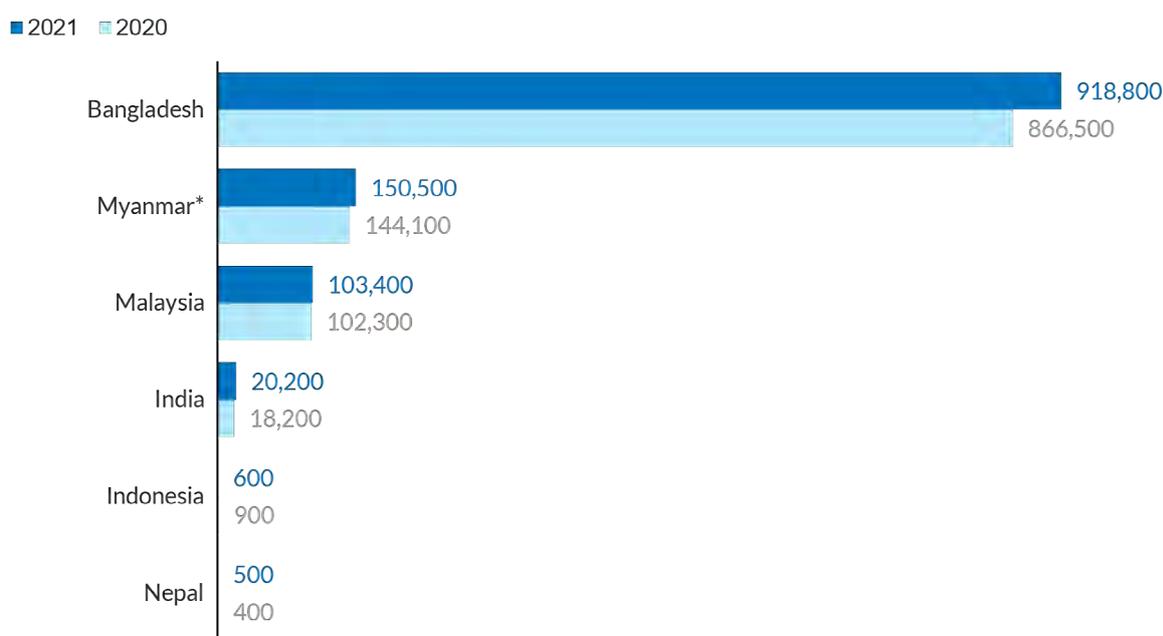


During 2021, neighbouring countries experienced influxes of refugees from Myanmar. Cumulatively, 30,700 people from Myanmar fled to Thailand and India in 2021. An estimated 15,700 people crossed into Thailand during the year and sought shelter in government-run “temporary safety areas”; they later returned to Myanmar. In India there were an approximate 15,000 new arrivals from Myanmar after the event in February 2021, mostly in the north-east of India. Those who travel to New Delhi were registered by UNHCR India.

Rohingya

67 per cent of persons of concern from Myanmar were Rohingya. As of end-2021, there are 1.6 million Rohingya in the region, of which 73 per cent are displaced as refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs. The remaining 27 per cent of Rohingya are non-displaced in Myanmar. The number of Rohingya slightly increased by 3 per cent compared to end-2020, mainly due to birth registrations in Bangladesh (around 52,000) and a few hundred in India. More than half of the Rohingya are residing in Bangladesh in a camp accommodation.

Figure 23 | Countries with displaced Rohingya | 2020 - 2021



* Internally displaced



A Rohingya refugee girl attends an Adolescents' Club in Kutupalong camp, Cox's Bazar.

© UNHCR/Kamrul Hasan

DATA ANALYSIS

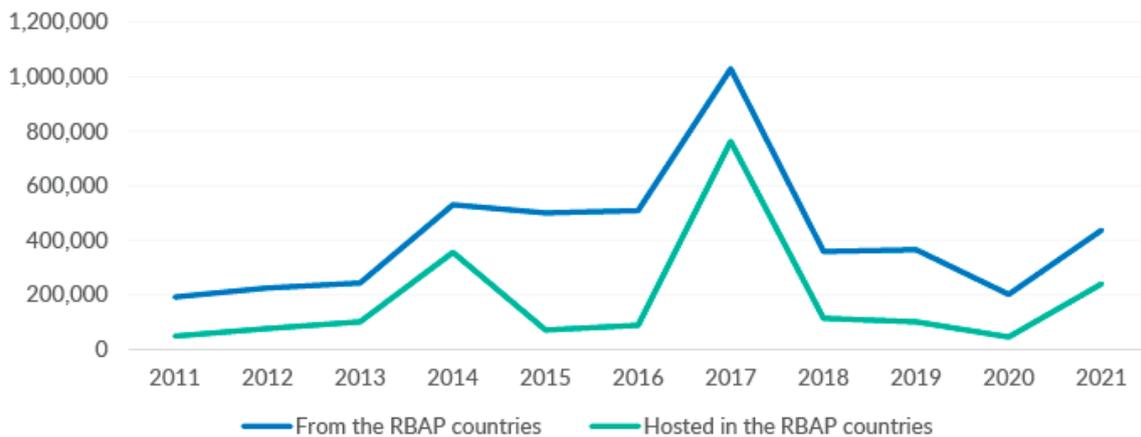
Flow data on forced displacement

Chapter

6

Flow data population statistics¹⁸ show changes in population over time — for example, the number of new refugee arrivals during a year in a given location. A flow figure has a start and end date, e.g. 50,000 people arrived between 1 January and 31 December. It illustrates movements, capturing the arrival or departure of refugees in a country during a certain period of time.

Figure 24 | **Flow movement in the region**



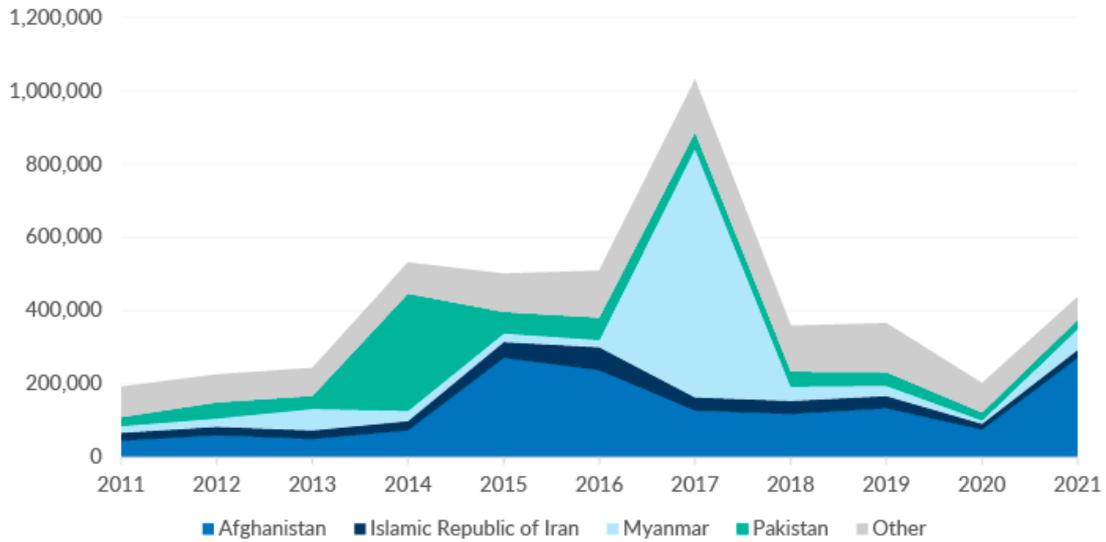
The flow movement chart reflects flow data of new refugees and new asylum-seekers in Asia Pacific over the last ten years. New refugees include *prima facie* (group recognition) refugees, people who have received temporary protection, and new arrivals of people in a refugee-like situation. New asylum-seekers are new asylum applications registered during each year.

The flow data shows that new refugees and new asylum-seekers from countries in the Asia-Pacific region kept increasing since 2011, and reached more than 1 million in 2017, the highest number in the past decade. This was more than five-fold compared to 2011. Since then and until 2020, there was an overall downward trend in new refugees and asylum-seekers. However, the number increased again in 2021. Also, the gap between the two lines reflects a large number of new refugees and new asylum-seekers who moved to the other regions.

When looking at the flow data by country of origin, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan and Iran are the major countries from where the newly displaced people move from. The violence in Rakhine, Myanmar caused the peak observed in 2017, and the conflict and instability in Afghanistan caused continuous displacement from 2015 to 2021.

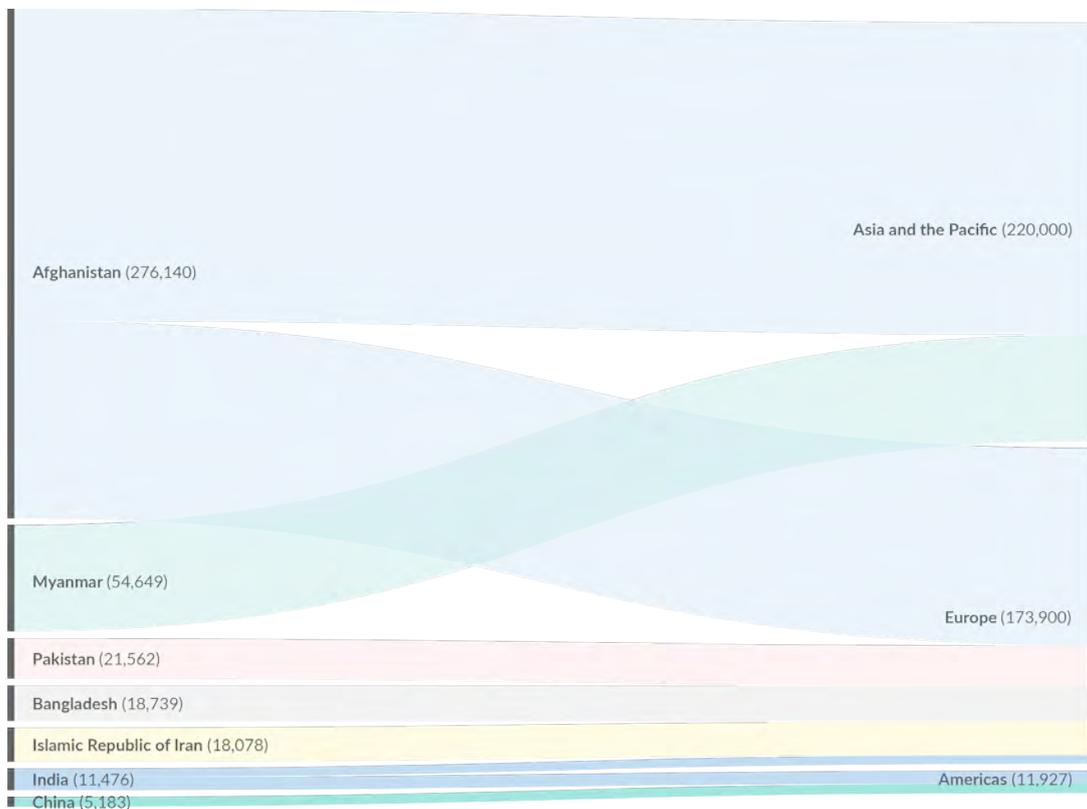
¹⁸ The flow dataset can be downloaded at <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/insights/explainers/forcibly-displaced-flow-data.html>

Figure 25 | **Flow trend of the new refugees and asylum-seekers by country of origin | 2011 - 2021**



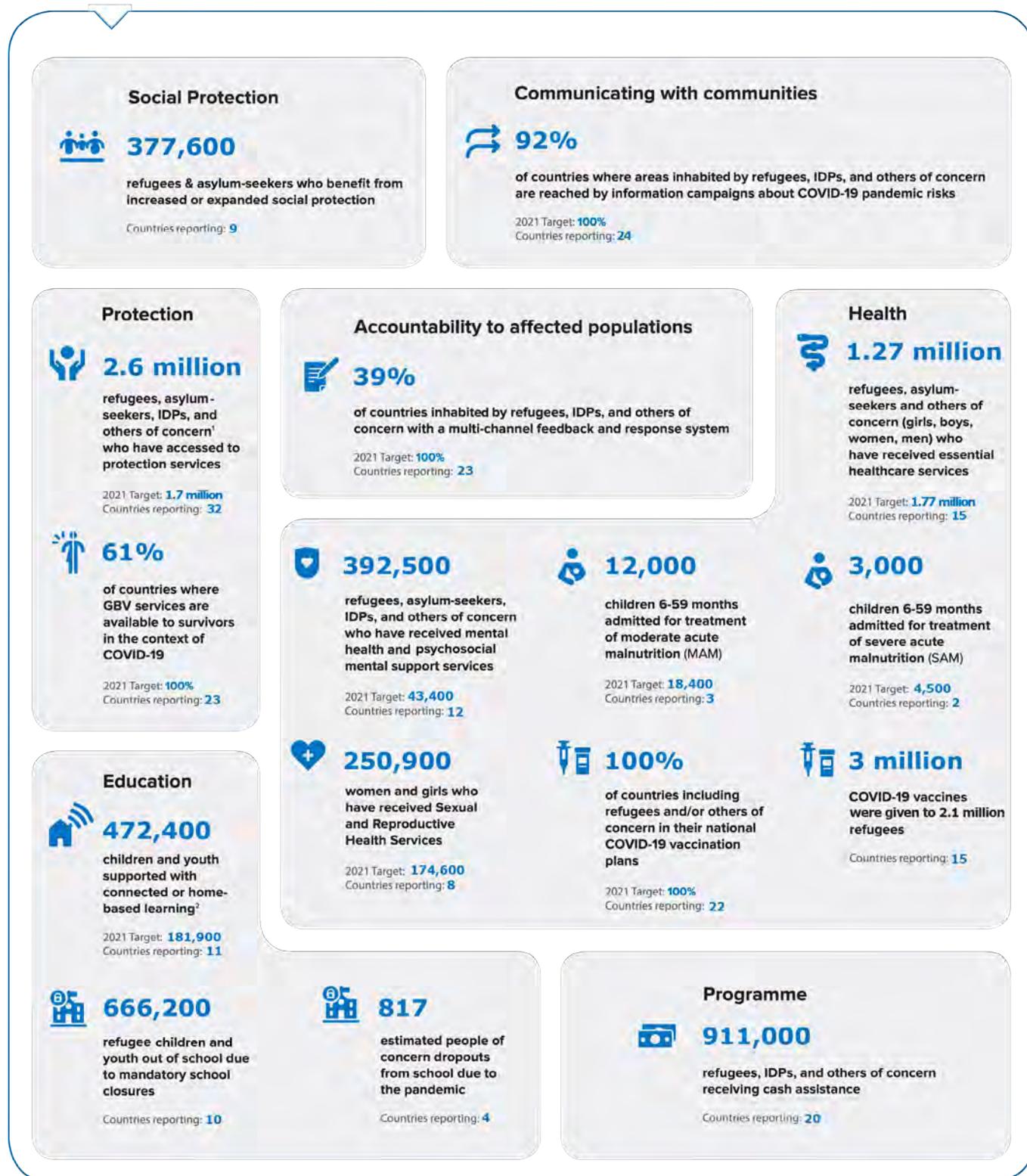
The majority of new refugees and new asylum-seekers stayed within the Asia-Pacific region, including all the forcibly displaced people from Myanmar and around 61 per cent out of the 276,000 displaced Afghans. Some 174,000 people from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran and India went to Europe seeking protection. Additionally, in 2021 Americas received almost 12,000 applications from India and China.

Figure 26 | **Bilateral flows from country of origin to region of destination**



The COVID-19 pandemic continued to hamper access to protection and services for the populations of concern in 2021. UNHCR's response in supporting them to cope with the pandemic's impact was monitored with a set of multi-sectoral indicators, as presented in Figure 27.

Figure 27 | COVID-19 multisectoral monitoring | As of December 2021



¹ The figures for 'others of concern' include returnees, stateless persons, host communities and Venezuelans displaced abroad.

² The majority of children and youth counted are refugees who had either access to a connected learning programme, home-based learning, or catch-up and accelerated education programmes supported by UNHCR and partners.

ASIA & THE PACIFIC REGIONAL TRENDS

FORCED
DISPLACEMENT
2021



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