

ASIA & THE PACIFIC REGIONAL TRENDS

Forced Displacement
and Statelessness **2025**



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Front cover image: A Karenni refugee stands outside her home in Ban Mai Nai Soi Temporary Shelter along the Thailand-Myanmar border.

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Content

Figures at a Glance	3
CHAPTER 1. Regional Overview	5
CHAPTER 2. Refugees	9
CHAPTER 3. Asylum-Seekers	17
CHAPTER 4. Internally Displaced People	20
Afghanistan Situation	25
CHAPTER 5. Solutions	31
CHAPTER 6. Stateless Population	34
Myanmar Situation	37
UNHCR's Work in Asia and the Pacific	44
Anonymized Microdata	47
Call to Action	49

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

17.6 MILLION PEOPLE¹

WHO ARE FORCIBLY DISPLACED, STATELESS, RETURNEES AND OTHERS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC² AT THE END OF 2025

The total figure refers to people UNHCR is mandated to protect and assist.³ It includes those who have been forcibly displaced – such as refugees, people in a refugee-like situation,⁴ asylum-seekers, internally displaced people (IDPs) and other people in need of international protection;⁵ those who have returned home within the previous year; stateless people; and other groups of concern to whom UNHCR has extended protection or provided humanitarian assistance.

5.2 MILLION

refugees under UNHCR's mandate, asylum-seekers and other people in need of international protection

7.5 MILLION

conflict-induced IDPs⁶

730,600

IDP returnees

2.6 MILLION

stateless people
(including displaced stateless people)

98%

of refugees in the region, including people in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection, are hosted in low- and middle-income countries⁷

90%

of refugees, people in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection in the region are hosted in countries neighbouring their country of origin

1.9 MILLION

refugee returnees

1.2 MILLION

others of concern to UNHCR

45% ARE CHILDREN⁸

Children are disproportionately represented: although they make up 27% of the region's overall population,⁹ they account for 45% of those UNHCR protects and/or assists.

1 Stateless people who were also forcibly displaced were reported under a dual status but counted only once in the total population figures to avoid double-counting.

2 See [Annexes for Global and Mid-Year Trends \(unhcr.org\)](#) for UNHCR region classification.

3 See [Forcibly displaced and stateless population categories | UNHCR](#) for more information on UNHCR population groups.

4 People in a refugee-like situation is a descriptive category that refers to groups outside their country or territory of origin who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but who have not been formally recognized as such due to practical or other reasons.

5 Other people in need of international protection refers to people who are outside their country or territory of origin, typically because they have been forcibly displaced across international borders, who have not been reported under other categories (asylum-seekers, refugees, people in refugee-like situations) but who likely need international protection, including protection against forced return, as well as access to basic services on a temporary or longer-term basis. See [Refugee Data Finder - Definition](#) for the definitions of various UNHCR population categories.

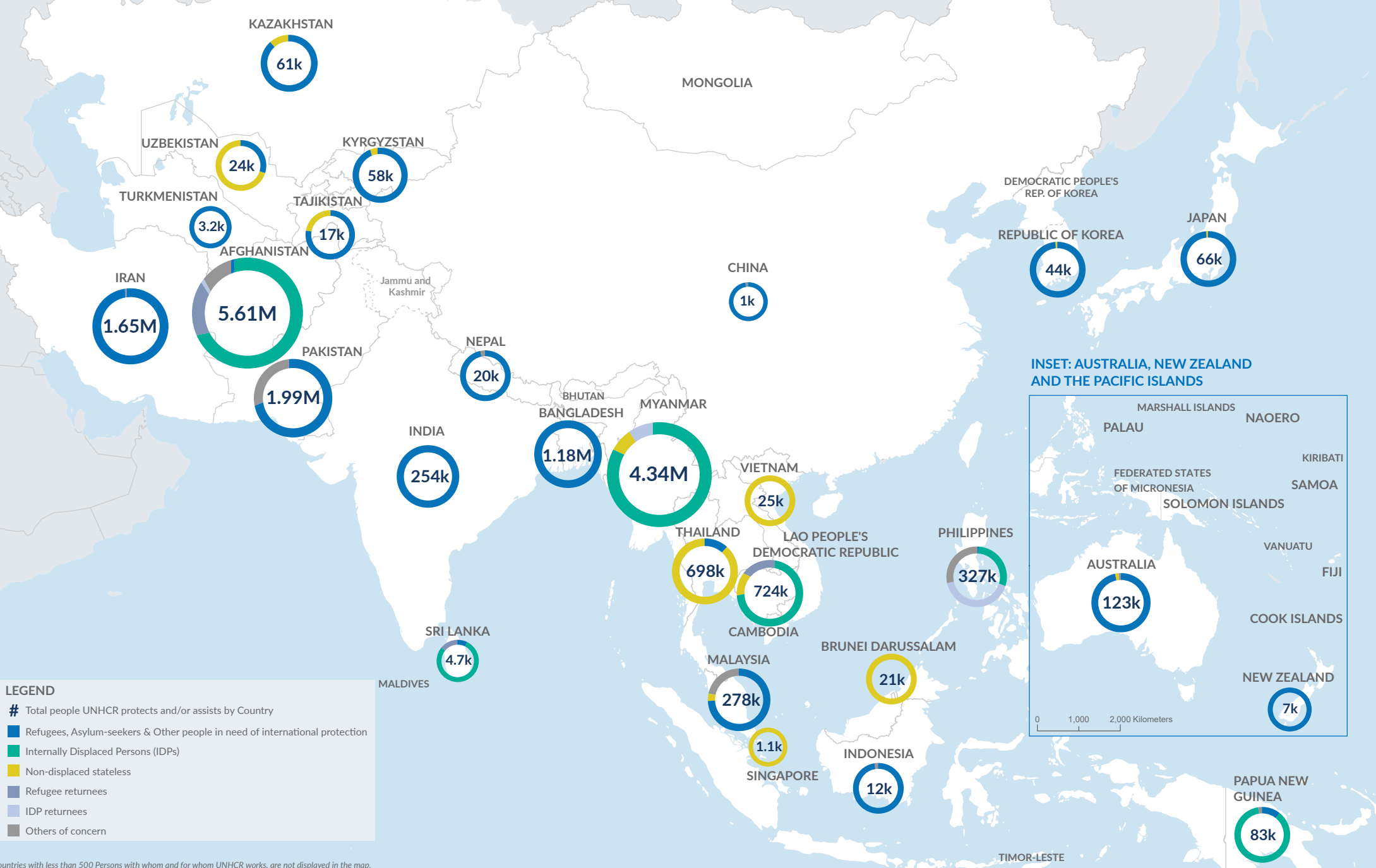
6 For the purpose of UNHCR's statistics, this population includes only conflict-induced IDPs who receive UNHCR protection and/or assistance. The figures differ from those reported by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

7 See [World Bank country classifications by income level for 2024-2025](#).

8 The proportion of children is based on the availability of disaggregated data by age and gender for all people UNHCR protects and/or assists (81% of 17.6 million)

9 Data source: World Population Prospects 2024 (<https://population.un.org/wpp/>)

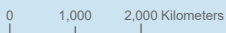
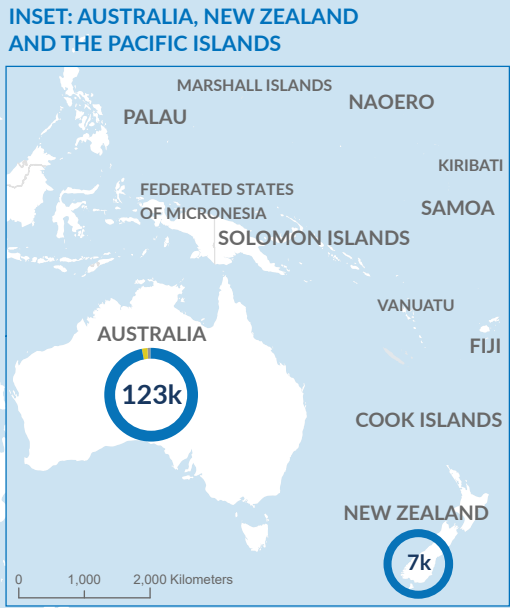
REFUGEES, ASYLUM-SEEKERS, IDPS, RETURNEES AND STATELESS PEOPLE IN THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION AS OF END-2025



LEGEND

- # Total people UNHCR protects and/or assists by Country
- Refugees, Asylum-seekers & Other people in need of international protection
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- Non-displaced stateless
- Refugee returnees
- IDP returnees
- Others of concern

Countries with less than 500 Persons with whom and for whom UNHCR works, are not displayed in the map. 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.

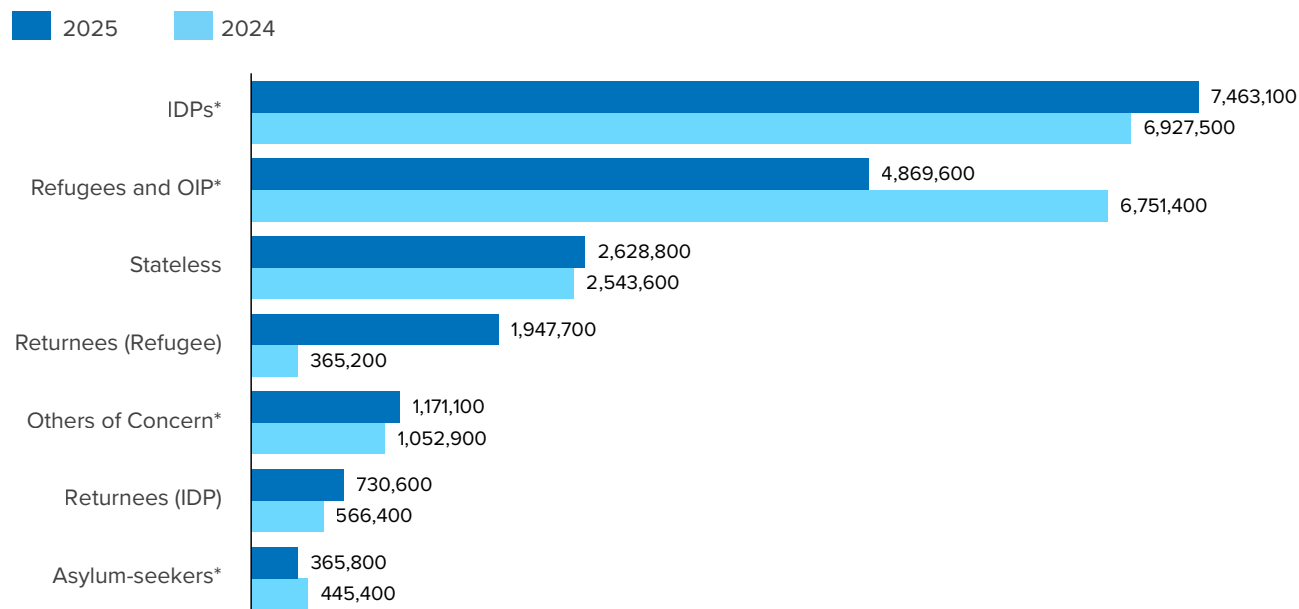


CHAPTER 1

Regional Overview

By the end of 2025, the total number of refugees,¹⁰ asylum-seekers, IDPs, stateless people, returnees, other people in need of international protection and others of concern to UNHCR in the Asia and the Pacific region stood at 17.6 million – a 2% increase from 2024. The region hosts 14% of the total global population UNHCR protects and/or assists (17.6 million out of 129.4 million). This includes 12% of the world's refugees, asylum-seekers and other people in need of international protection (5.2 million of 44.6 million) and 59% of all recorded stateless people, including those with undetermined nationality (2.6 million out of 4.5 million).

Figure 1 | **Population groups in Asia-Pacific | 2024 - 2025**

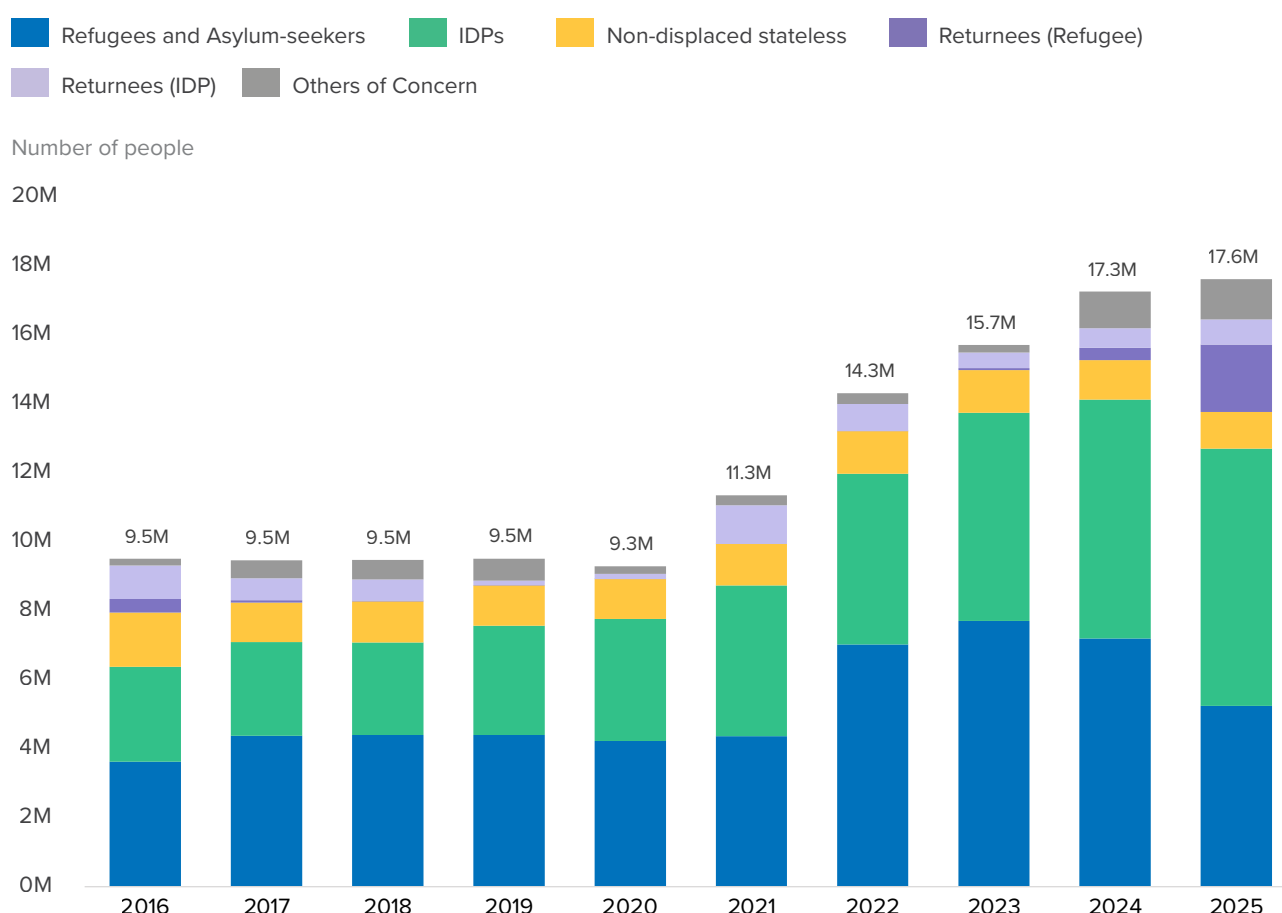


*Stateless people that have also been forcibly displaced are reported as stateless and within their respective displacement categories.

¹⁰ Includes people in a refugee-like situation. All subsequent references to refugees include both those under UNHCR's mandate and people in refugee-like situations. The figures exclude Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate, all of whom reside in countries outside the Asia and the Pacific region.

As of end-2025, Asia and the Pacific hosted 7.5 million IDPs, 4.9 million refugees and other people in need of international protection, 2.6 million recorded stateless people (including displaced stateless people), 730,600 IDP returnees, 365,800 asylum-seekers, 1.9 million refugee returnees and 1.2 million others of concern to UNHCR. Compared to the previous year, the highest percentage increases were observed in refugee returnees¹¹ (+433%), followed by IDP returnees (+29%).

Figure 2 | **People who are forcibly displaced, stateless, returnees or others of concern to UNHCR in Asia-Pacific | 2016 - 2025**



In Asia and the Pacific, the total number of people UNHCR protects and/or assists remained relatively stable between 2016 and 2020, averaging around 9.5 million. However, since 2020, there has been a steady increase, with the population reaching 17.6 million by end-2025.

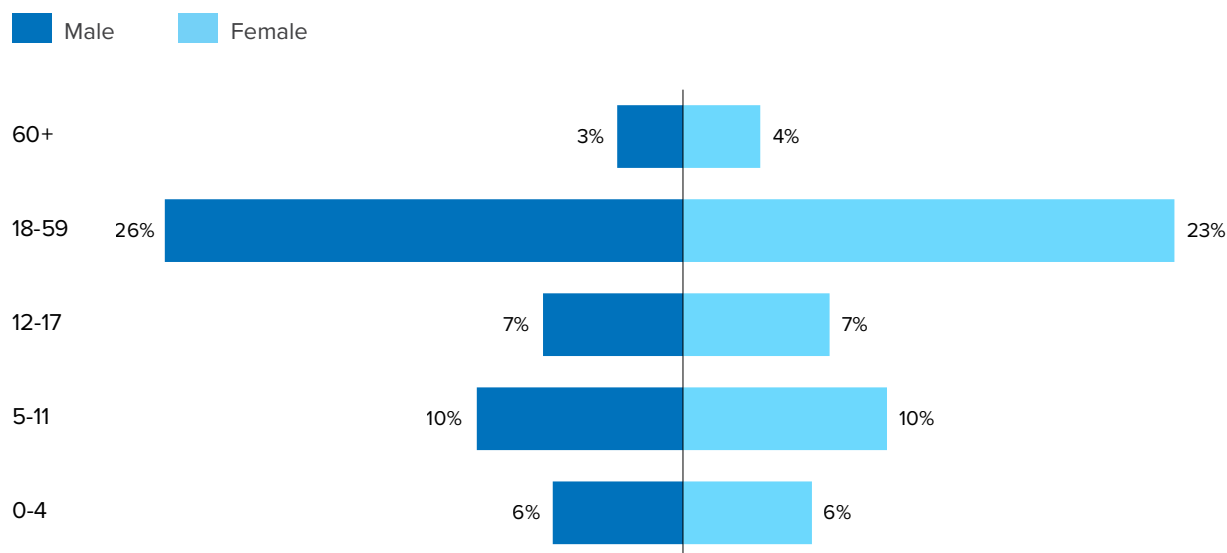
The number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate, asylum-seekers and other people in need of international protection increased by 45%, rising from 3.6 million in 2016 to 5.2 million in 2025. Over the same period, the number of IDPs in the region increased by 172%, from 2.7 million to 7.5 million – an increase of 172%.

¹¹ Refugee returnees refer to all types of returns, including deportations, assisted voluntary repatriation and other returns.

Refugee returns from the region began to rise in 2023, when approximately 58,000 refugees returned to their countries of origin, most of them Afghan nationals. This upward trend continued in 2024, with an estimated 365,400 returns, again predominantly involving Afghans. In 2025, returns increased sharply, with an estimated 1.9 million refugees and other people in need of international protection returning to their countries of origin. Most were Afghans, as Afghanistan experienced large-scale return movements from Iran and Pakistan.

The number of IDP returnees between 2016 and 2025 varied considerably. The highest number of returns was recorded in 2021, when more than 1.1 million IDPs returned. In 2025, approximately 730,600 IDPs returned, up from 566,400 in 2024 but still below the 2021 peak.

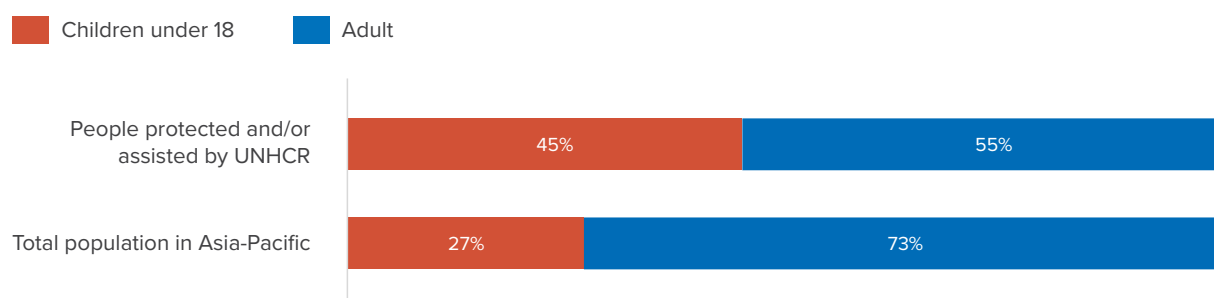
Figure 3 | **Demographic composition of the people with and for whom UNHCR works in the region | 2025**



Note: Figures do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

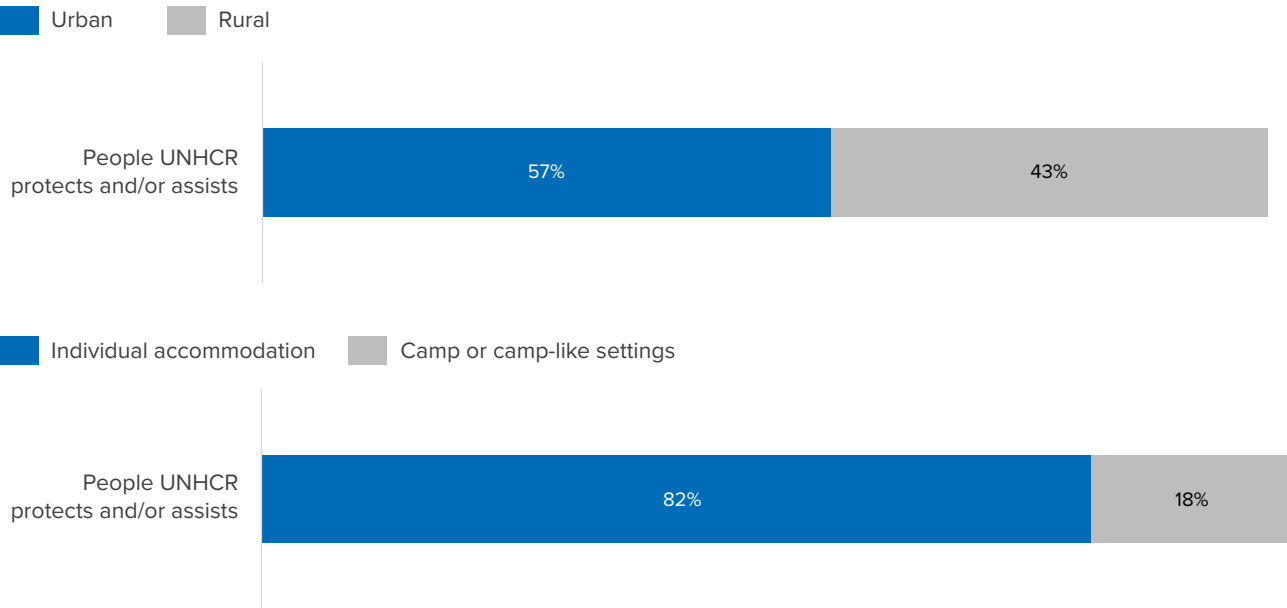
The availability of disaggregated data by age and gender varies widely between countries and population groups. Demographic data is available for 81% of the total population UNHCR protects and/or assists in the region. Looking at the available demographic data, 49% were women and girls, 45% were children and 7% were elderly people aged 60 and above.

Figure 4 | **Proportion of children in population under UNHCR's mandate vs. total regional population | 2025**



Children accounted for 45% of the population UNHCR protects and/or assists were children, despite representing only 27% of the region’s general population. Many forcibly displaced children spend their entire childhoods away from home, sometimes separated from their families. Some have witnessed or experienced violence and face heightened risks of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, trafficking or military recruitment while in exile. UNHCR works with national authorities, other international and local organizations to assist, protect and find durable solutions for displaced children, ensuring they are not left behind.

Figure 5 | **Urban-rural distribution and accommodation types of people UNHCR protects and/or assists in Asia-Pacific | 2025**



Of the total number of people protected and/or assisted by UNHCR in the region, 57% resided in urban or peri-urban areas. The majority – 82% – reside in individual accommodations, while the remaining population were hosted in camps or camp-like settings. Among those residing in camps or camp-like settings in the region, 57% were in Bangladesh, 18% in Pakistan,¹² 10% in the Philippines, 8% in India, 4% in Thailand and 2% in Iran.¹³

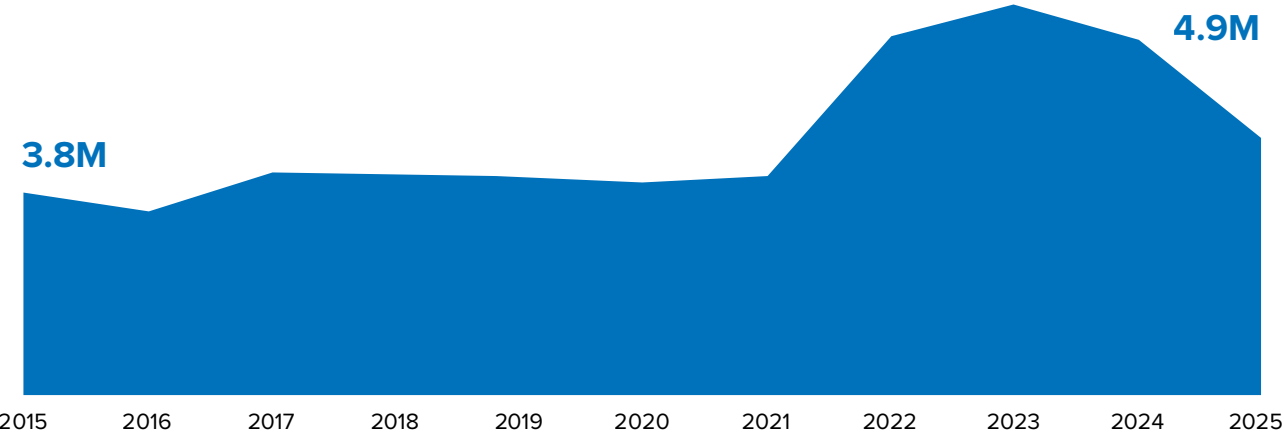
12 In Pakistan, 32% of registered refugees resided in refugee villages located in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

13 In Iran, most refugees or other people in need of international protection lived outside designated settlements.

CHAPTER 2

Refugees

Refugees & others in need of international protection
27% increase over the past decade



Zarina, an Afghan refugee mother of two, crochets flowers in New Delhi, India.

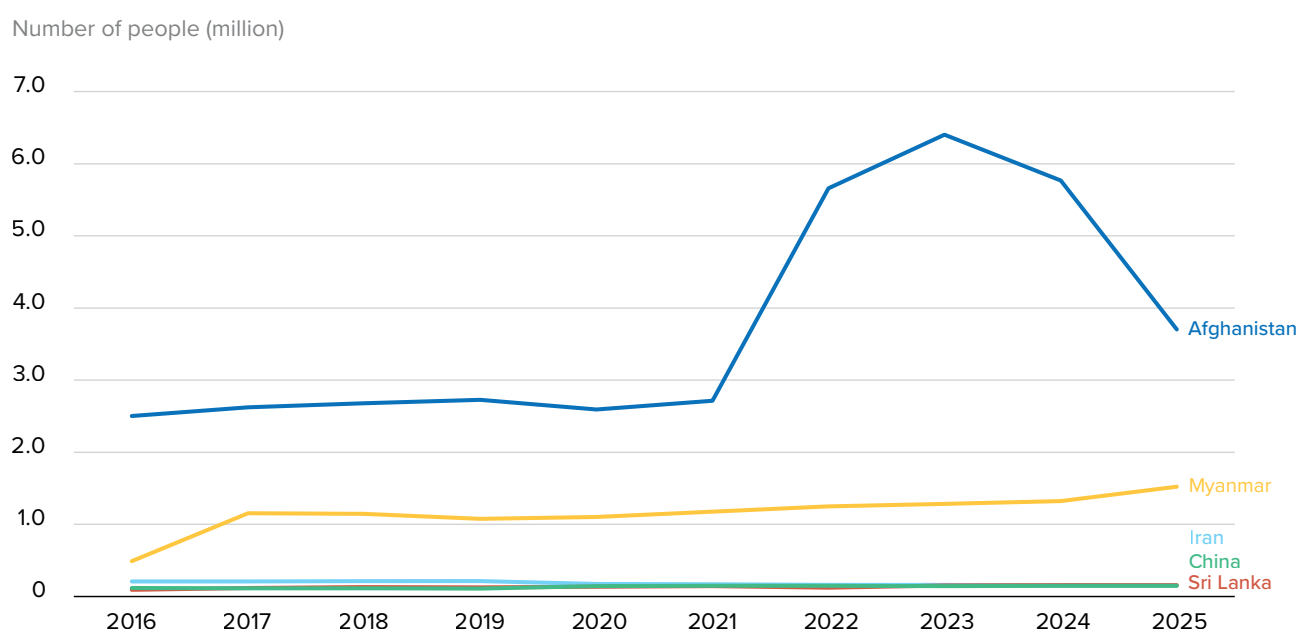
Supported by a UNHCR business grant, she has built a livelihood from her traditional craftwork to provide for her family.

©UNHCR/Ruhani Kaur

The number of refugees and other people in need of international protection in Asia and the Pacific decreased by almost 1.9 million in 2025, bringing the total to 4.9 million – 14% of the global refugee population under UNHCR’s mandate. Most people fleeing conflict and persecution prefer to stay close to their countries of origin; in 2025, 90% of refugees and people in refugee-like situations in the region were hosted in neighbouring countries.

By Country of Origin

Figure 6 | **Refugees and other people in need of international protection by country of origin in Asia-Pacific | 2016-2025**



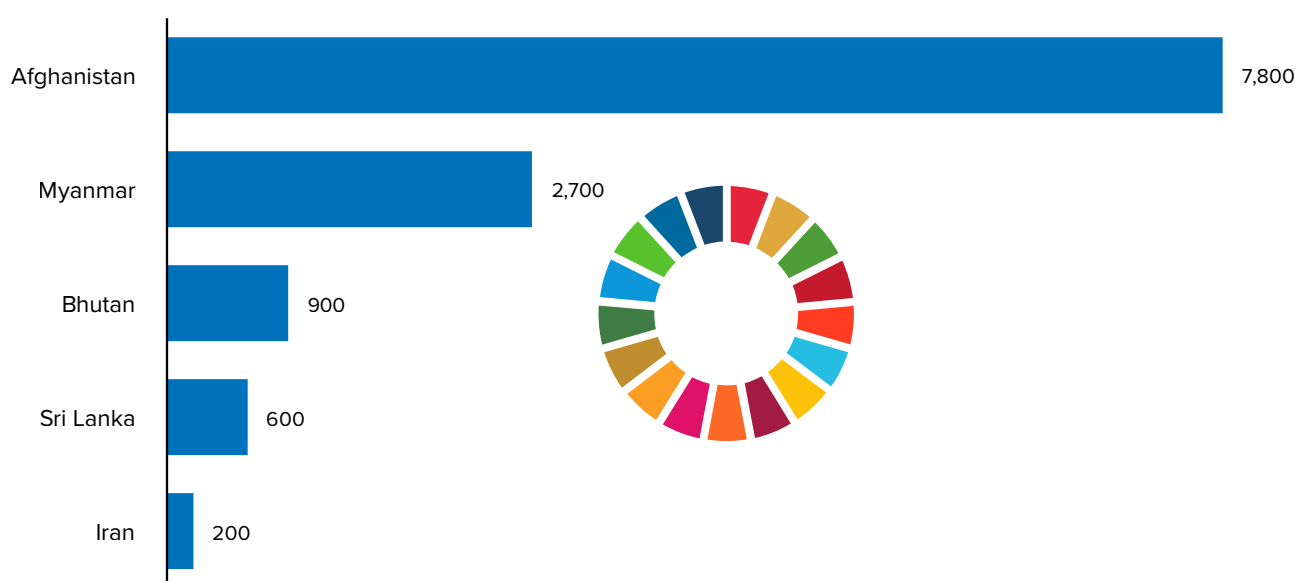
The largest refugee population from the region continues to be the Afghan population despite the largest refugee return movement globally in 2025. At the end of 2025, approximately 3.7 million Afghan refugees and other Afghans in need of international protection were hosted across 106 countries globally, representing a 36% decrease compared to the end of 2024.¹⁴ Although active fighting ceased in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover in 2021, Afghans, irrespective of legal status, continue to face serious protection risks in Afghanistan amid the prevailing human rights situation, particularly women and girls.¹⁵

14 At end-2025, 1 million Afghans were, for the first time, reported as other people in need of international protection in five countries. Previously, these Afghans had been reported as people in a refugee-like situation. The reclassification includes some 879,500 people in the Islamic Republic of Iran who are Movaqat holders, family passport holders or former headcount slip holders and an estimated population of undocumented Afghans. It also includes 41,000 undocumented Afghans in Pakistan. In Pakistan, 100,000 Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders are also included who were previously reported as others of concern to UNHCR and are reclassified to better reflect their international protection needs. Similar adjustments were made for 3,200 Afghans in Turkmenistan and 7,700 in Uzbekistan. In addition to Afghans, people in a refugee-like situation were reclassified as other people in need of international protection in Kyrgyzstan (53,900), Kazakhstan (48,400) and Tajikistan (1,600).

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

In 2025, the number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate from Myanmar increased by 15% (201,900) compared to 2024, surpassing 1.5 million. During the year, 145,900 Rohingya from Myanmar were reported as seeking international protection. Almost all (136,500 or 94%) were biometrically identified following the Government of Bangladesh's decision to allow them to remain in the camps and access assistance. Most had arrived in 2024 and 2025. The increase also reflected (to a lesser extent) birth registration among Rohingya in Bangladesh.

Figure 7 | **SDG Indicator 10.7.4 | 2025**



*Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundreds.

Note: Only countries with a population of greater than 100,000 have been included.

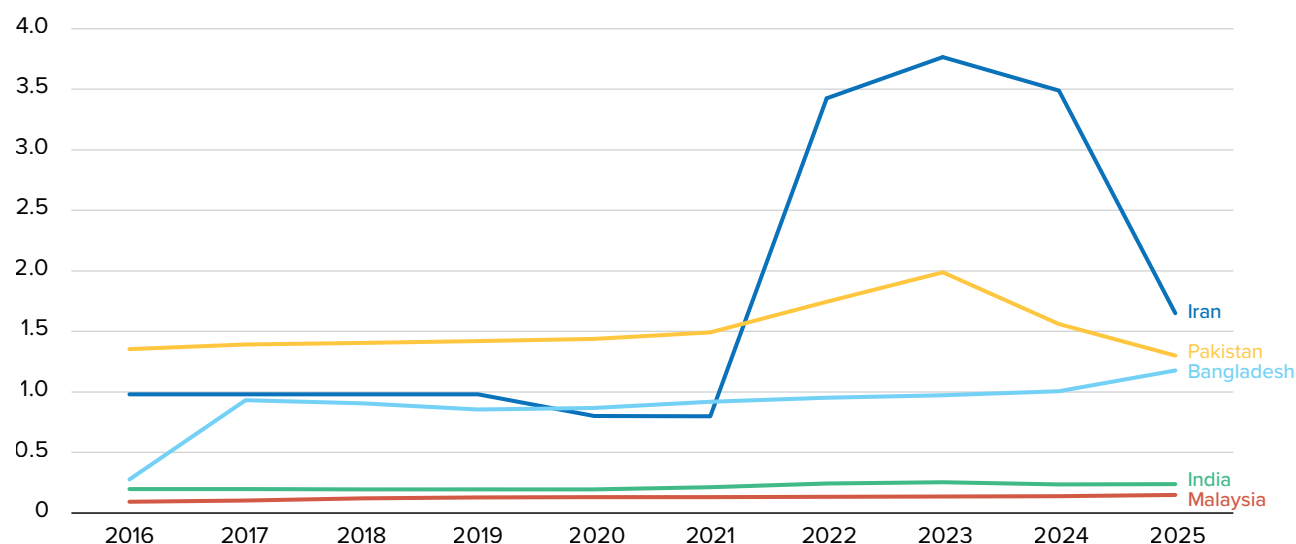
The proportion of a country's population that becomes refugees or other people in need of international protection – SDG indicator 10.7.4¹⁶ – is a useful measure of the relative scale of displacement from countries of origin. In Asia and the Pacific, Afghanistan had the highest rate (7,800 per 100,000 inhabitants), followed by Myanmar (2,700), Bhutan (900), Sri Lanka (600) and Iran (200). Globally, Venezuela had the highest rate at 18,400 per 100,000 inhabitants.

16 See [UN Statistical Commission 51st session \(2020\) documents](#). Indicator 10.7.4 is calculated as follows: [Number of refugees by country of origin at end-year / (End-year population in country of origin + number of refugees by country of origin at end-year)] * 100,000. For this indicator, refugees, people in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection are included.

By Country of Asylum

Figure 8 | Refugees and other people in need of international protection by country of asylum in Asia-Pacific | 2016-2025

Number of people (million)



Iran (1.7 million, -53%),¹⁷ Pakistan (1.3 million, -17%) and Bangladesh (1.2 million, +17%) remained the largest host countries in the region.¹⁸ Government policies towards Afghans in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan became increasingly restrictive during the year. Despite the scale of refugee returns in 2025, these two countries still hosted four in five Afghan refugees or other people in need of international protection at year-end. Those who remained in Iran have faced immense challenges since the escalation of the Middle East conflict in February 2026.¹⁹

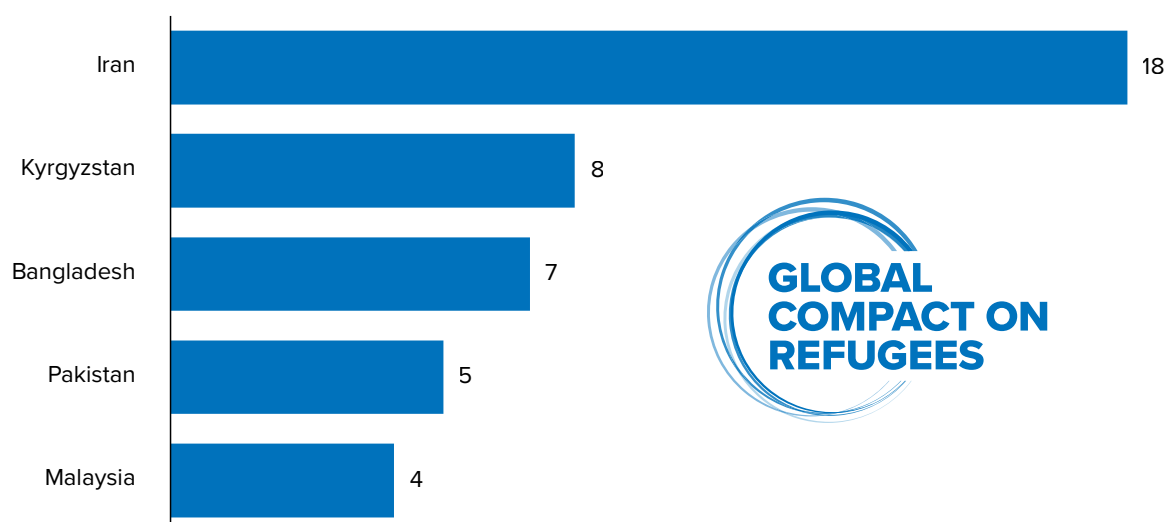
By year-end, Bangladesh hosted almost 1.2 million refugees, the vast majority of whom are Rohingya who fled waves of violence in Rakhine State and the impact of Myanmar's discriminatory citizenship laws. Cox's Bazar remains the world's largest refugee settlement.²⁰ In 2025, 136,500 Rohingya from Myanmar were biometrically identified following a decision by the Government of Bangladesh to allow them to remain in the camps and access assistance. Most had arrived in 2024 or 2025.

17 The vast majority of refugees and other people in need of international protection in Iran are Afghan nationals (over 1.6 million).

18 Iran (5th), Pakistan (7th) and Bangladesh (8th) ranked among the world's top 10 refugee-hosting countries and countries hosting other people in need of international protection in 2025.

19 See [Afghans in Iran are fleeing bombs, and Iranian crackdowns](#), April 2026, The New Humanitarian.

20 See also [Where are the largest places hosting refugees?](#) and [Settlement Typologies in Emergencies](#). The proportion of people in settlements includes those in formal settlements, informal settlements, collective centres and transit centres.

Figure 9 | **Number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants | 2025**

Comparing the size of the refugee population with that of the host country offers insight into the relative pressure on host countries. The number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants is a useful measure of this and includes independent United Nations Member States with populations of at least 1,000. By year-end, the countries in Asia and the Pacific hosting the largest number of refugees relative to their population were Iran (18 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants), Kyrgyzstan (8 refugees per 1,000), Bangladesh (7 per 1,000), Pakistan (5 per 1,000) and Malaysia (4 per 1,000). Although India hosted the region's fourth largest refugee population, it did not rank among the top five on this measure because of its large population.

In Asia and the Pacific, refugees are hosted across one low-income country, 23 middle-income countries and six high-income countries.²¹ Overall, 98% of refugees and other people in need of international protection in the region reside in low-, lower-middle or upper-middle income countries. More than 1.2 million are hosted by countries in the region currently classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), representing 25% of the total number of refugees and other people in need of international protection in the region.²²

21 The classification of countries by income level is from the World Population Prospects 2024 (<https://population.un.org/wpp/>) as reported by the World Bank.

22 The United Nations Statistics Division classified [44 countries as Least Developed Countries \(LDCs\)](#). These countries are typically low- or lower-middle-income and face significant structural challenges to sustainable development. The list is reviewed every three years.

The 50 by 35 in Asia and the Pacific

The **50 by 35 vision** aims to halve, by 2035, the number of refugees and other people in need of international protection who remain in protracted displacement and cannot meet their basic needs without external humanitarian assistance.²³ It is not a call to withdraw aid. Rather, it seeks to ensure that protection and targeted assistance continue where needed, while more people are supported to move towards dignity, self-reliance and durable solutions. This includes greater inclusion in national systems, education and access to livelihoods, alongside efforts to pursue solutions through voluntary repatriation where safe and dignified, third-country pathways and local solutions, while strengthening international responsibility-sharing.

Asia and the Pacific hosts a predominantly protracted refugee caseload across diverse income, fragility and legal contexts. Almost 58% of refugees and others in need of international protection are hosted in lower-middle-income countries, 40% in upper-middle-income countries and 25% in LDCs. Around 86% are hosted in high or extreme fragility contexts and 14% in medium-to-low fragility contexts.

The protection and solutions environment is constrained by the fact that approximately 61% of refugees and others in need of international protection in the region are hosted in States that are not party to the 1951 Convention. This requires tailored strategies that preserve protection space while pursuing practical administrative openings on registration, documentation, legal identity, access to services, social protection, work and solutions.

Given the limited opportunities for large-scale local integration, voluntary repatriation and resettlement across Asia and the Pacific, the 50 by 35 agenda is increasingly anchored in self-reliance and inclusion as the most scalable and realistic pathway for refugees. The regional roadmap therefore adopts a differentiated approach, advancing solutions tailored to each operational context, including socioeconomic inclusion, access to legal identity and documentation, pathways to naturalization where feasible, and efforts to reduce statelessness.

Central to this approach is the recognition that reduced dependency does not simply mean a reduction in assistance, but rather the result of improved access to protection, services, livelihoods, legal identity and opportunities that enable refugees to exercise greater agency and resilience. Where assistance transitions are pursued, they should be accompanied by safeguards and planning measures to ensure that protection risks are not transferred to refugees, host communities or national systems.

23 The 50 by 35 target is focused on low- and middle-income countries in light of the particular pressures that large and prolonged refugee situations may place on communities with comparatively more limited resources. Nonetheless, protracted refugee situations remain relevant in high-income countries where refugees may continue to face long-term protection, inclusion and solutions challenges, and where important commitments have been made under successive Global Refugee Forums in support of sustainable responses.

HOW IS PROGRESS MEASURED?

Progress is measured through a simple poverty-based benchmark: a person is considered aid-dependent if their consumption – excluding humanitarian assistance – falls below the host country's national poverty line. This makes the target comparable across countries and aligned with broader development approaches. Achieving it will require stronger inclusion of refugees in national statistical systems, more predictable development financing, and partnerships with governments, international financial institutions, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society and refugee-led organizations.

THAILAND: PROTECTION-SENSITIVE TRANSITION TOWARD LEGAL WORK, DOCUMENTATION AND SOLUTIONS

In Thailand, the 50 by 35 agenda is supported by important Government-led efforts to expand opportunities for refugees and stateless persons through greater access to documentation, legal identity, services and socioeconomic inclusion. Recent policy developments have created new prospects for more than 80,000 refugees residing in temporary shelters, including pathways toward legal work and increased access to national systems. [Ongoing reforms](#) are also supporting opportunities for nationality and permanent residence for hundreds of thousands of stateless people. These developments provide a strong foundation for partnerships with Government, development actors, financial institutions, employers and the private sector to promote sustainable inclusion and reduce long-term dependency on humanitarian assistance. UNHCR is working closely with national authorities and partners to support implementation and generate lessons that could inform similar approaches elsewhere in the region.

INDIA: SELF-RELIANCE, TARGETED LOCAL SOLUTIONS AND SAFE PATHWAYS TOWARD 50 BY 35

India offers important examples of how self-reliance, locally driven solutions and targeted pathways can advance the objectives of the 50 by 35 agenda. Alongside investments in livelihoods, skills development, education and community-based support that strengthen resilience and economic participation, the Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu demonstrates the potential of collaborative approaches to support the Government in determining who can remain, establishing pathways to citizenship where eligible and enabling greater long-term self-reliance for refugees. Implemented in support of the relevant Government authorities, this experience illustrates how inclusive, partnership-based solutions can create sustainable opportunities for refugee communities.

Taken together, Thailand and India illustrate how the 50 by 35 target can be shaped by country realities and the specific situation of different refugee populations.



Refugees from Myanmar prepare for work at a construction site in Thailand.

The Royal Thai Government has granted long-staying camp-based refugees from Myanmar the right to work, offering an inclusive solution to long-term displacement.

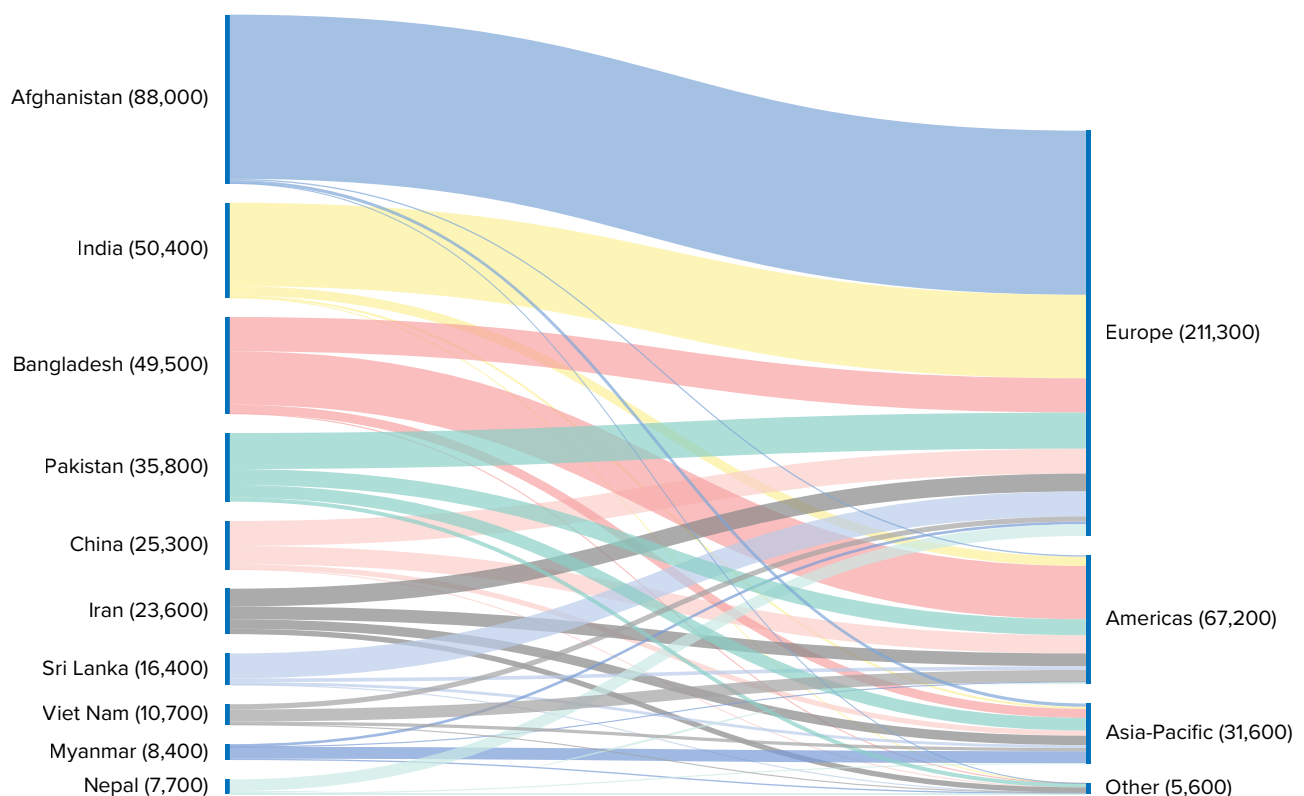
©UNHCR/Ploy Phutpheng

CHAPTER 3

Asylum-Seekers

Asylum-seekers are people who have sought international protection but whose claims for refugee status have not yet been decided. Refugee Status Determination (RSD)²⁴ is the process through which governments or UNHCR assess whether a person seeking international protection qualifies as a refugee, evaluating asylum claims based on legal criteria established in international, regional and national law.

Figure 10 | **Flow of new individual asylum-seekers | 2025²⁵**

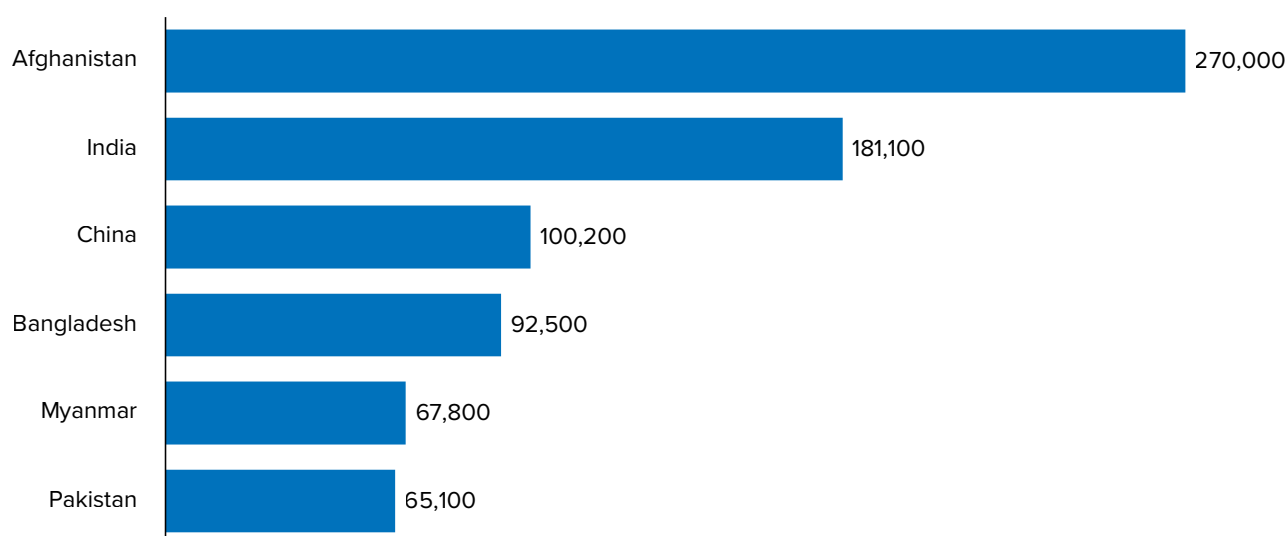


24 Refugee status can be granted individually or on a group basis. Group recognition most commonly takes place where clear and objective conditions in the country of origin indicate that most people fleeing from that country are likely to meet the criteria for refugee status. In most cases, those granted refugee status on a group basis will be directly registered as refugees, whereas those recognized on an individual basis are first registered as asylum-seekers. As a result, people undergoing group determination are usually not included in the "asylum application" total.

25 Only refers to individual asylum applications submitted in countries with an existing RSD process.

In 2025, nationals of countries in Asia and the Pacific submitted 345,000 new individual asylum applications, 29% fewer than in 2024. Afghans submitted 88,000 new asylum applications in 2025, 19% fewer than in 2024. Europe remained the primary destination, receiving 82,000 applications (93% of the total). By contrast, countries in the region received only 3,400 new Afghan applications, partly reflecting the absence of robust RSD systems in many countries. Overall, more than 60% of all new individual asylum applications from the region were lodged in Europe.

Figure 11 | **Asylum-seekers globally by country of origin in Asia-Pacific | 2025**



At the end of 2025, Afghanistan (270,000) remained the largest country of origin for asylum-seekers from Asia and the Pacific with pending asylum claims globally, followed by India (181,100), the People's Republic of China (100,200), Bangladesh (92,500), Myanmar (67,800) and Pakistan (65,100).

Afghans were the largest group of asylum applicants in the EU+²⁶ in 2025, with 117,100 applications, representing 14% of all applications.²⁷ Legal developments in the EU+ contributed to a rise in asylum applications by Afghans in 2025, particularly among women. In October 2024, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled that Afghan women face a general risk of persecution under Taliban rule and that nationality and gender alone may be sufficient grounds for refugee status, reinforcing earlier guidance from the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)²⁸ and UNHCR.²⁹ In 2025, repeat applications accounted for 42% of all Afghan applications, up from 14% in 2024, largely reflecting re-applications by Afghan women and their families already residing in the EU+. This trend was first observed in Austria and later became more prominent in Germany. The recognition rate³⁰ for Afghan applicants in the EU+ was 68% in 2025 although this varied considerably across receiving countries.

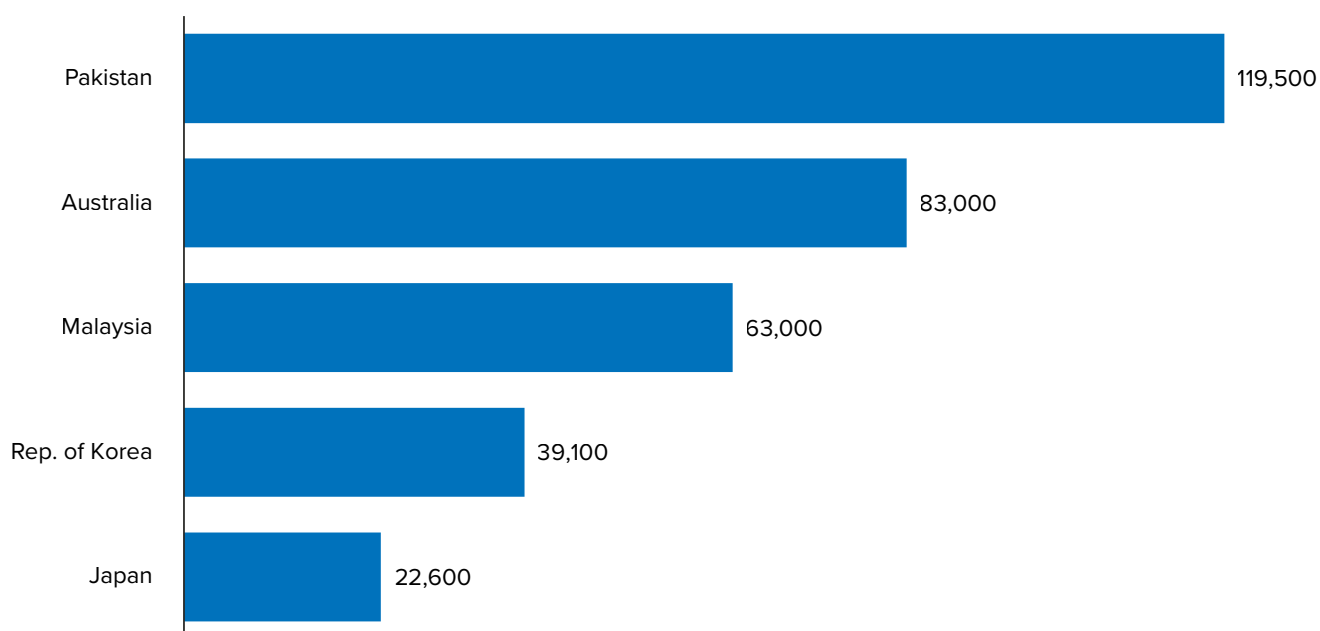
26 EU+ refers to the 27 European Union Member States, plus Norway and Switzerland.

27 Source: European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) [Latest Asylum Trends 2025: Annual Analysis | European Union Agency for Asylum](#).

28 See [Country Guidance: Afghanistan | European Union Agency for Asylum](#).

29 See [Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan \(Update I\) | Refworld](#).

30 Recognition rate includes refugee status and subsidiary protection but excludes national forms of protection. It is calculated using only first-instance decisions.

Figure 12 | **Asylum-seekers by host country in Asia Pacific | 2025**

By end-2025, Pakistan hosted the largest number of asylum-seekers (119,500) in the region, followed by Australia (83,000), Malaysia (63,000), the Republic of Korea (39,100) and Japan (22,600).³¹ Most asylum-seekers in Pakistan are Afghans.



³¹ There may be differences between the number of pending asylum cases in Japan reported by UNHCR and official figures, due to structural differences in data systems and classification methodologies. Accordingly, this report provides an approximate estimate based on publicly available data.

CHAPTER 4

Internally Displaced People

Internally Displaced People
Increased by almost 160% over the past decade

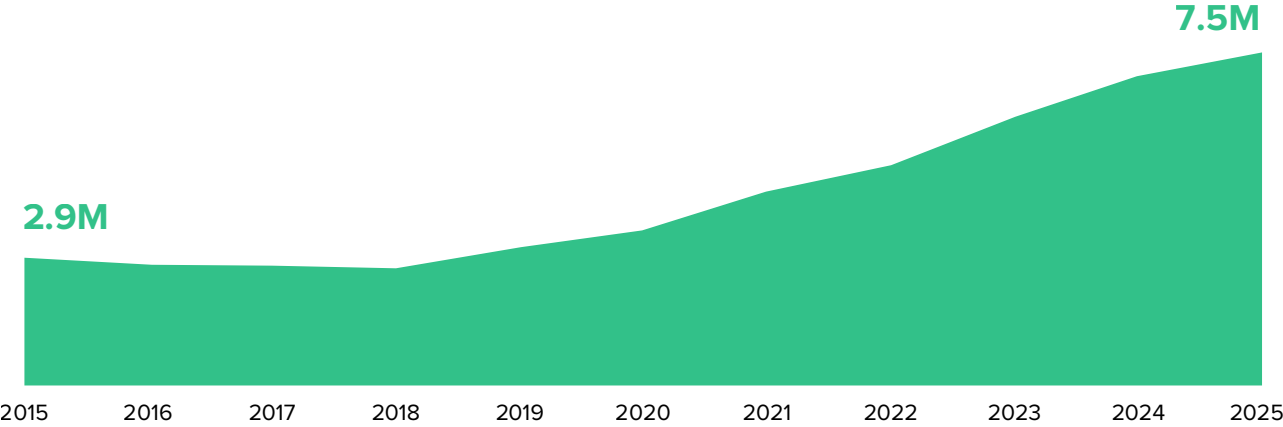
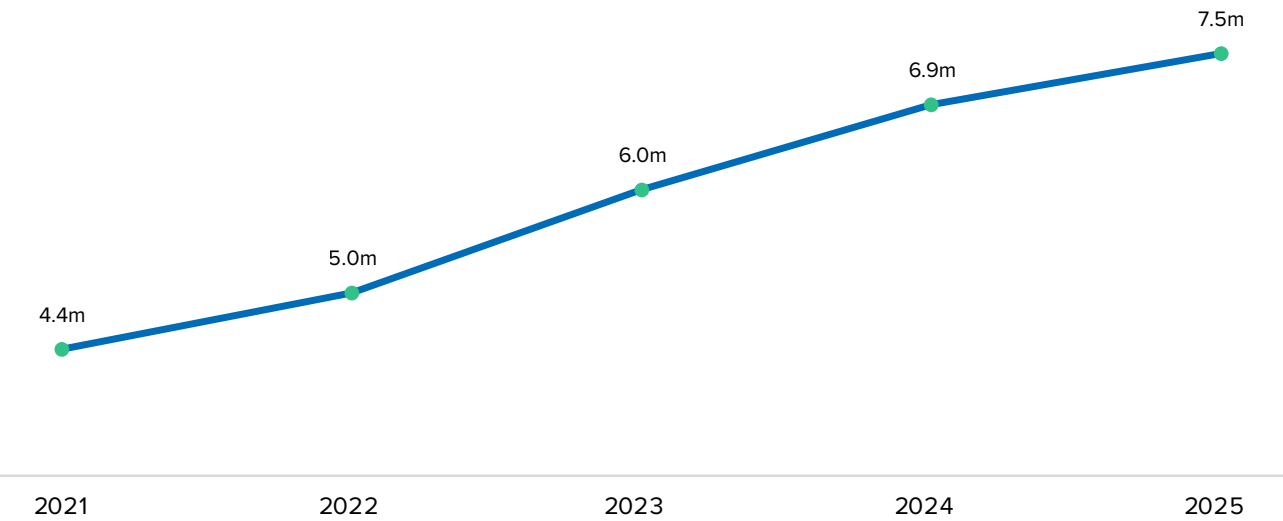
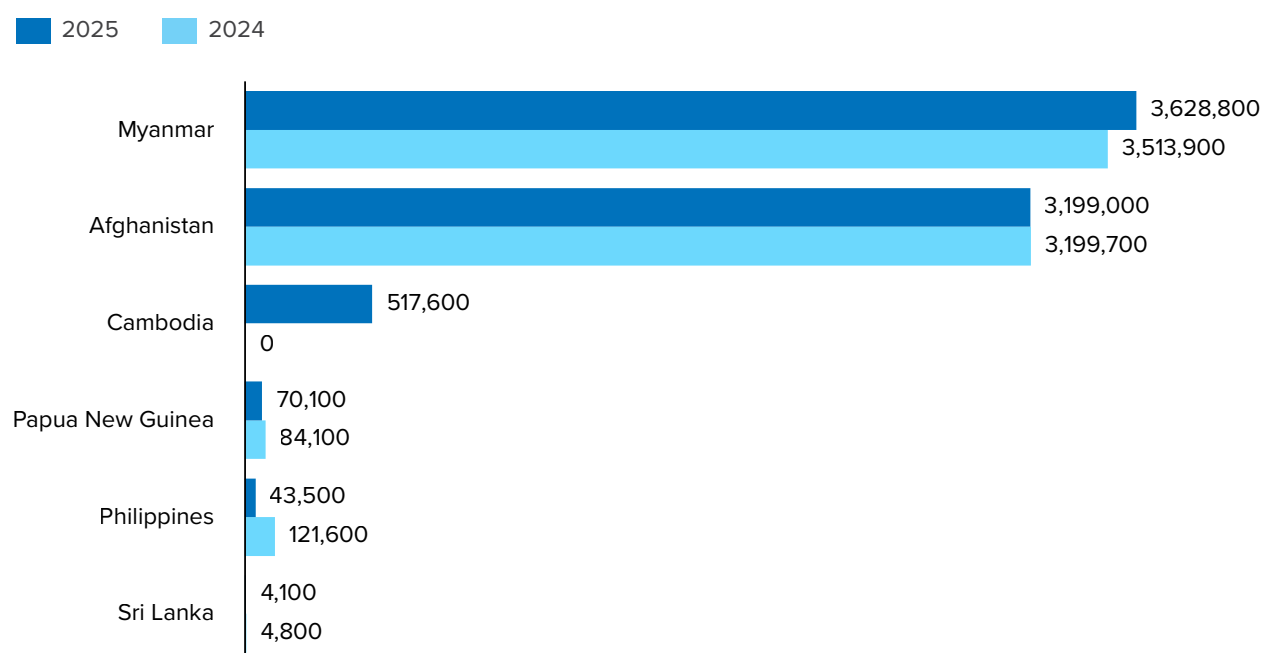


Figure 13 | IDP trends in Asia-Pacific | 2021 - 2025



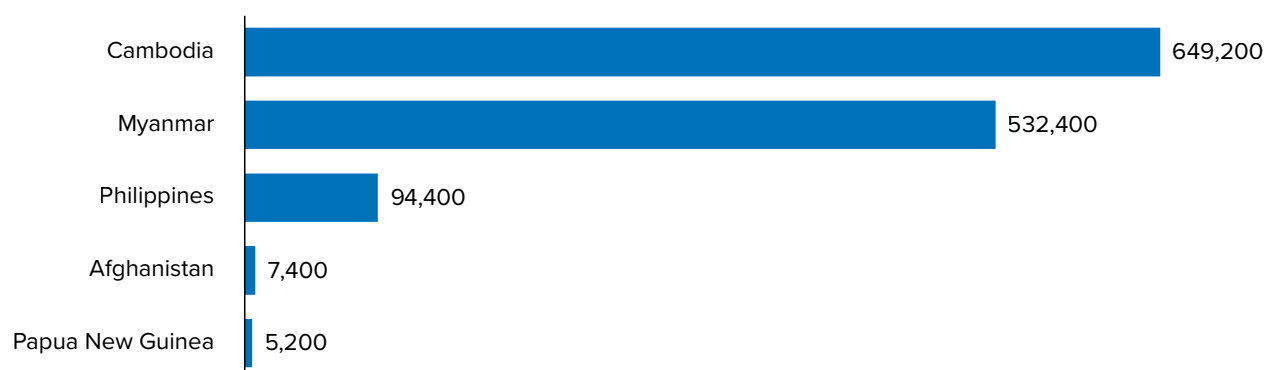
The number of people displaced within their own countries due to armed conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations in the region has continued to rise over the past five years.³² By end-2025, there were some 7.5 million IDPs, an increase of more than 70% since 2021.

Figure 14 | **Countries with the most conflict-induced IDPs in Asia-Pacific | 2024 - 2025**



Seven countries in the region reported conflict-induced internal displacement in 2025: Myanmar (3.6 million), Afghanistan (3.2 million), Cambodia (517,600), Papua New Guinea (70,100), the Philippines (43,500) and Sri Lanka (4,100).

Figure 15 | **Newly displaced IDPs in Asia-Pacific | 2025**



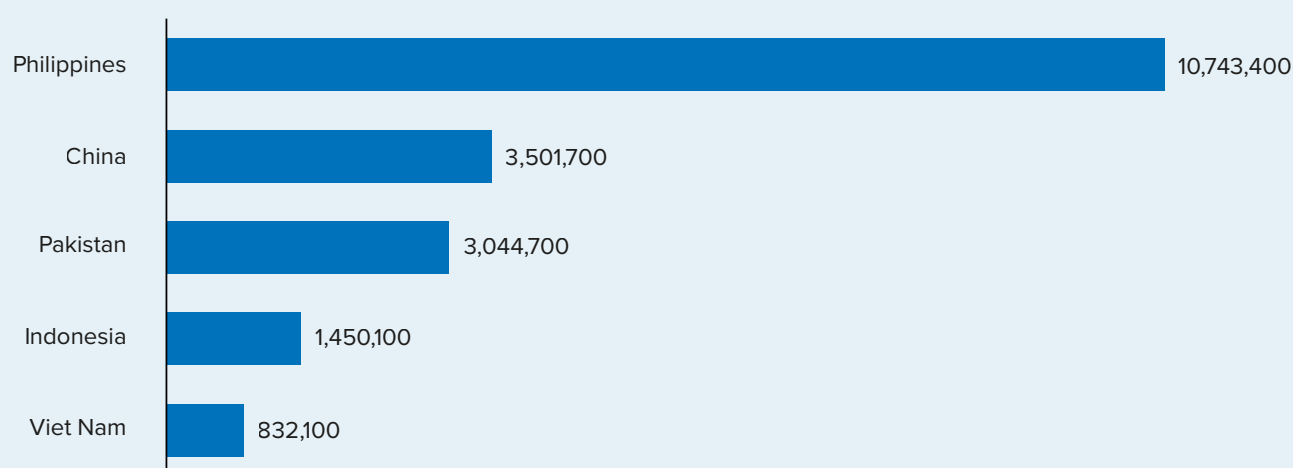
³² See footnote 4.

Following major military confrontations between Cambodia and Thailand in July and December 2025, 649,200 people were newly displaced within Cambodia across several north-western and western provinces. Although some 240,000 returns were reported by 1 January 2026, with many more recorded thereafter, tensions between the two countries have remained high.³³ North-west Myanmar remains one of the regions hardest hit by conflict. Sagaing hosted 1.3 million IDPs, the largest number in the north-west.

In the Philippines, the number of IDPs in Mindanao decreased by approximately 64% to 43,500. This decline is primarily attributable to an update to the Marawi displacement estimates, based on an assessment conducted by the Ministry of Social Services and Development in Marawi City, which recorded approximately 39,000 displaced people.

Displacement in the context of climate change and disasters

Figure 16 | Internal displacements during the year by disasters in Asia-Pacific | 2025



Note: An “internal displacement” refers to each new forced movement of person. Some people become displaced a number of times before finding a solution to their displacement. Source: [2026 Global Report on Internal Displacement \(GRID\) | IDMC](#)

Extreme weather and disasters continue to drive large-scale displacement across Asia and the Pacific region. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, around 74% of all disaster-related displacements globally over the past decade occurred in the region. Many countries have faced multiple crises in recent years, including droughts, floods, earthquakes, typhoons and cyclones, disrupting lives and reversing development gains – even in emerging economies. In 2025 alone, disasters triggered 22.1 million internal displacements. By year-end, 9.6 million people were still displaced – around 70% of the global total.³⁴

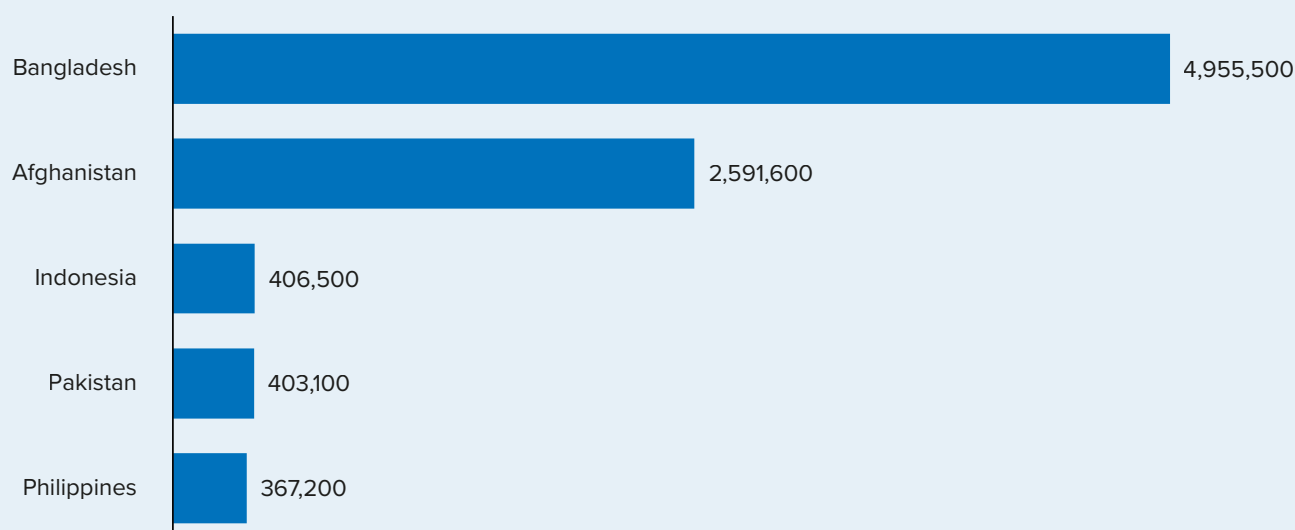
³³ See [Humanitarian Response Forum \(HRF\) - Situation Report 13: Cambodia-Thailand Border Situation](#), January 2026, United Nations Cambodia and [Public health situation analysis, Cambodia: Thailand border conflict](#), December 2025, World Health Organization (WHO).

³⁴ See [2026 Global Report on Internal Displacement \(GRID\) | IDMC - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre](#).

Four countries in the region were among the top five globally for disaster-related displacement in 2025

- **The Philippines** saw a record 10.7 million people displaced, the highest number of any country worldwide. 36% of global disaster displacements occurred in the Philippines, including 10.2 million storm displacements recorded in November as the monsoon season intensified. Although the country is regularly exposed to such hazards, this was still its highest annual figure on record.
- **China** saw 3.5 million displacements, down from 3.9 million in 2024. Many of the same storms that wreaked havoc in the Philippines also struck China. Tropical Cyclone Mitag triggered around 1 million displacements in Guangdong province.
- **Pakistan** recorded some 3 million displacements due to natural disasters, primarily due to major floods. Over 2.8 million of these movements were recorded in Punjab province by the end of July. By the end of 2025, nearly 275,000 people remained displaced as a result of the floods. The recurrence of flooding across Pakistan reflects the highly localized and seasonal nature of these events and underscores the country's persistent exposure and vulnerability to such hazards.
- **Indonesia** the world's fourth most populous country, recorded almost 1.5 million displacements in 2025. Tropical Cyclone Senyar, which struck at the end of November and coincided with the north-east monsoon, devastated parts of North Sumatra, West Sumatra and Aceh provinces in Indonesia. The event triggered nearly 1.1 million displacements, accounting for more than three-quarters of the country's record-high annual total.

Figure 17 | **IDPs by natural disasters | end-2025**



Source: [2026 Global Report on Internal Displacement \(GRID\)](#) | IDMC

Improved data collection through a nationwide assessment of Bangladesh's protracted displacement situations revealed that an estimated 5 million people were living in internal displacement due to disasters, some for years. Flood-related displacements declined significantly in 2025, with fewer than 94,000 movements recorded, down from 1.3 million in 2024 and around five times below the decadal average. Nearly 89% occurred in the eastern part of the country in late August, mostly in Chattogram division, which regularly records some of the country's highest displacement figures due to its exposure along the Bay of Bengal coast and the high vulnerability of its population, particularly in Cox's Bazar.

In Afghanistan, almost 5 million people remained internally displaced due to disasters at the end of 2025. A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck the country on 31 August, killing nearly 2,000 people and destroying around 6,800 homes in the eastern provinces of Nangahar and Laghman. A second magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck near the northern city of Mazar-el Sharif in early November. Together, the two earthquakes triggered fewer than 8,200 displacements, as many people already living in precarious or temporary conditions did not move again, reflecting the lack of safe alternatives. Many IDPs in Afghanistan have been affected by decades of conflict, recurrent drought and a prolonged economic crisis that has left few resources for assistance and recovery. At the same time, many people have returned from within and outside the country to areas with limited livelihood opportunities and inadequate access to basic services and infrastructure.



Aerial view of the Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Home to more than 1.2 million Rohingya refugees, the camp faces year-round extreme weather risks.

©UNHCR/Santi Palacios

HIGHLIGHT

Afghanistan Situation

10.1 MILLIONAfghans protected and /or assisted
by UNHCR globally**91.3%**in the Asia and
the Pacific Region**90.9%**

in South-West Asia

4 MILLIONAfghans refugees, asylum-seekers and other
Afghans in need of international protection globally**78.1%**in the Asia and
the Pacific Region**76.9%**

in South-West Asia

3.2 MILLION

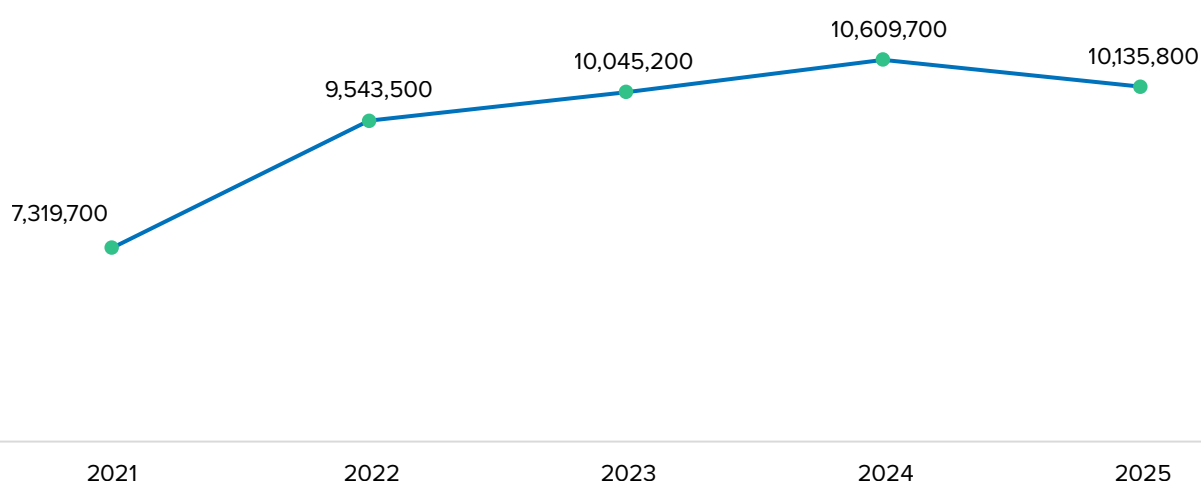
IDPs in Afghanistan

1 MILLION

Other Afghans of concern to UNHCR

Although large-scale conflict has subsided in Afghanistan since 2021, the country continues to grapple with widespread poverty and food insecurity. Infrastructure and essential services remain inadequate, while civil liberties (particularly for women and girls) have been increasingly and severely restricted. Despite these challenges, UNHCR reported that around 10.1 million Afghans³⁵ were protected and/or assisted by end-2025 – a 5% decrease from the previous year. Most forcibly displaced Afghans are in Afghanistan or in neighbouring countries. Afghanistan remains one of the world's largest countries of origin for refugees or other people in need of international protection, while Iran continues to be among the largest countries of asylum, primarily hosting Afghans.

Figure 18 | **Afghans UNHCR protects and/or assists | 2021 - 2025**



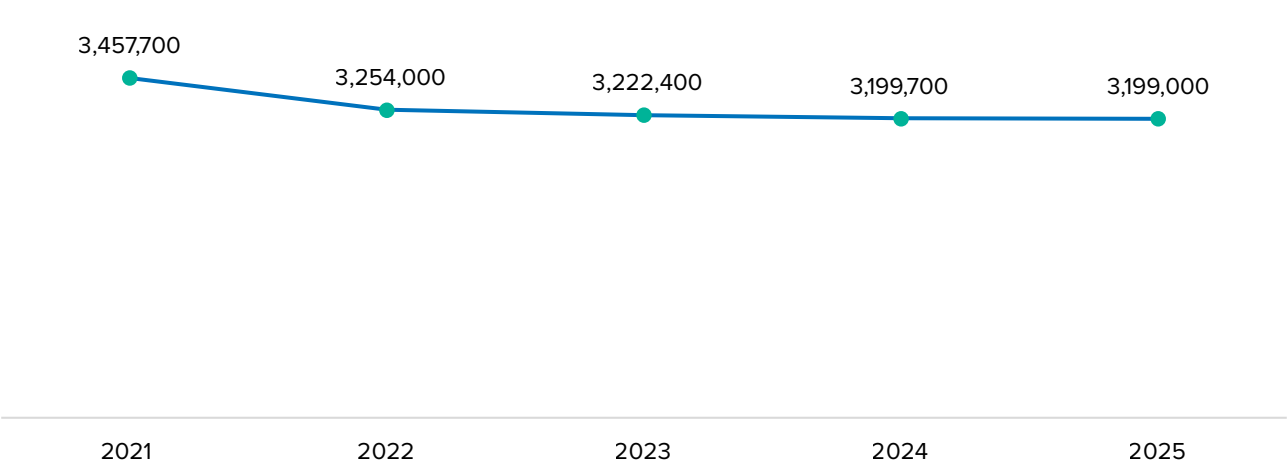
Afghan families return to Afghanistan from Pakistan through the Torkham border, many of them not by choice.

©UNHCR/Oxygen Media Empire

³⁵ Includes refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, refugee returnees, IDP returnees, other people in need of international protection and others of concern to UNHCR.

The Afghanistan situation remains the largest in the region, with the number of people UNHCR protects and/or assists still on the rise. Most Afghan refugees and others in need of international protection are hosted in Iran and Pakistan, which are among the world’s largest refugee-hosting countries. Despite the scale of refugee returns during the year, these two countries still hosted four in five Afghan refugees or other people in need of international protection: 1.6 million in Iran and 1.3 million in Pakistan. Other countries hosting significant Afghan refugee populations included Germany (288,300), France (104,400) and the United Kingdom (64,200).

Figure 19 | IDPs in Afghanistan | 2021 - 2025



The number of IDPs in Afghanistan gradually declined after reaching 3.5 million at the end of 2021. By the end of 2025, the figure had fallen to 3.2 million, a decrease of 7%. Children under the age of 18 accounted for 62% of all Afghan IDPs, the highest proportion of internally displaced children globally based on available data.



In Herat, Afghanistan, Sonia and her family were displaced when an earthquake destroyed their home. After living in a tent for an extended period, they received a durable shelter from UNHCR, providing greater stability as they rebuild their lives.

**AFGHANS: FORCIBLY DISPLACED
AND RETURNEES GLOBALLY
AS OF END-2025**

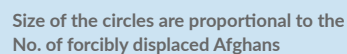


4,549,300

Afghans protected and/or assisted by UNHCR outside Afghanistan



Forcibly displaced Afghans and returnees within Afghanistan

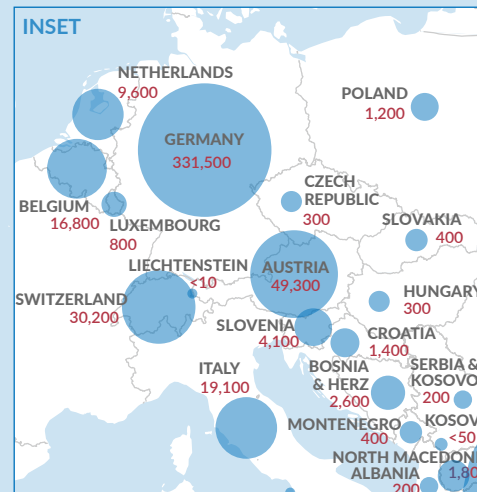


- Afghans protected and/or assisted by UNHCR outside Afghanistan ● Forcibly displaced Afghans and Afghan returnees within Afghanistan

Label:

COUNTRY

No. of Afghans protected and/or assisted by UNHCR outside Afghanistan



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Afghan returns under adverse circumstances and to an extremely fragile situation

Approximately 2.9 million Afghans returns³⁶ in 2025, including an estimated 1.9 million refugees and others in need of international protection, making this the largest refugee return movement of the year. Most returns were linked to restrictive government policies towards Afghans in Iran³⁷ and Pakistan³⁸ and some were assessed as involuntary in nature. As a result, the global Afghan refugee population, including other Afghans in need of international protection, fell sharply from 5.8 million at the end of 2024 to 3.7 million at the end of 2025. Many returnees had lived for long periods in Iran and Pakistan, and some were born there, but most reported that they had little or no choice in their decision to return to Afghanistan.³⁹

Returns from Iran accounted for 1.9 million Afghans, including an estimated 1.4 million refugees and others in need of international protection, with the protection environment worsening after the conflict between Iran and Israel in June 2025. Tighter border enforcement, security measures and increased deportations led to days in July when returns exceeded 40,000 people per day. From Pakistan, approximately 1 million Afghans returned,⁴⁰ with women and children making up four-fifths of returnees. UNHCR called on Pakistan to exempt Afghans at heightened risk of harm from the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan, given their continued international protection needs and the fragile conditions in Afghanistan.⁴¹

Returnees face serious challenges in Afghanistan, especially where they have weak social ties after long periods of displacement. Immediate needs include food, housing, property restoration and access to basic services, particularly health and education. Education access is more limited for returnee children than for Afghans who remained in the country, especially girls: only two-thirds of boys and less than half of girls reported having the same access to education as other Afghans. More than one-third of returnee households could not access required medical services in the previous six months, while more than four out of five households reported skipping at least one meal a day. Only 60% of returnees reported having an income source, with a marked gender gap: two-thirds of men could generate income compared with only one-quarter of women.⁴²

Returns continued in 2026, reaching an estimated 862,000 by late June,⁴³ driven by shrinking protection space in neighbouring countries and renewed war in Iran from February 2026.

36 The total return figure encompasses deportations, assisted voluntary repatriations and other returns of Afghans of all statuses, including Proof of Registration cardholders, Afghan Citizenship Card holders, Amayesh card holders, headcount slip holders and the undocumented. It excludes passport/visa holders. See also [Returns to Afghanistan dashboard](#), UNHCR.

37 The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran introduced a policy not to renew the headcount slips held by over 2 million Afghans and following the expiry of headcount slips on 20 March 2025 launched a regularization/return scheme for affected Afghans where the majority were expected to return to Afghanistan by the Government deadline of 6 July 2025 or face deportation. The scheme also provided for, inter alia, profiles at risk or vulnerable individuals to be assessed and allowed to stay.

38 On 7 March 2025, the Government of Pakistan announced the resumption of the 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan', initially targeting Afghan Citizenship Card holders, who were instructed to leave voluntarily by 31 March or face deportation from 1 April. On 31 July 2025, the Government applied more restrictive elements of the plan to also include Afghan refugees holding Proof of Registration cards. See [Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan, 2023, Laws and policies, Pakistan](#), April 2025, Rights Mapping and Analysis Platform.

39 See [2025 Afghan returns: One year recap](#), February 2026, UNHCR.

40 This includes an estimated 558,400 refugee returnees.

41 See [UNHCR expresses concern over the denotification of refugee villages and forced returns of Afghan refugees](#), October 2025, UNHCR.

42 See [Afghanistan post-return monitoring survey report](#), December 2025, UNHCR and [Afghan returns: experiences, challenges and prospects for reintegration](#), August 2025, Mixed Migration Centre.

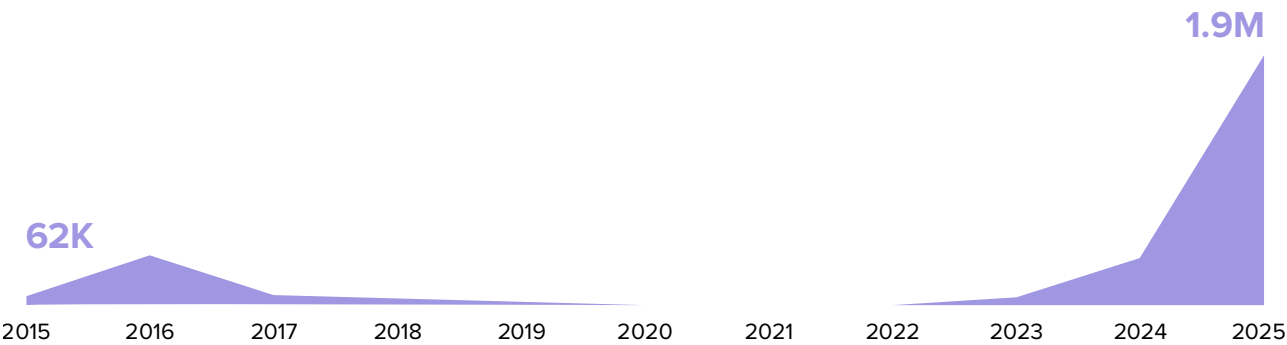
43 See [Returns to Afghanistan dashboard](#), UNHCR.

CHAPTER 5

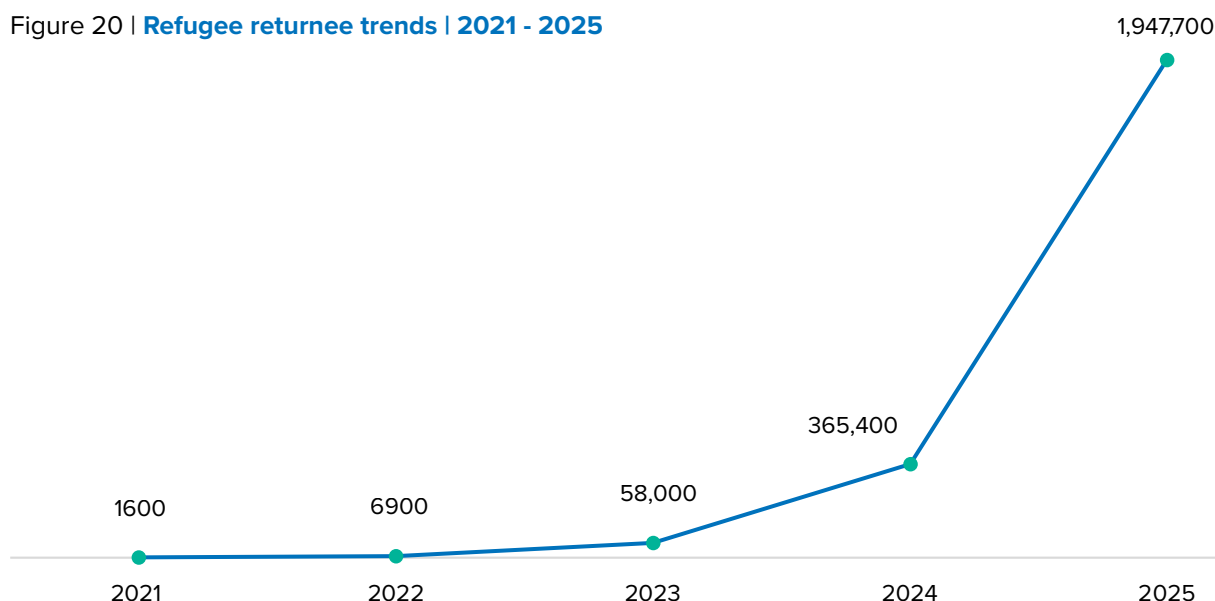
Solutions

Refugee returns

Close to 2M refugees returned in 2025, mostly Afghans

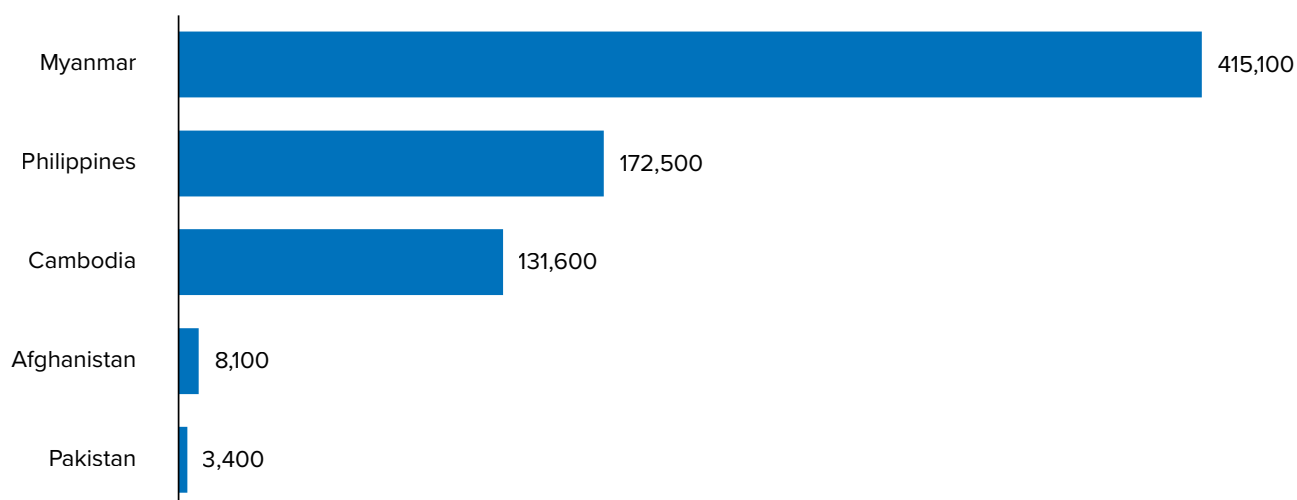


Durable solutions for refugees include voluntary repatriation, resettlement or complementary pathways to a third country and local integration. However, ongoing instability in the countries of origin of most displaced people in Asia, limited opportunities for local integration in host countries and the relatively small number of third country solutions compared to needs have left a growing number of people in increasingly protracted displacement situations without access to durable solutions. In 2025, 45% of refugee returns were to countries of origin within Asia and the Pacific. Most took place under adverse circumstances in countries of asylum or places of displacement, often despite extremely fragile conditions in countries or places of origin.

Figure 20 | **Refugee returnee trends | 2021 - 2025**

Refugee Returns

Afghans (1.9 million) constituted the largest group of refugee returnees⁴⁴ globally in 2025, accounting for some 45% of all returns. Afghan refugee returns in 2025 represented two-thirds of all returns over the last decade (2.8 million in total). The vast majority of Afghan refugee returnees in 2025 were from Iran and Pakistan. Returns frequently involved abrupt departures, limited time for preparation, loss of assets, family separation, poor detention conditions and difficult journeys back to Afghanistan, heightening protection risks upon arrival and placing additional strain on reception and reintegration capacities in areas of return.

Figure 21 | **IDP returnees in Asia-Pacific | 2025**

⁴⁴ This also includes returns of other people in need of international protection.

IDP returnees in the region increased to 730,600 in 2025, up from 566,400 in 2024. Myanmar (415,100),⁴⁵ the Philippines (172,500) and Cambodia (131,600) accounted for most IDP returnees in 2025, with IDP returns rising by 10% in Myanmar and 4% in the Philippines compared with 2024. In contrast, IDP returnees in Afghanistan decreased by 64%.

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

UNHCR resettlement submissions from the region fell to 14,300 in 2025, marking a 66% decrease compared to 2024. About 4,050 refugees who were considered for resettlement were from Afghanistan and 9,500 from Myanmar, including more than 8,600 Rohingya refugees. Some 7,900 refugees departed on resettlement from the region, a 57% decrease from the 18,300 resettlement departures recorded in 2024. Most of those departing were from Afghanistan (3,400) and Myanmar (3,800). The main countries of resettlement included Australia and Canada.

UNHCR also recorded almost 4,000 departures from Asia in 2025 through sponsorship, education, other humanitarian and labour complementary pathways, primarily to Canada, the United States of America and Australia. This represents a significant decrease from around 6,200 in 2024.



Rustam (centre) returned to Afghanistan with his family after nearly 40 years in Pakistan, leaving behind most of their belongings.

©UNHCR/Oxygen Media Empire

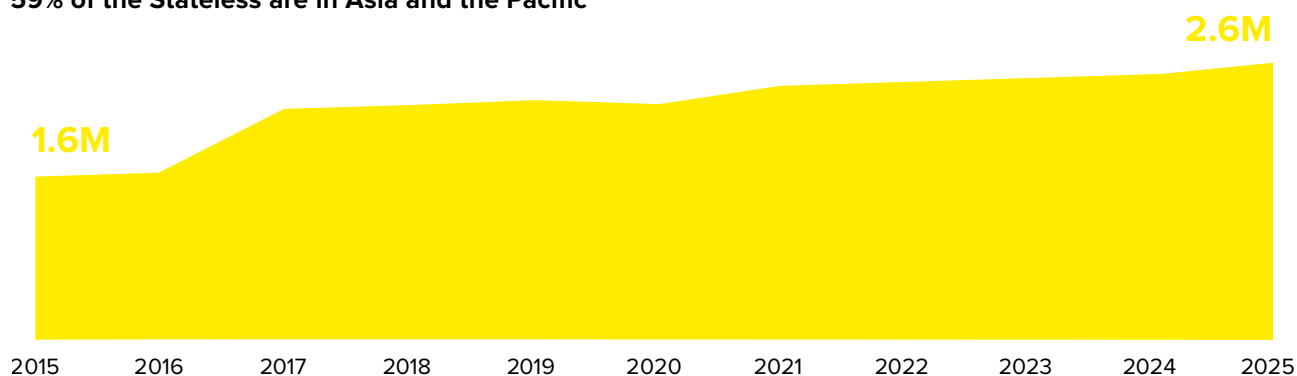
⁴⁵ This figure represents aggregate tracked movements and does not distinguish between voluntary and non-voluntary return due to active conflict situation in Myanmar.

CHAPTER 6

Stateless Population

Stateless persons

59% of the Stateless are in Asia and the Pacific



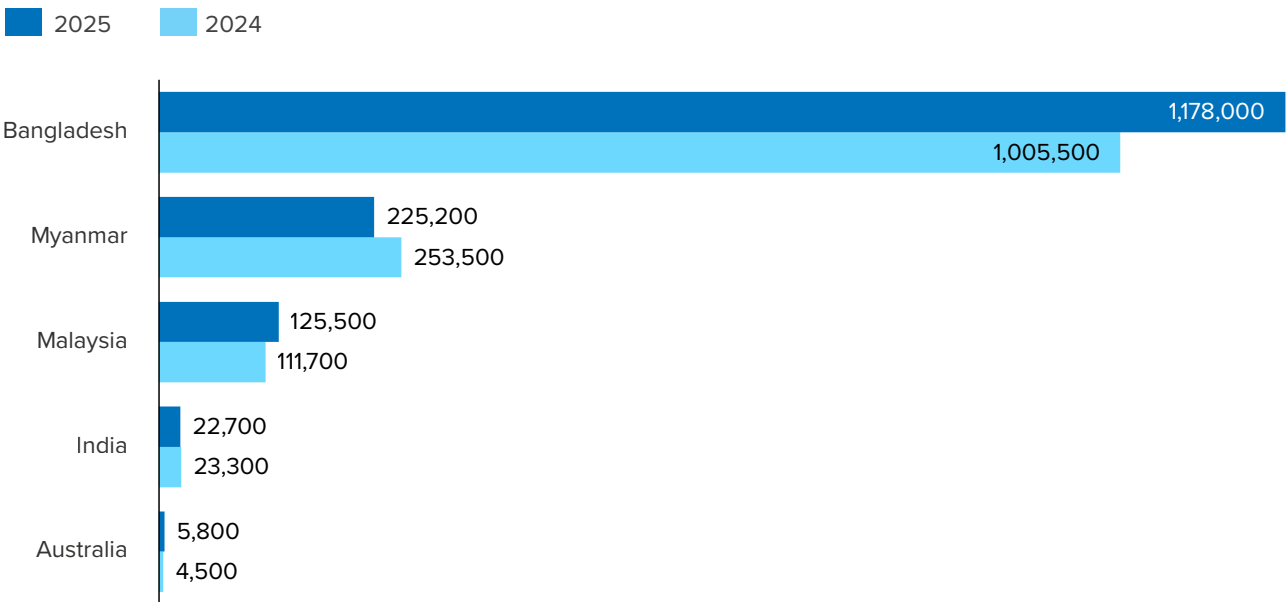
Stateless people are people who are not recognized as a national by any country. In line with UNHCR's global statistical framework, the estimated stateless population includes people of undetermined nationality, defined as those who lack proof of nationality and may have links to multiple States or are treated by the country of residence as having potential claims to nationality elsewhere. Asia and the Pacific hosts 59% of the world's recorded stateless population. By end-2025, there were 2.6 million stateless people in the region, of whom 1.07 million were non-displaced and 1.56 million forcibly displaced. Displaced stateless people include refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs who are not considered nationals by any State.

Whilst the total reported number for the region has remained relatively stable in recent years, with Rohingya⁴⁶ accounting for 70% as of end-2025, notable reductions in statelessness have been achieved in the region, including for countries for which a stateless population is not formally reported in UNHCR's official statistics as well as countries where the statelessness is reported in the official statistics but the total population size reported does not capture all stateless persons due to differing and incomplete quantification and reporting methodologies adopted by varying Governments. In addition to prioritizing the reduction of statelessness, UNHCR is also providing targeted support to States in the region to improve the accuracy and comprehensiveness of population statistics, notably through effective implementation of the [International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics \(IROSS\) - EGRISS](#), the adoption and strengthening of statelessness determination procedures, and improvements to civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems.

⁴⁶ Details can be found in highlight: Myanmar situation.

Displaced Stateless People in Asia-Pacific

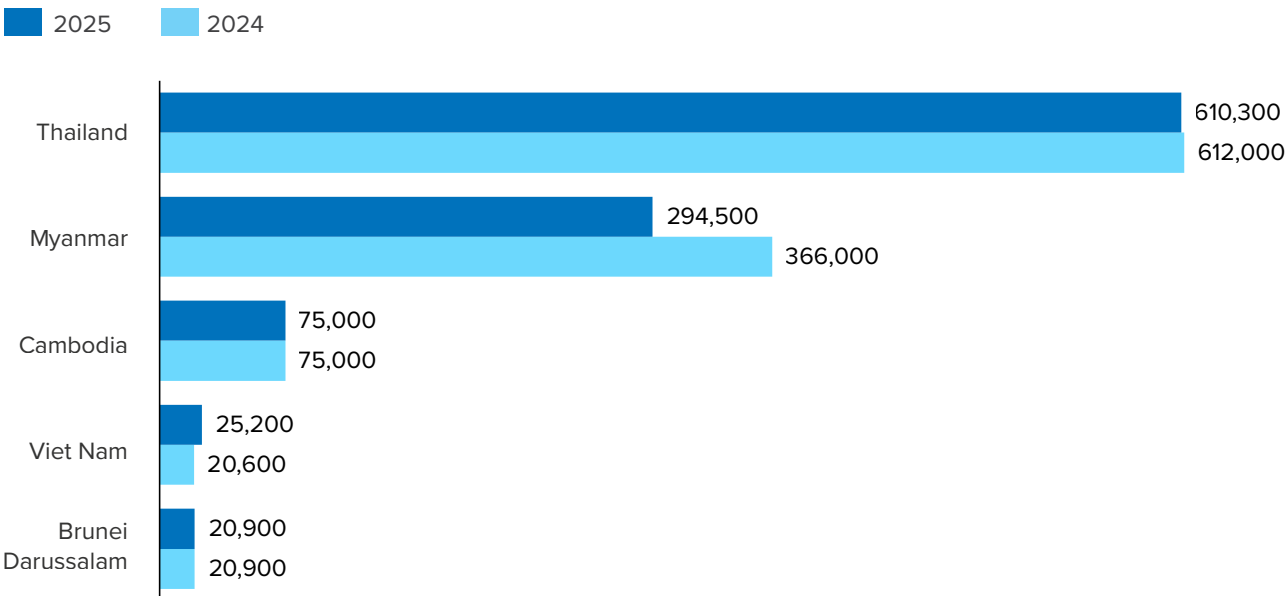
Figure 22 | Countries with the most displaced stateless people in Asia-Pacific | 2024 - 2025



The 1.56 million displaced stateless people include 1.31 million refugees, 225,200 IDPs and 19,300 asylum-seekers. This represents an 11% increase from 1.4 million at the end of 2024. Nearly all displaced stateless people in the region were Rohingya from Myanmar, most of whom are refugees in Bangladesh and IDPs in Myanmar.

Non-Displaced Stateless People in Asia-Pacific

Figure 23 | Countries with the most non-displaced stateless people in Asia-Pacific | 2024 - 2025



The total number of non-displaced stateless people in the region declined in 2025, primarily due to the displacement of stateless Rohingya following the escalation of violence in Myanmar. In 2025, Viet Nam amended its Nationality Law aimed to prevent and reduce statelessness, facilitate the restoration of citizenship for stateless persons who were formerly nationals of Viet Nam, and expand rights to dual nationality.⁴⁷ In Thailand, implementation of the 2024 Cabinet Resolution, which seeks to accelerate pathways to nationality and permanent residence for long-term residents and their children, began. In 2025, some 19,200 stateless people acquired Thai nationality and some 87,700 obtained permanent residence, which provides a pathway to nationality after five years and enables access to a wide range of rights.⁴⁸ In Nepal, the conclusion of a multi-year project to resolve statelessness enabled 39,000 persons who were living without nationality documentation and rights to be formally confirmed as citizens. In the Philippines, targeted birth registration activities for populations listed as being “at risk of statelessness” in the National Action Plan to End Statelessness facilitated birth registration and citizenship confirmation for 29,000 persons.



Binita Jumaat, a Sama Bajau mother with her child during a mobile birth registration activity in Basilan, Philippines.

©UNHCR/Gia Luga

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

48 UNHCR classifies people with permanent residence status – but not nationality – as stateless, resulting in a total figure of 610,300. The corresponding figures in Government reports are lower because they no longer consider some 101,000 people with permanent residence status as stateless.

HIGHLIGHT



Myanmar Situation

GLOBAL

5,931,200

People protected and/or assisted by
UNHCR from Myanmar globally

1,524,400

Refugees (including people in refugee-like
situations) from Myanmar globally

67,800

Asylum-seekers from Myanmar globally

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

5,922,100 (99.8%)

People protected and/or assisted by
UNHCR from Myanmar in Asia-Pacific

1,517,300 (99.5%)

Refugees (including people in refugee-like
situations) from Myanmar in Asia-Pacific

65,800 (97%)

Asylum-seekers from Myanmar in Asia-Pacific

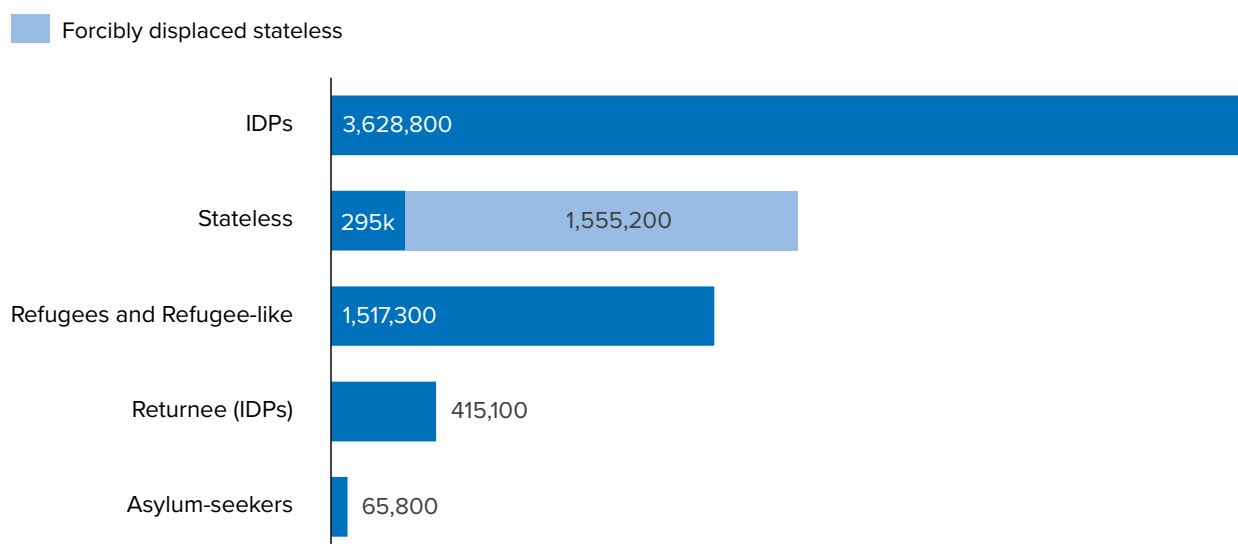
3,628,800 IDPs IN MYANMAR

Data as of end-2025

Note: The total number of people protected and/or assisted by UNHCR from Myanmar also includes 415,100 IDP returnees during 2025, 294,500 non-displaced stateless people and 500 others of concern to UNHCR.

The Myanmar situation refers to refugees under UNHCR's mandate, asylum-seekers, IDPs, IDP returnees and stateless people originating from Myanmar. The total number of people from Myanmar that UNHCR protects and/or assists increased from 5.6 million in 2024 to more than 5.9 million in 2025 – representing a 5% rise. The vast majority (99.8%) remained within the Asia and the Pacific region.

Figure 24 | **Forcibly displaced and stateless people from Myanmar in Asia-Pacific | 2025**



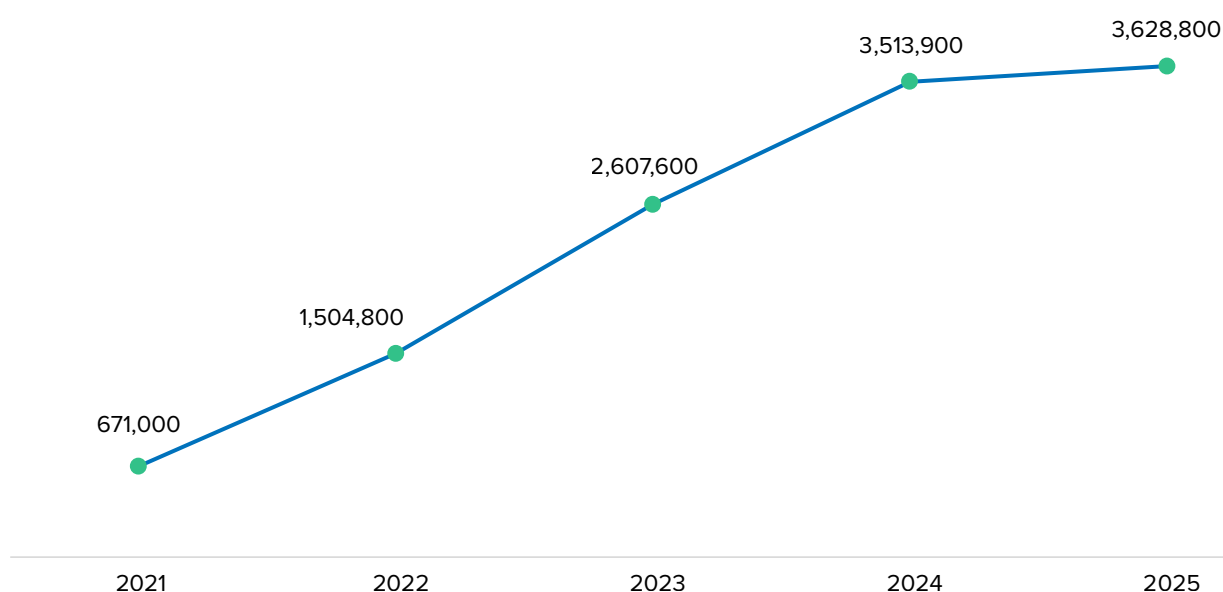
Most refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar seeking international protection are hosted by neighbouring countries.⁴⁹ Bangladesh hosts the vast majority, with 1.2 million as of June 2026. Most are Rohingya who fled successive waves of violence in Rakhine State and the impact of Myanmar's discriminatory laws, which have rendered nearly all of them stateless and severely restricted their rights.

Elsewhere in the region, 198,200 refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar are hosted in Malaysia, 135,900 in Thailand, 86,600 in India and 2,700 in Indonesia (as of April 2026). In Thailand, 80,400 refugees reside in nine camps along the border with Myanmar,⁵⁰ many of whom have lived there since the mid-1980s. Although the camp-based refugee population has declined by 16% since 2021, new arrivals fleeing ongoing violence in Myanmar continue to grow. According to the Royal Thai Government, around 55,000 refugees fled Myanmar and subsequently returned from Thailand's Temporary Designated Areas since 2021. Across the region, people from Myanmar remain under various legal stay arrangements, with many unable to return due to ongoing international protection concerns.

49 UNHCR issued a guidance note urging States to grant civilians fleeing Myanmar access to their territories, protect their right to seek asylum and uphold the principle of non-refoulement. See [Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Myanmar](#), UNHCR.

50 The camps in Thailand hosting refugees from Myanmar are Ban Don Yang, Ban Mae Surin, Ban Mai Nai Soi, Mae La, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Nu Po, Tham Hin and Umpiem.

Figure 25 | IDPs in Myanmar



In Myanmar, the number of IDPs stood at 3.6 million at the end of 2025, 3% more than at the end of the previous year. In 2025, generalized violence, human rights violations, localized intercommunal tensions and institutionalized discrimination led to 532,400 people being newly displaced although 415,100 returned.⁵¹ The already severe humanitarian crisis in the country was further aggravated by the powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake in March 2025.⁵²

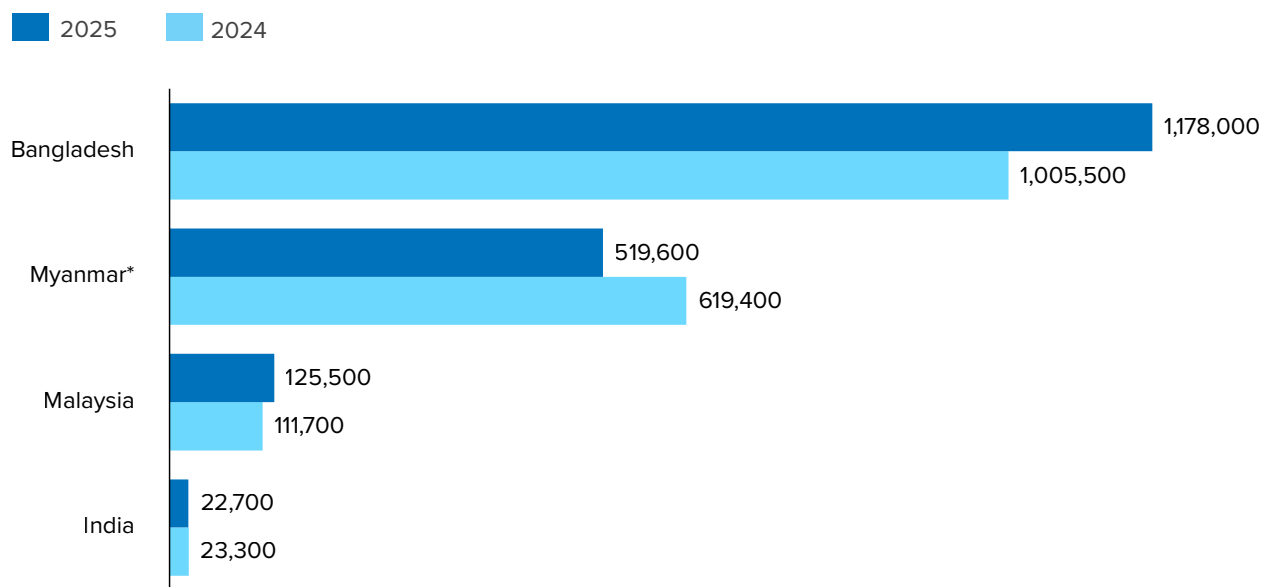


51 See [Myanmar humanitarian update no.51](#), March 2026, OCHA.

52 See [Myanmar Earthquake: six-month impact report](#), October 2025, UNHCR.

Rohingya

Figure 26 | **Countries with Rohingya | 2024 - 2025**



* Includes both displaced and non-displaced Rohingya.

Rohingya accounted for 41% of the reported global stateless population, representing approximately 1.8 million people by year-end. Of this population, an estimated 84% were forcibly displaced, including 1.2 million refugees hosted in Bangladesh. The Rohingya have faced decades of persecution and discrimination, which intensified in August 2017 following a large-scale outbreak of violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State. Ongoing conflict in Myanmar has continued to force many to flee to Bangladesh.⁵³

In 2025, the reporting includes new arrivals from Myanmar to Bangladesh identified through biometric enrolment during the year. Most had been displaced by an upsurge in violence in 2024 but arrived in Bangladesh after February 2021⁵⁴ and almost all were stateless. Stateless Rohingya were also reported in Malaysia (125,500), India (22,700) and Indonesia (2,600) at end-2025. Within Myanmar, an estimated 225,200 stateless Rohingya were internally displaced, representing 43% of the 519,600 stateless population reported in the country.

⁵³ See [A route-based snapshot: data & trends for refugees from Myanmar, March 2026](#), April 2026, UNHCR.

⁵⁴ New arrivals biometrically identified by the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR. See Myanmar situation, UNHCR (accessed 27 April 2026).

Route-Based Approach (RteBA)

Asia and the Pacific is characterized by some of the world's most complex and interconnected displacement movements, spanning countries of origin, asylum, transit and destination. While most refugees remain hosted within the region, ongoing conflicts, protracted displacement situations, limited solutions opportunities and uneven access to protection continue to drive onward movements along established regional and inter-regional routes. These journeys frequently expose refugees and asylum-seekers to significant protection risks, underscoring the need for responses that extend beyond national boundaries.

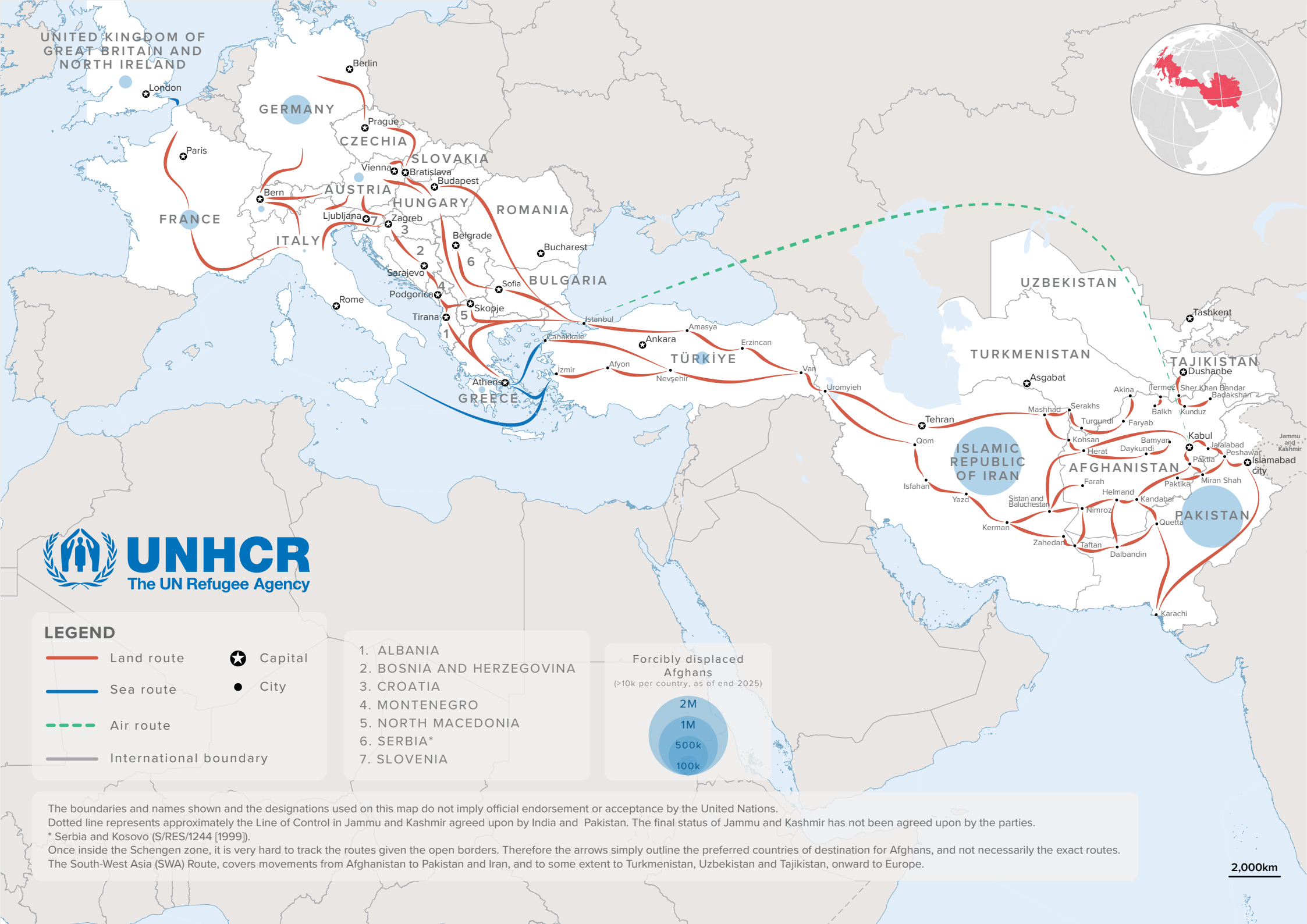
The Route-Based Approach (RteBA) provides a framework for coordinated action along entire movement corridors, strengthening protection, expanding access to assistance and solutions, and addressing the drivers of risky onward movements. In Asia and the Pacific, the approach focuses primarily on the South-West Asia route towards Europe and the South and South-East Asia route linked to displacement from Myanmar. It promotes greater cooperation, responsibility-sharing and protection-sensitive responses across countries and regions.

South-West Asia route

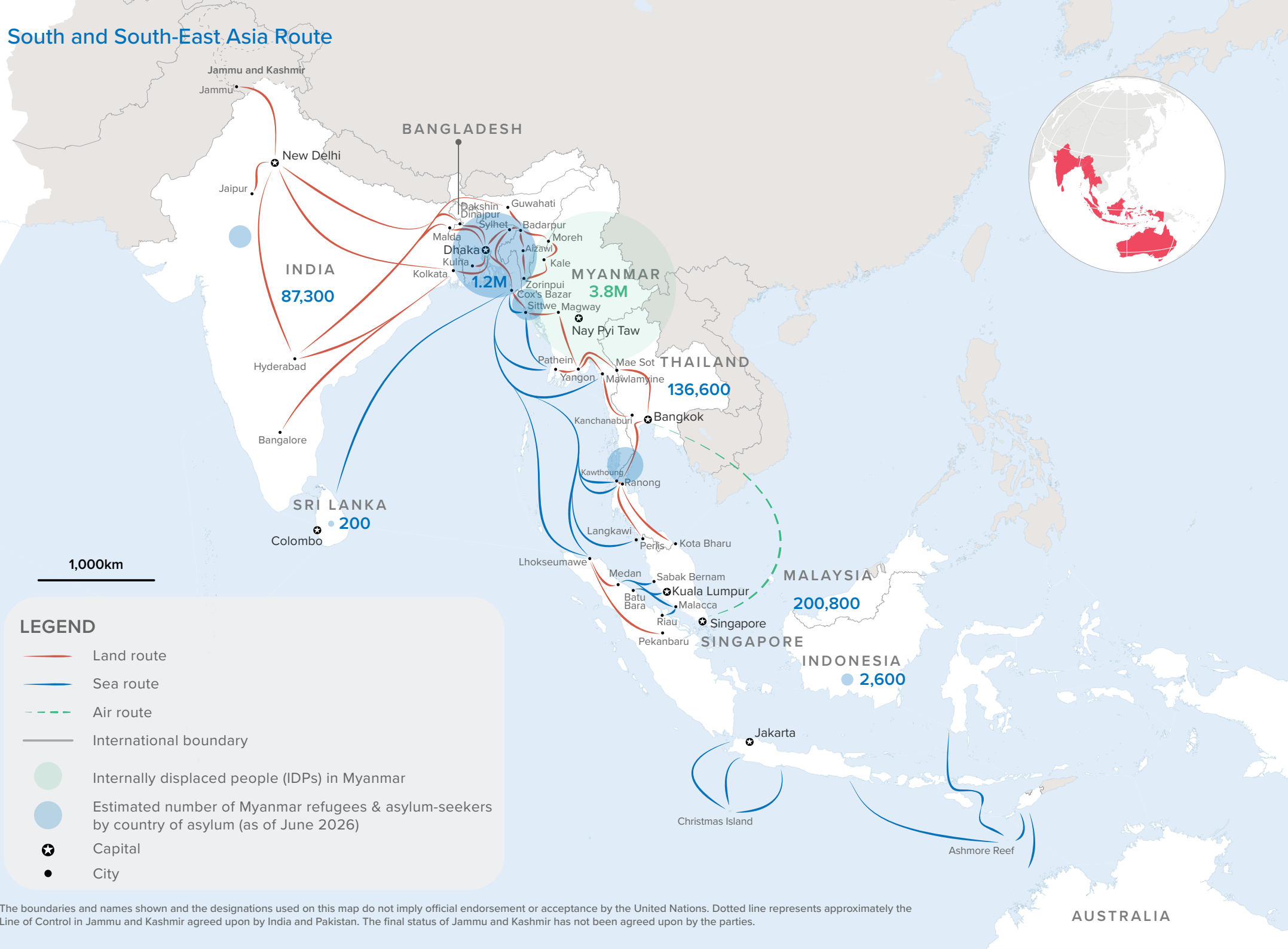
Afghan mobility along the South-West Asia Route to Europe is shaped by interconnected movements between countries of origin, asylum, transit, destination and return. While Afghan arrivals to Europe remain significant, they represent only one component of a much larger regional human mobility system involving millions of Afghans across Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Central Asia and Türkiye.

Returns to Afghanistan continue to play a central role in these dynamics. As of 18 July 2026, UNHCR recorded over 1 million returns to Afghanistan, including over 386,000 deportations. This follows trends observed in 2025, when returns from Pakistan and Iran exceeded departures from Afghanistan to those countries. Population movements affecting Afghans are therefore increasingly characterized by circular and repeated mobility, in which return does not necessarily represent the end of displacement or movement.

Pakistan and Iran remain at the centre of this regional human mobility system. Both continue to be countries of asylum hosting large Afghan populations while simultaneously serving as countries of return, transit and onward movement. In Pakistan, the Afghan population declined by approximately 11 per cent between October 2025 and January 2026 amid continued returns and deportations, reflecting the combined impact of return policies, border management measures and broader protection pressures. In Iran, an estimated 4.4 million Afghans remained in the country as of August 2025, making it one of the largest refugee-hosting countries globally, with 1.6 million Afghan refugees, while returns to Afghanistan continued to be heavily influenced by deportations.



South and South-East Asia Route



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 been agreed upon by the parties.

AUSTRALIA

Millions of people from Myanmar remained displaced. As of May 2026, the largest refugee and asylum-seeker populations from Myanmar in the region were hosted in Bangladesh, with around 1.2 million people, followed by Malaysia (200,000), India (136,600), Thailand (87,500), Indonesia (2,500) and Sri Lanka (around 200). Between January 2022 and May 2026, an estimated 380,700 people fled Myanmar by land or sea/river. Movements overwhelmingly took place by land: 352,600 (93%) people moved by land, compared with 28,100 (7%) people by sea or river. As of end-May 2026, an estimated 10,700 people had undertaken such movements, including 6,400 by land and 4,300 by sea or river; among those arriving by land between January 2022 and May 2026, 79% were women and children.

The Route-Based Approach promotes a coordinated protection and solutions response across countries of origin, asylum, transit and destination, moving beyond fragmented country-level interventions. In both the South-west Asia route linked to Afghanistan and the South and South-East Asia route linked to Myanmar, it seeks to strengthen early access to protection, fair asylum procedures, protection-sensitive border management and immediate humanitarian support, while reducing the need for dangerous onward journeys. The approach also supports efforts to prevent trafficking, expand safe and regular pathways, promote inclusion in national systems and advance dignified solutions, with regional cooperation, solidarity and shared responsibility central to saving lives and ensuring access to safety.

UNHCR's work in Asia and the Pacific

In 2025, UNHCR advanced inclusive protection and solutions for 17.6 million people who are forcibly displaced, stateless, returnees and others of concern to UNHCR in the Asia and the Pacific region. These efforts unfolded against a backdrop of large-scale displacement, shrinking protection space and dwindling resources. UNHCR's response to support the people it protects and/or assists can be summarized through the organization's core output indicators (see below).



A Rohingya girl washes clothes outside her shelter in the Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

©UNHCR/Shari Nijman

Core output indicators in Asia and the Pacific

Reporting period: 1 January – 31 December 2025



PROTECT

Attaining favourable protection environments



Protection

3.8 million people received protection services in 26 countries
+42% vs 2024



Access to territory, registration and documentation

286,100 people registered on an individual basis in 17 countries
+35% vs 2024

491,900 people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation in 15 countries
-32% vs 2024



Gender-based violence

339,400 people benefited from specialized GBV programmes in 8 countries
+24% vs 2024



Child protection

648,200 children and caregivers received child protection services in 9 countries
+118% vs 2024



Safety and access to justice

271,300 people received legal assistance in 13 countries
+76% vs 2024



EMPOWER

Empowering communities and achieving gender equality



Community engagement and women's empowerment

35,000 people consulted through participatory assessments in 18 countries
+10% vs 2024

1.6 million people used UNHCR-supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback in 27 countries
+85% vs 2024



Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods

81,200 people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions in 12 countries
+56% vs 2024



RESPOND

Realizing rights in safe environments

975,000 people received cash assistance in 21 countries
+62% vs 2024



Well-being and basic needs

1.5 million people received non-food items in 6 countries
+21% vs 2024

541,200 people supported with improved cooking options in 1 country
+23% vs 2024



Sustainable housing and settlements

609,900 people received shelter and housing assistance in 6 countries
+81% vs 2024



Healthy lives

3.9 million individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services in 11 countries
-14% vs 2024

341,700 consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services in 11 countries
-23% vs 2024



Education

126,400 people benefited from education programming in 12 countries
+13% vs 2024



Clean water, sanitation and hygiene

295,200 people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services in 1 country
-39% vs 2024



SOLVE

Securing solutions



Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration

195,700 people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation in 12 countries
+595% vs 2024



Local integration and local solutions

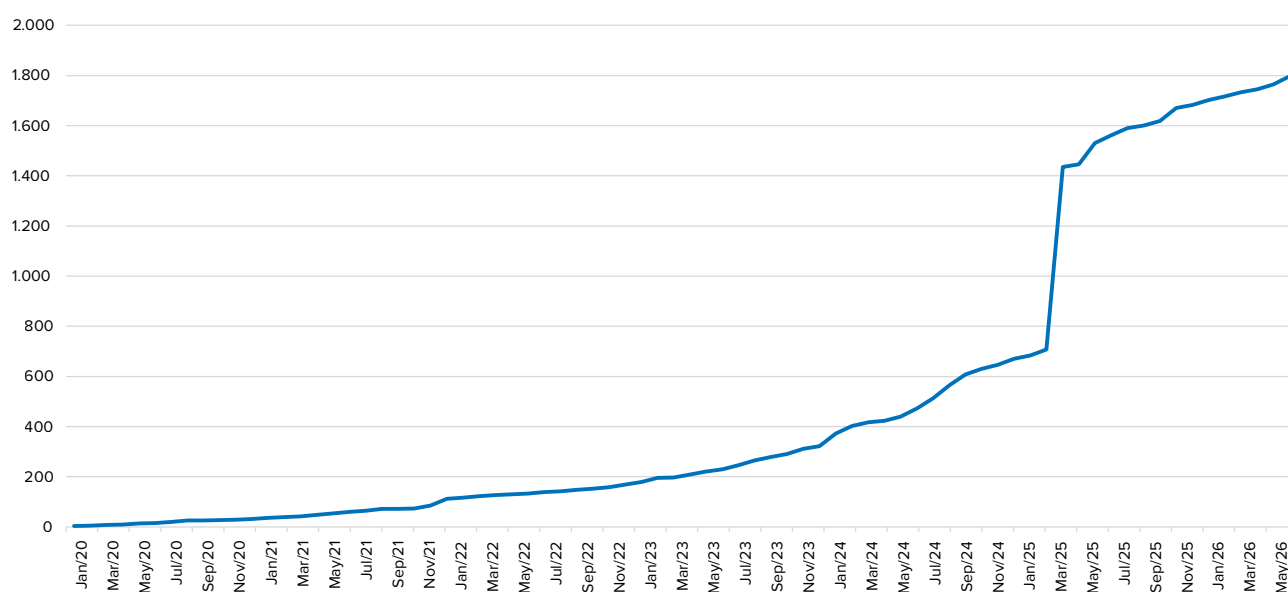
43,900 people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures in 9 countries
+292% vs 2024

Anonymized Microdata

In addition to population statistics, UNHCR collects extensive survey data on protection needs, socioeconomic profiles, living conditions and well-being of people it protects and/or assists. To enhance the accessibility and utility of this data beyond UNHCR's operations and systems, [UNHCR launched the Microdata Library \(MDL\)](#) initiative.

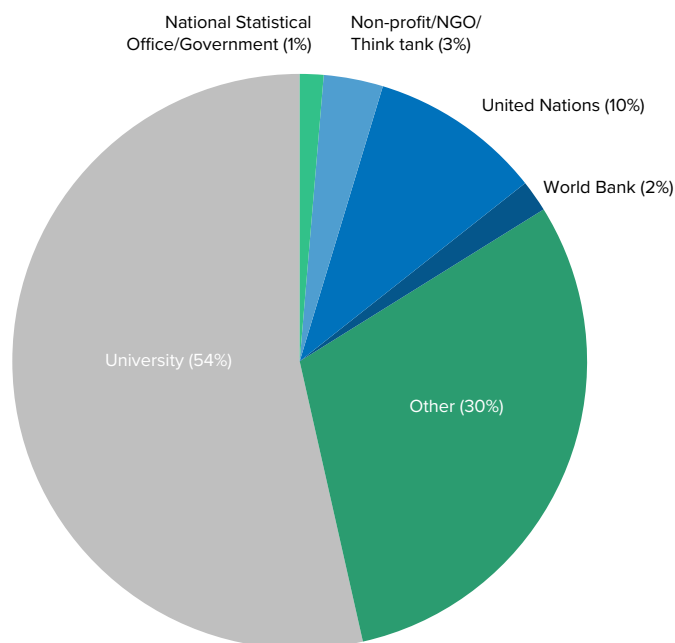
The MDL is a secure online data repository that provides access to anonymized microdata on forcibly displaced and stateless populations. It hosts datasets collected directly by UNHCR or indirectly through partners with UNHCR's support. The initiative is aligned with UNHCR's commitment outlined in its [Data Transformation Strategy 2020-2025](#) to ensure that quality and coherent data related to refugees and other persons of concern is systematically, responsibly and efficiently managed by UNHCR and its partners, and shared openly and responsibly both internally and externally. As of July 2026, the MDL hosted 1,080 datasets, including 210 from the Asia and the Pacific region.

Figure 27 | **License requests of datasets from Asia and the Pacific**



Externally, the MDL strengthens the broader data value ecosystem by facilitating access to microdata for further analysis by academic and research institutions, development actors, humanitarian organizations and the private sector. Such analysis can be used to inform programming, policy and advocacy, ultimately contributing to improved outcomes for people affected by forced displacement.

Figure 28 | License requests of datasets from Asia and the Pacific by organization type



License requests for datasets from Asia and the Pacific region have steadily increased since January 2020, reflecting growing demand for displacement-related data. By June 2026, cumulative license requests reached some 1,800. Universities accounted for 54% of all requests, underscoring the strong academic interest in refugee and displacement-related data.

Lal Nun Lang, a Myanmar refugee in New Delhi, India, receives food assistance to help care for her two young children, including one with special needs.

©UNHCR/Ruhani Kaur

Call to action

As the number of people forcibly displaced around the world continues to grow, resources to address the needs of those forced to flee have not kept up. UNHCR and the broader humanitarian community are facing detrimental funding cuts that will severely impact millions. Without sufficient funding, there will not be enough food assistance and basic shelter support for displaced people, leaving them with little option than to resort to dangerous onward movements.

Reliable and timely data underpins humanitarian actions. In the current context, the ability to maintain critical datasets is at risk, with potentially severe negative impacts on the efficacy of responses to crises worldwide. Growing weaknesses in the production of these datasets will reduce the accessibility, accuracy, comparability, reliability and timeliness of key statistics that are derived from them.

In 2026, UNHCR requires \$865.2 million to support operations in the Asia and the Pacific region. By end-June, only 31% of this amount had been received. UNHCR remains grateful to the following donors who have stepped contributed, including both earmarked and unearmarked funding, which enable life-saving assistance and longer-term solutions:

Austria | Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Finland | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Republic of Korea | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Qatar | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | UN CERF | UN Country-based Pooled Funds | UN Joint Programme

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ASIA & THE PACIFIC REGIONAL TRENDS

Forced Displacement
and Statelessness 2025



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