

# ASIA & THE PACIFIC REGIONAL TRENDS

Forced Displacements and  
Statelessness **2024**



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# Figures at a Glance

## 17.3 MILLION

PEOPLE<sup>1</sup> WHO ARE FORCIBLY DISPLACED, STATELESS, RETURNÉES AND OTHERS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR IN ASIA-PACIFIC<sup>2</sup> AT THE END OF 2024.

The total figure relates to people UNHCR protects and/or assists.<sup>3</sup> It includes those who have been forcibly displaced (refugees, people in a refugee-like situation<sup>4</sup>, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and other people in need of international protection)<sup>5</sup>; those who have returned home within the previous year; those who are stateless; and other groups of concern to whom UNHCR has extended its protection or provided assistance on a humanitarian basis

### 7.2 MILLION

registered refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and asylum-seekers

### 6.9 MILLION

conflict-induced IDPs<sup>6</sup>

### 556,400

IDP returnees

### 2.5 MILLION

stateless people (including displaced stateless people)

### 99%

of refugees in the region, including people in a refugee-like situation, are hosted in low- and middle-income countries<sup>7</sup>

### 94%

of refugees and people in a refugee-like situation in the region are hosted in countries neighbouring the country of origin

### 365,200

refugee returnees

### 1.1 MILLION

others of concern to UNHCR

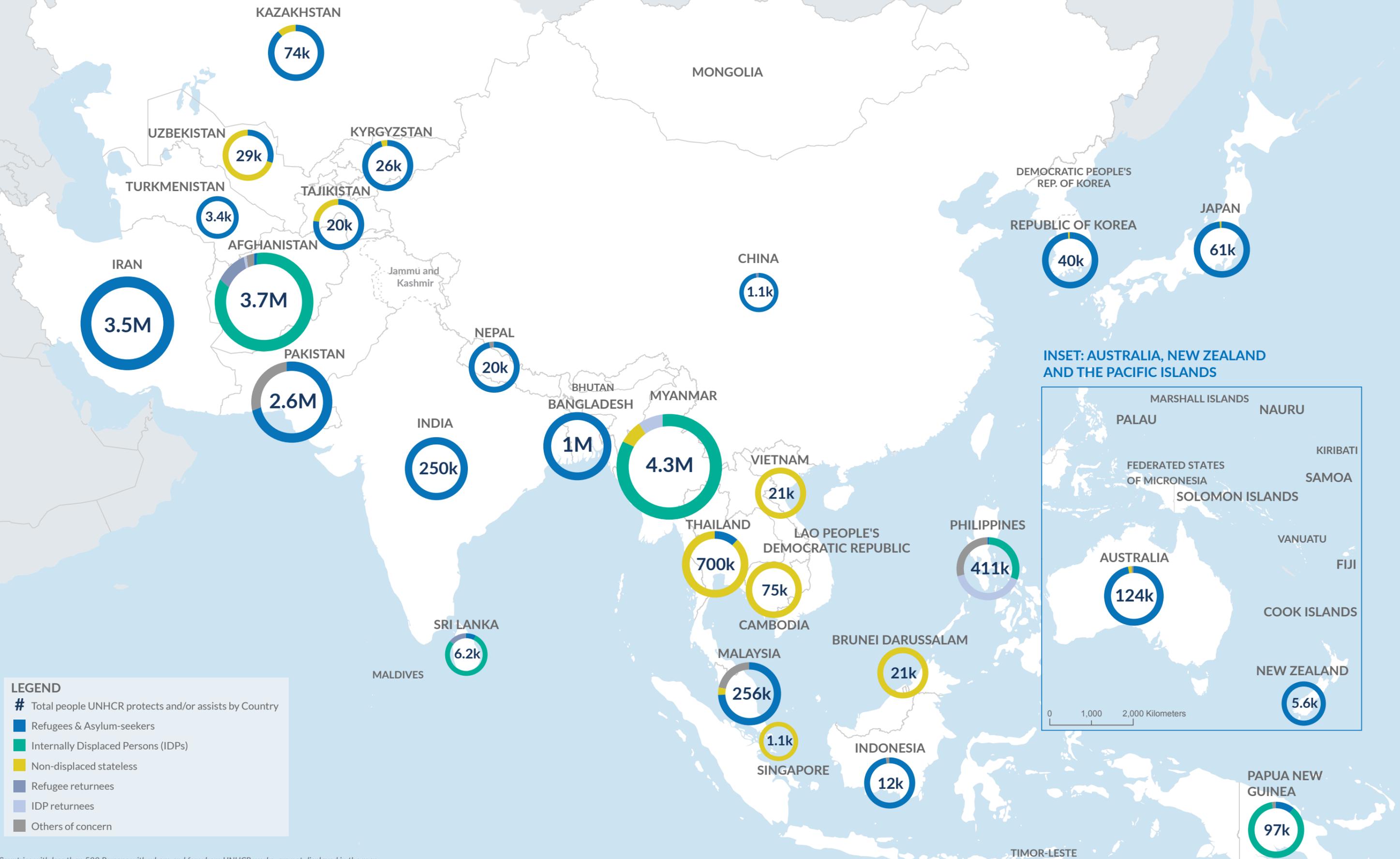
## 47%

are children.<sup>8</sup>

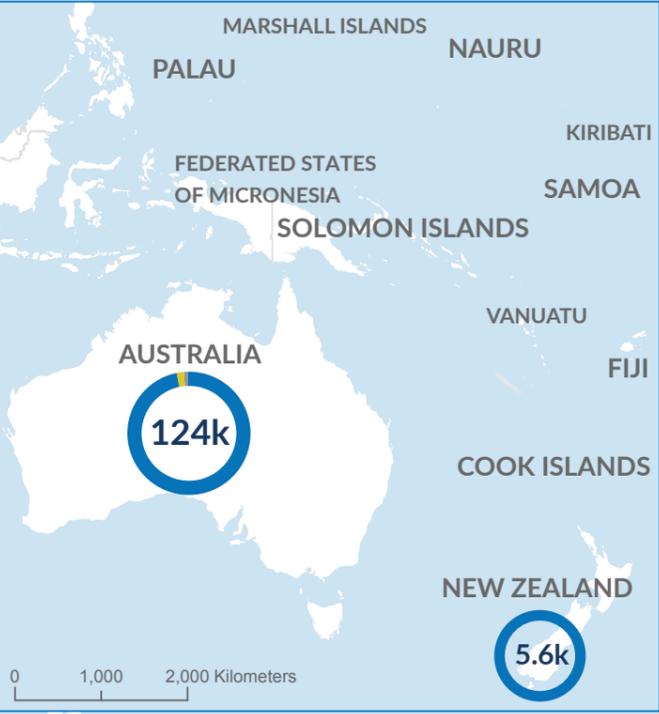
Children are disproportionately represented: although they make up 27% of the region's overall population,<sup>9</sup> they account for 47% of those UNHCR protects and/or assists

- 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 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 are provided with 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 (88% of 17.3 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-2024



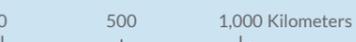
INSET: AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



**LEGEND**

- # Total people UNHCR protects and/or assists by Country
- Refugees & Asylum-seekers
- 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.

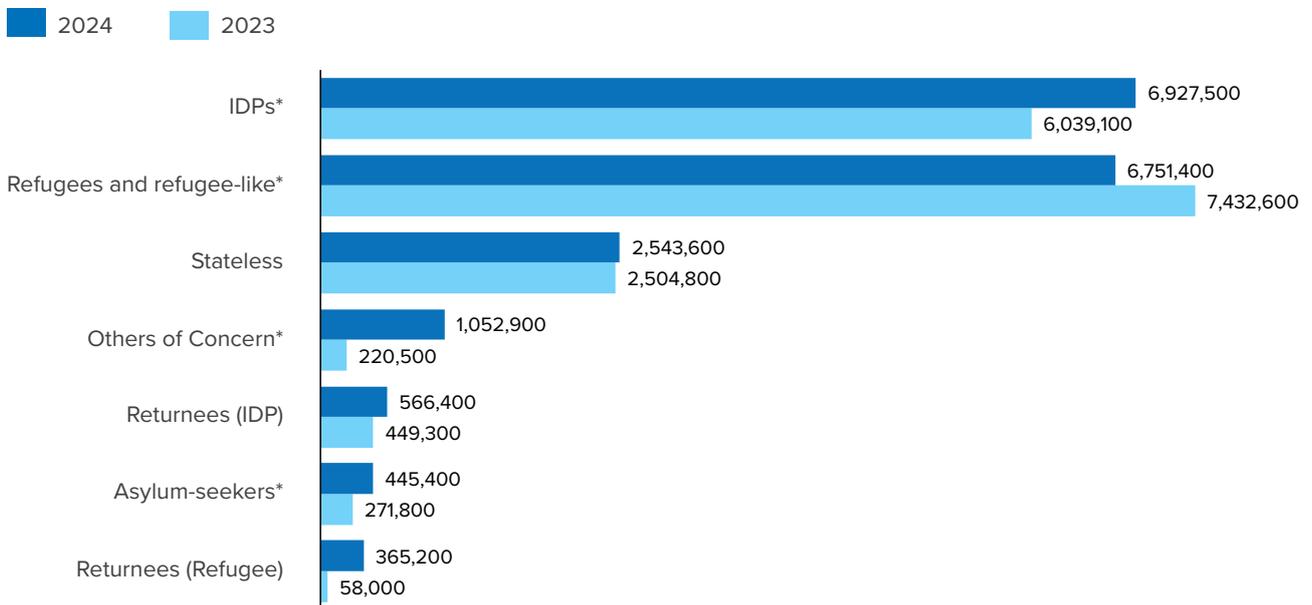


CHAPTER 1

# Regional Overview

By the end of 2024, the total number of refugees,<sup>10</sup> asylum-seekers, IDPs, stateless people, returnees and other people of concern to UNHCR in the Asia and the Pacific region stood at 17.3 million – a 10% increase from 2023. The region hosts 13% of the global total population UNHCR protects and/or assists (17.3 million out of 129.9 million). This includes 18% of the world’s refugees and asylum-seekers (7.2 million of 39.3 million) and 58% of all recorded stateless people, including those with undetermined nationality (2.5 million out of 4.4 million).

Figure 1 | Population groups in Asia-Pacific | 2023 - 2024



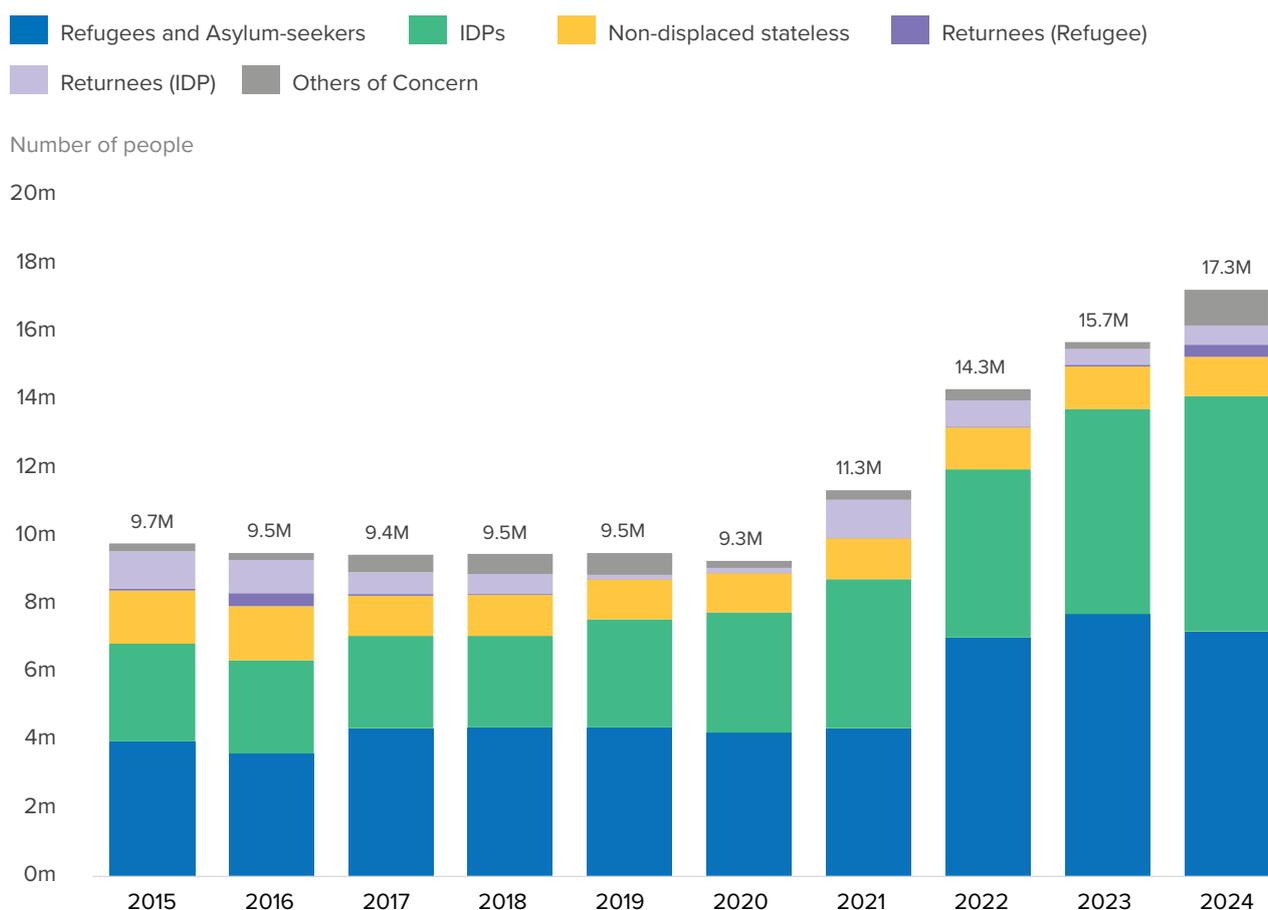
\*Stateless people that have also been forcibly displaced are reported as stateless and within their respective displacement categories.

Asia and the Pacific hosted 6.9 million IDPs, 6.8 million refugees and people in a refugee-like situation, 2.5 million recorded stateless people (including displaced stateless people), 566,400 IDP returnees, 445,400

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

asylum-seekers, 365,200 refugee returnees and 1.1 million others of concern to UNHCR. Compared to the previous year, the highest percentage increases were observed in refugee returnees<sup>11</sup> (+531%), followed by others of concern to UNHCR<sup>12</sup> (+378%), IDP returnees (+26%) and IDPs (+15%). The refugee population, on the other hand, decreased by 10%.

Figure 2 | People who are forcibly displaced, stateless, returnees or others of concern to UNHCR in Asia-Pacific | 2015 - 2024



In Asia and the Pacific, the total number of people UNHCR protects and/or assists remained relatively stable between 2015 and 2020, averaging around 9.5 million. However, since 2020, there has been a steady increase, with the population reaching 17.3 million by end-2024.

The number of refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and asylum-seekers increased by 82%, rising from 4 million in 2015 to 7.2 million in 2024. There was also a significant increase in the number of IDPs in the region, which more than doubled over the same period – from 2.9 million to 6.9 million (+141%).

Trends in refugee returns over the past decade have shown significant fluctuations. The highest number of returns was recorded in 2016, when approximately 385,100 refugees returned to their countries of origin in the

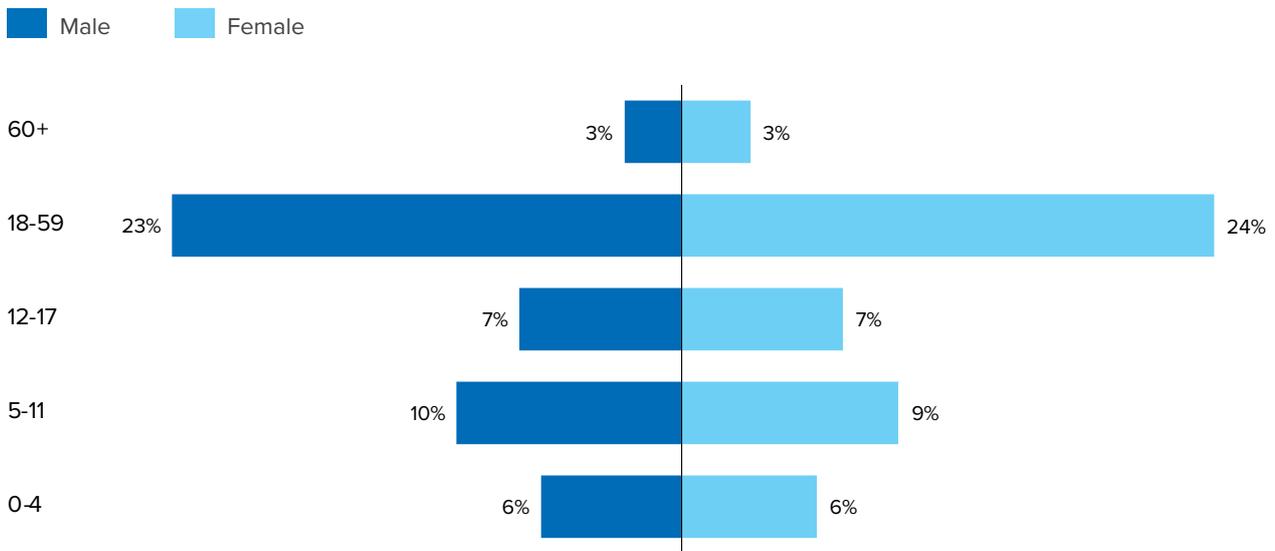
<sup>11</sup> Refugee returnees refer to all types of returns, including deportations, assisted voluntary repatriation and other returns.

<sup>12</sup> The increase in the others of concern population category in the region reflects the inclusion of Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC) holders in Pakistan.

region. Although returns declined in subsequent years, they rose again in 2023, with approximately 58,000 refugees and people in a refugee-like situation returning – mostly Afghans. This upward trend continued in 2024, when an estimated 365,400 people returned, again predominantly Afghan nationals.

Similarly, the number of IDP returnees from 2015 to 2024 varied considerably. The highest returns were recorded in 2015 and 2021 while 2024 saw approximately 566,400 IDP returnees, marking a substantial decrease from earlier peaks.

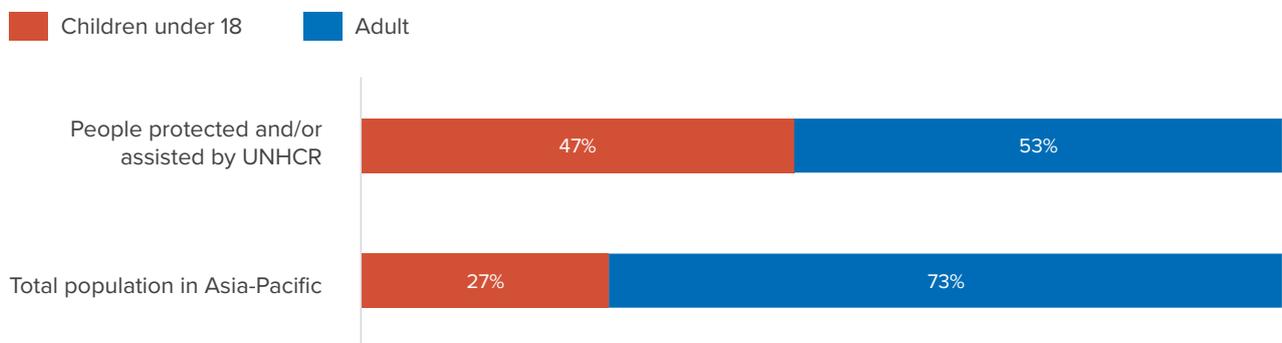
Figure 3 | Demographic composition of the people UNHCR protects and/or assists in Asia-Pacific | 2024



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 88% of the total population UNHCR protects and/or assists in the region. Looking at the available demographic data, 50% were women and girls, 47% were children and 6% were elderly people aged 60 and above.

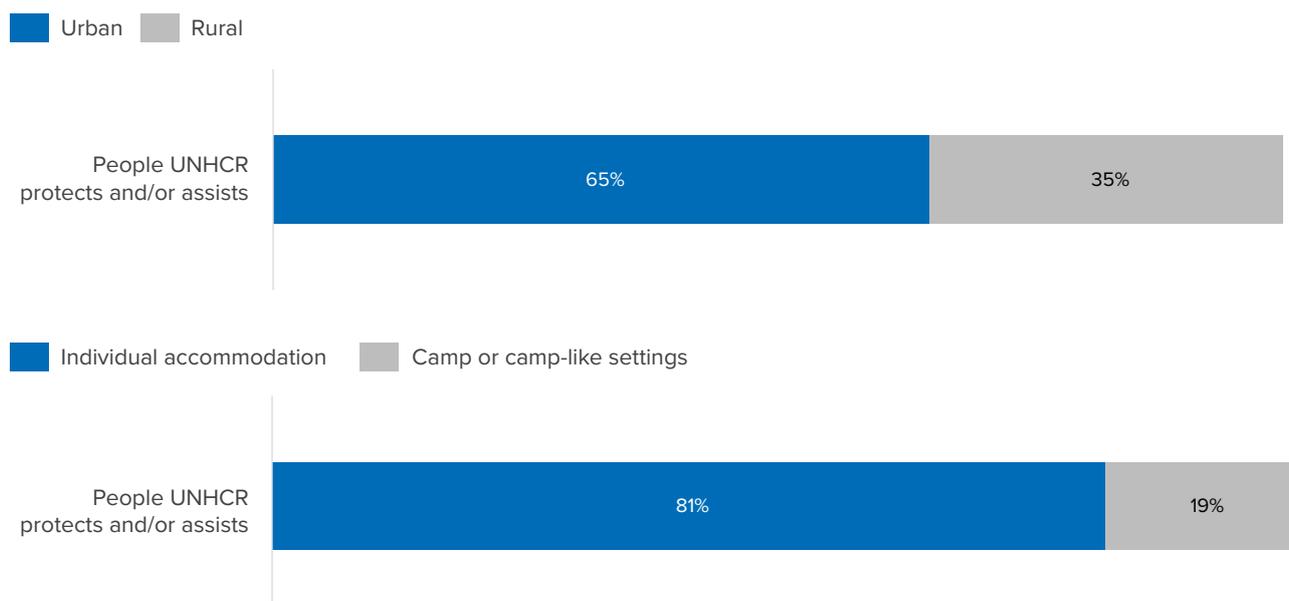
Figure 4 | Proportion of children UNHCR protects and/or assists vs. total regional population | 2024



Children accounted for 47% 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 | 2024**



Of the total number of people protected and/or assisted by UNHCR in the region, 65% lived in urban or peri-urban areas. The majority – 81% – resided in individual accommodations, while the remaining population were hosted in camps or camp-like settings. Among those residing in camps or camp-like settings, 55% were in Bangladesh, 24% in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,<sup>13</sup> 9% in India, 5% in the Philippines, 4% in Thailand and 2% in the Islamic Republic of Iran.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> In Pakistan, 31% of registered refugees resided in refugee villages with 90% living in the provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

<sup>14</sup> In Iran, most refugees and people in a refugee-like situation lived outside designated settlements.

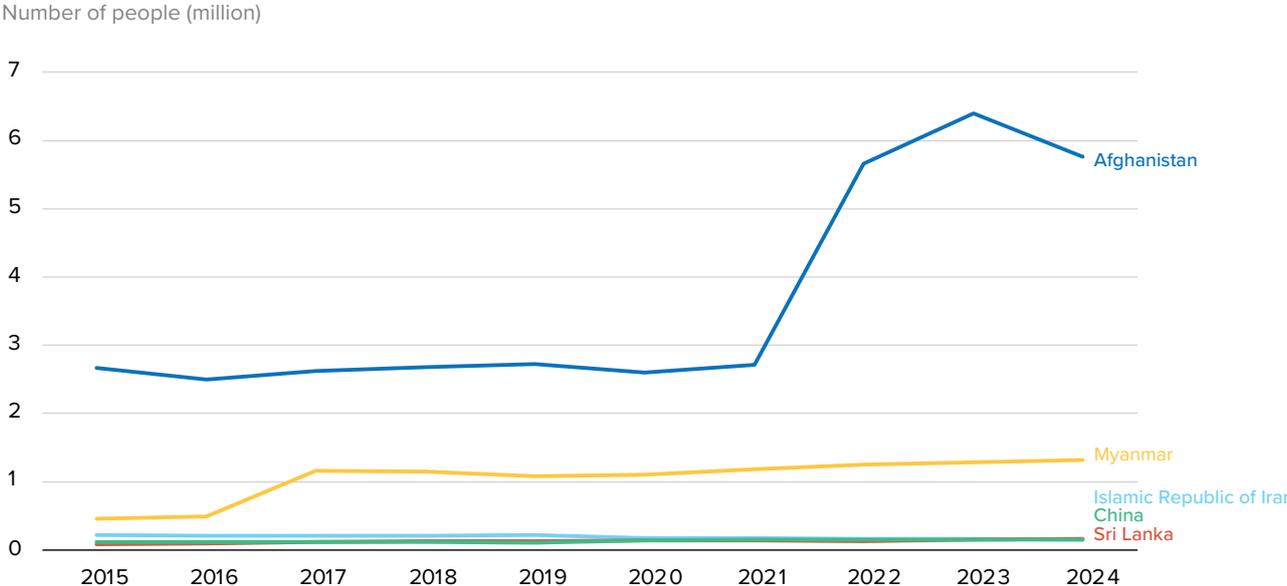
CHAPTER 2

# Refugees and people in a refugee-like situation

The number of refugees and people in a refugee-like situation in Asia and the Pacific decreased by 507,700 in 2024, bringing the total to 7.2 million – 22% of the global refugee population under UNHCR’s mandate. Most people fleeing conflict and persecution prefer to stay close to their countries of origin; 94% of refugees and people in a refugee-like situation in the region were hosted in neighbouring countries.

## By country of origin

Figure 6 | Refugees and people in a refugee-like situation by country of origin in Asia-Pacific | 2015-2024

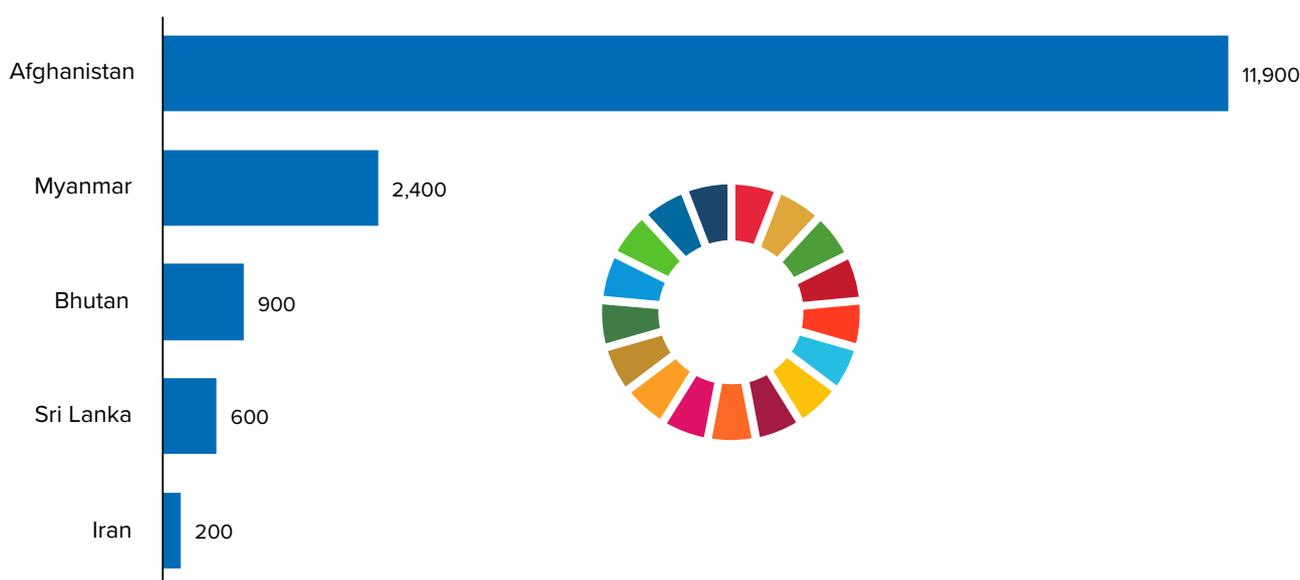


The largest refugee population in the region was Afghan. At the end of 2024, approximately 5.8 million Afghan refugees and people in a refugee-like situation were hosted across 104 countries globally, representing a 10% decrease compared to the end of 2023. Iran (3.5 million, -7%) and Pakistan (1.6 million, -22%) remained

the largest host countries.<sup>15</sup> Although active fighting ceased in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover in 2021, widespread poverty and hunger persist, infrastructure and services remain inadequate, and civil liberties (especially for women and girls) have been progressively and severely restricted.

In 2024, the number of refugees under UNHCR’s mandate from Myanmar increased by 3% (39,100) compared to 2023, surpassing 1.3 million. Like the previous year, the rise was largely due to the registration of new births in Bangladesh, which hosts the majority of refugees from Myanmar. Most are Rohingya who fled successive waves of violence in Rakhine State and were affected by Myanmar’s discriminatory citizenship laws, which have rendered nearly all stateless and restricted their rights.

Figure 7 | **SDG Indicator 10.7.4 | 2024**



\*Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundreds.

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

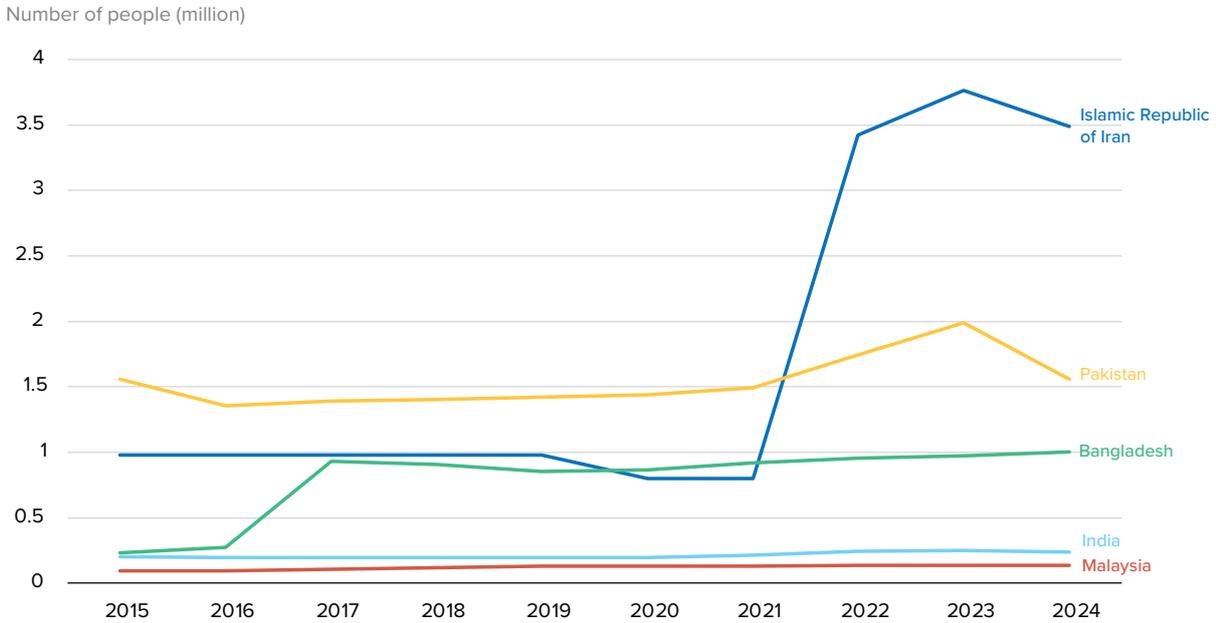
The proportion of a country’s population that become refugees – SDG indicator 10.7.4<sup>16</sup> – is a useful metric for identifying countries of origin with the highest relative rates of displacement. In the region, the countries with the highest proportions were Afghanistan (11,900 per 100,000 inhabitants), Myanmar (2,400 per 100,000 inhabitants), Bhutan (900 per 100,000 inhabitants), Sri Lanka (600 per 100,000 inhabitants) and Iran (200 per 100,000 inhabitants). Globally, Syria had the greatest proportion of their national population becoming refugees (19,100 per 100,000), compared to a global average of around 450 per 100,000.

<sup>15</sup> Iran hosts approximately 3.5 million refugees and people in a refugee-like situation who may require international protection. This represents a decrease from 3.8 million at end-2023, primarily due to returns, including deportations in 2024.

<sup>16</sup> See [UN Statistical Commission 51st session \(2020\) documents](#). Indicator 10.7.4 is calculated as follows:  $[\text{Number of refugees by country of origin at end-year} / (\text{End-year population in country of origin} + \text{number of refugees by country of origin at end-year})] * 100,000$ . For this indicator, both refugees and people in a refugee-like situation are included.

## By country of asylum

Figure 8 | Refugees and people in a refugee-like situation by country of asylum in Asia-Pacific | 2015-2024



Iran (3.5 million, -7%) and Pakistan (1.6 million, -22%) remained the largest host countries. The decrease in Pakistan reflects a downward revision of the estimated number of people remaining in a refugee-like situation.<sup>17</sup> In both countries, lower figures also reflect returns to Afghanistan, including deportations.<sup>18</sup>

As of end-2024, Bangladesh hosted over 1 million refugees. Most 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.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> In 2024, 143,900 Afghans with family ties to registered refugees were reported as refugees and an additional 108,300 people in a refugee-like situation were registered as asylum-seekers. The number of Afghans estimated to remain in Pakistan at end-2024 was revised downward by 190,200.

<sup>18</sup> Total returns refer to all types of returns – deportations, assisted voluntary repatriation and other returns – of Afghans of all statuses in Pakistan, including those undocumented. See the [Afghanistan situation overview](#), UNHCR.

<sup>19</sup> 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 | 2024



Comparing the size of the refugee population to that of the host country offers insight into the relative pressure felt by host countries. The number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants provides a useful indicator of this burden.<sup>20</sup> This indicator includes independent United Nations member states with a population size of at least 1,000. In relative terms, the top refugee-hosting countries in Asia and the Pacific at the end of 2024 were Iran (38 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants), Pakistan (6 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants), Bangladesh (6 per 1,000), Malaysia (4 per 1,000) and Kyrgyzstan (3 per 1,000). While India was the region's fourth largest refugee-hosting country, it did not rank among the top five countries in relative terms due to its large population.

In Asia and the Pacific, refugees are hosted across one low-income country, 24 middle-income countries and six high-income countries.<sup>21</sup> Overall, 99% of refugees and people in a refugee-like situation in the region reside in low-, lower-middle or upper-middle income countries. More than 1 million are hosted by countries in the region currently listed as 'Least Developed Countries', representing 15% of the total number of refugees and people in a refugee-like situation.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>20</sup> UN member states with a population size of less than 1,000 are excluded from this indicator.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> 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.

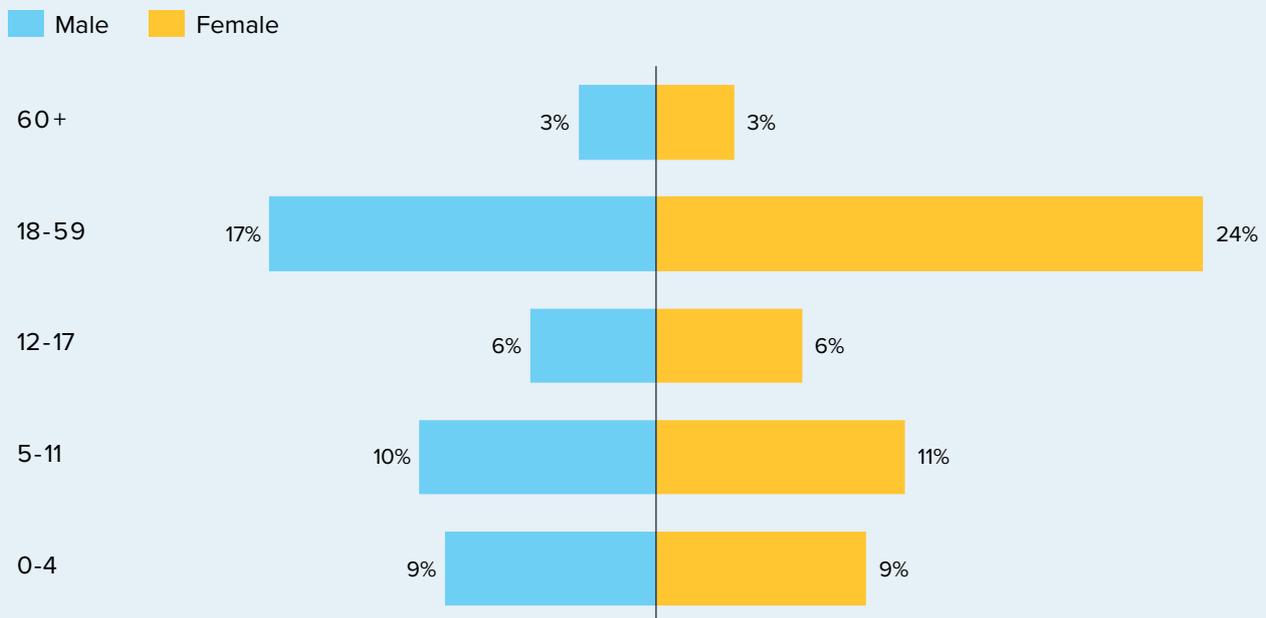
### BIOMETRICALLY IDENTIFIED NEW ARRIVALS IN BANGLADESH

Targeted violence and persecution in Myanmar’s Rakhine State continued to force thousands of Rohingya to seek safety in Bangladesh in 2024. Unlike refugee registration, people identified biometrically in Bangladesh are not issued with individual refugee identity documents and instead receive family cards, which enable access to life-saving assistance.

As of 30 June 2025, UNHCR Bangladesh had registered or identified 1,142,270 Rohingya refugees (237,125 families) who fled persecution in Myanmar. Major influxes occurred in 1990 and 2017, with new arrivals continuing in 2024 and 2025 amid escalating conflict, particularly in Rakhine State. A surge was recorded in late 2024, and a biometric identification exercise, completed in June 2025, identified 120,548 people (31,377 families).

Women and children make up 80% of the refugee population and 8% are people with specific needs, including people with disabilities, single parents, those with serious medical conditions, unaccompanied minors, older people at risk, and others requiring legal and physical protection. 54% of the population is female and 46% male. Over half of the refugees are children.

Figure 10 | Demographic composition of biometrically identified new arrivals



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

Families recently returned from Pakistan wait on a truck at the Torkham border before being relocated to a temporary camp. Coming from various provinces, they now face the challenge of rebuilding their lives in Afghanistan after a long and difficult journey.

©UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

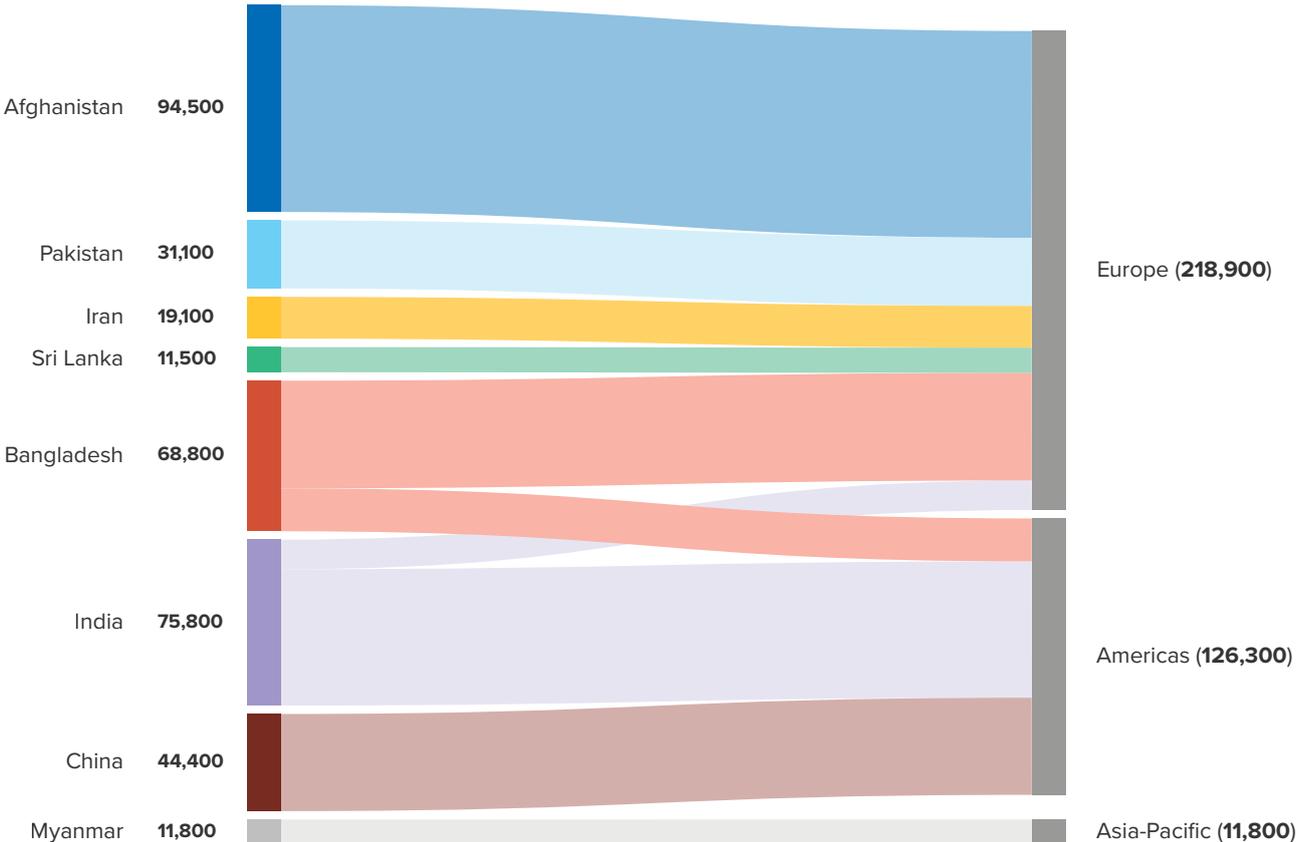


CHAPTER 3

# 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)<sup>23</sup> is the process through which governments or UNHCR assess whether a person seeking international protection qualifies as a refugee, based on legal criteria set out in international, regional, and national law.

Figure 11 | Flow of new individual asylum-seekers<sup>24</sup> | 2024



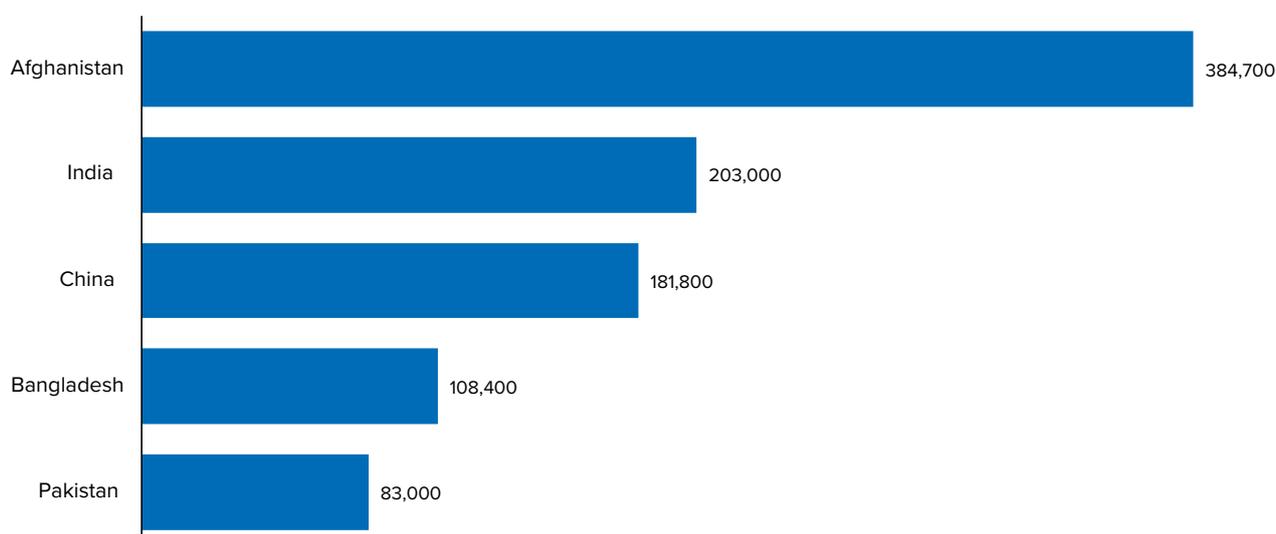
<sup>23</sup> Refugee status can be granted individually or on a group basis. Group recognition most commonly takes place where clear and objective conditions in the country of origin indicate that most people fleeing from that country are likely to meet the criteria for refugee status. In most cases, 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. For more information see [How is refugee status granted?, UNHCR](#).

<sup>24</sup> Only refers to individual asylum applications submitted in countries with an existing RSD process.

In 2024, nationals of countries in Asia and the Pacific submitted 487,700 new individual asylum applications globally, a 12% decrease compared to 2023. Afghans submitted 108,500 new applications in 2024, ranking fifth globally behind Sudan (441,400), Venezuela (268,100), Syria (163,500) and Colombia (149,000). Compared to 2023, new applications by Afghan nationals decreased by 36%, with up to 94,500 (87%) lodged in Europe. In contrast, countries in the region received only 6,800 new Afghan applications. The fact that just 16% of all applications globally were registered in countries in the region is partly due to the absence of a robust RSD system in many countries within the region.

Significant decreases in new applications were also observed among Iranian applicants (-26% to 27,000), Pakistani applicants (-16% to 43,300), Uzbekistani applicants (-33% to 9,300) and Indian applicants (-5% to 79,900). Overall, more than half of all new individual asylum applications from the region were lodged in Europe.

Figure 12 | **Asylum-seekers globally by country of origin in Asia-Pacific | 2024**



At the end of 2024, Afghanistan (384,700) remained the largest country of origin for asylum-seekers from Asia and the Pacific with pending asylum claims globally, followed by India (203,000), the People's Republic of China (181,800), Bangladesh (108,400) and Pakistan (83,000). According to the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) Annual Overview 2024<sup>25</sup>, Afghans were the second largest group of asylum applicants in the EU+<sup>26</sup> in 2024, after Syria. Afghan asylum applications have shown a downward trend since 2022, with 87,000 applications in 2024, representing a 24% decrease from 2023.

The recognition rate<sup>27</sup> for Afghan applicants in the EU+ was 63% in 2024 although this varied considerably across receiving countries. Germany, which processed the highest number of Afghan asylum applications, had a recognition rate of 41%.<sup>28</sup>

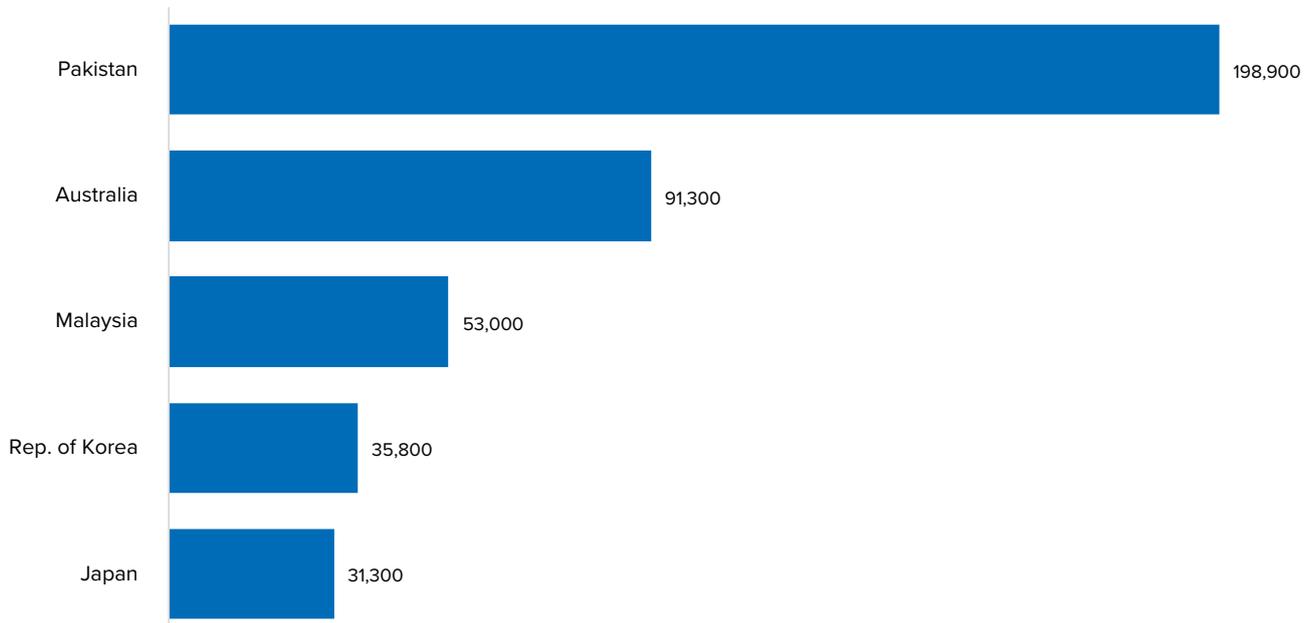
<sup>25</sup> Source: [Latest Asylum Trends 2024 - Annual Analysis](#), European Union Agency for Asylum.

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

<sup>27</sup> Recognition rate includes refugee status and subsidiary protection but excludes national forms of protection. It is calculated using only first-instance decisions.

<sup>28</sup> In 2024, an additional 46% of Afghans were granted national forms of protection in Germany, which falls outside the scope of the recognition rate for international protection.

Figure 13 | Asylum-seekers by host country in Asia Pacific | 2024



By end-2024, Pakistan hosted the largest number of asylum-seekers (198,900) in the region, followed by Australia (91,300), Malaysia (53,000), the Republic of Korea (35,800) and Japan (31,300)<sup>29</sup>. Most asylum-seekers in Pakistan are Afghans.



A community health volunteer administers medicine against cholera to a young boy in the Rohingya refugee camps near Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, as part of a camp-wide cholera vaccination campaign.

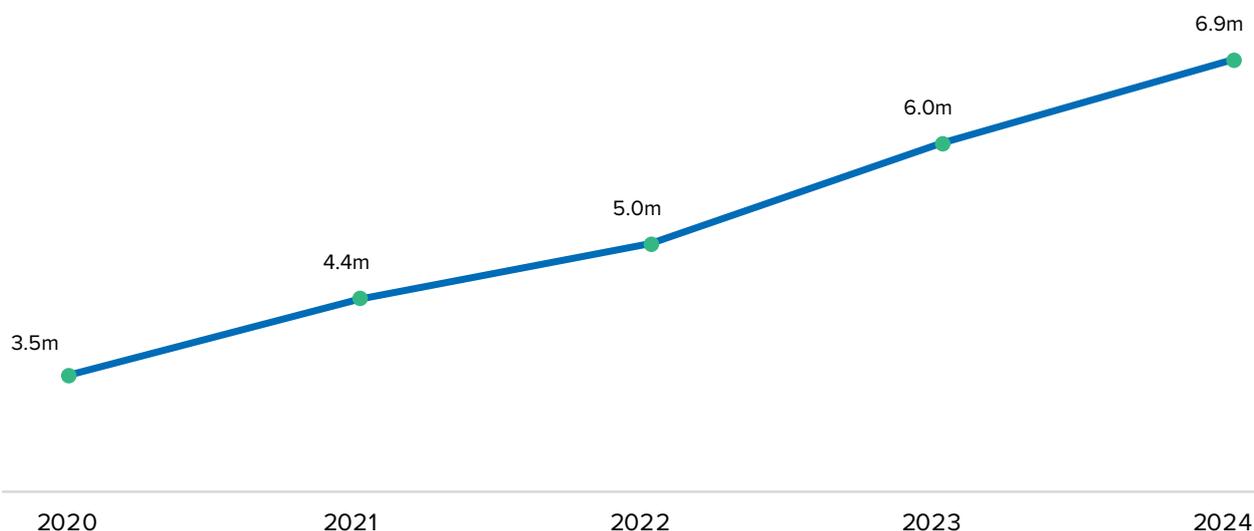
©UNHCR/Shari Nijman

<sup>29</sup> 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 Persons (IDPs)

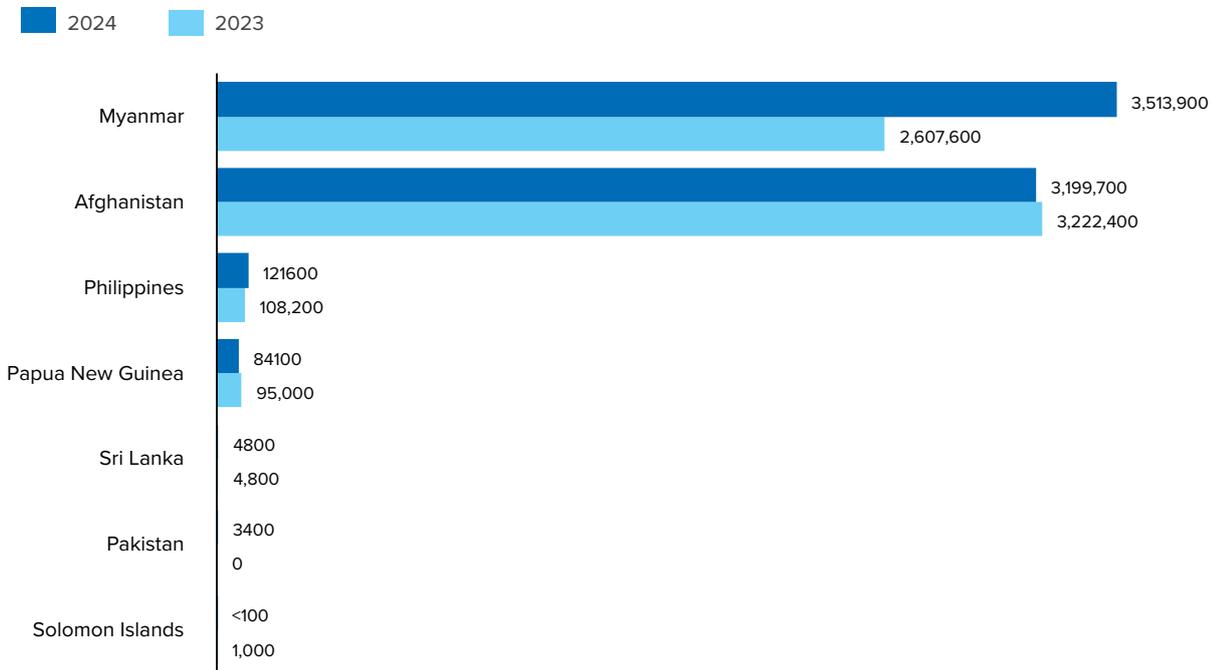
Figure 14 | IDP trends in Asia-Pacific | 2020 - 2024



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.<sup>30</sup> By end-2024, there were 6.9 million IDPs, nearly double the figure recorded in 2020.

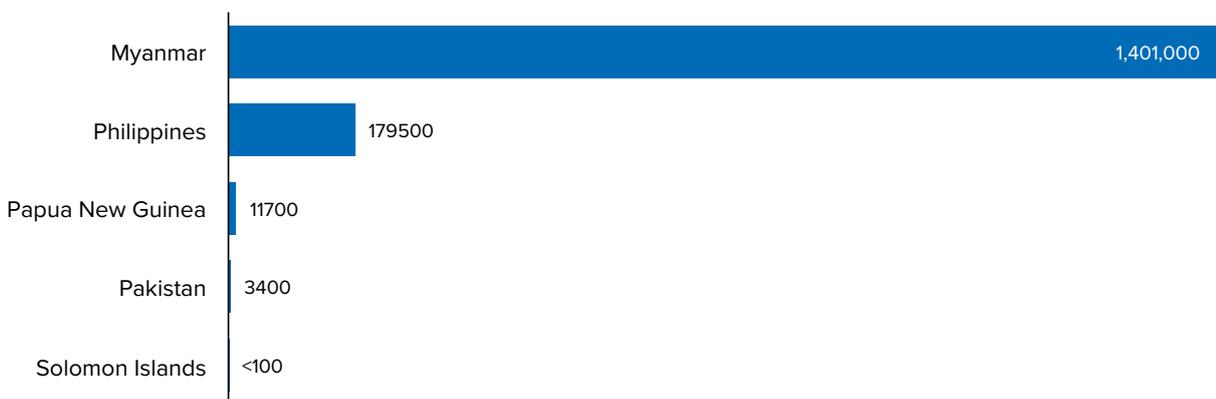
<sup>30</sup> See footnote 6.

Figure 15 | Countries with the most conflict-induced IDPs in Asia-Pacific | 2023 - 2024



Seven countries in the region reported conflict-induced internal displacement in 2024: Myanmar (3.5 million), Afghanistan (3.2 million), the Philippines (121,600), Papua New Guinea (84,100), Sri Lanka (4,800), Pakistan (3,400) and the Solomon Islands (<100).

Figure 16 | Newly displaced IDPs in Asia-Pacific | 2024



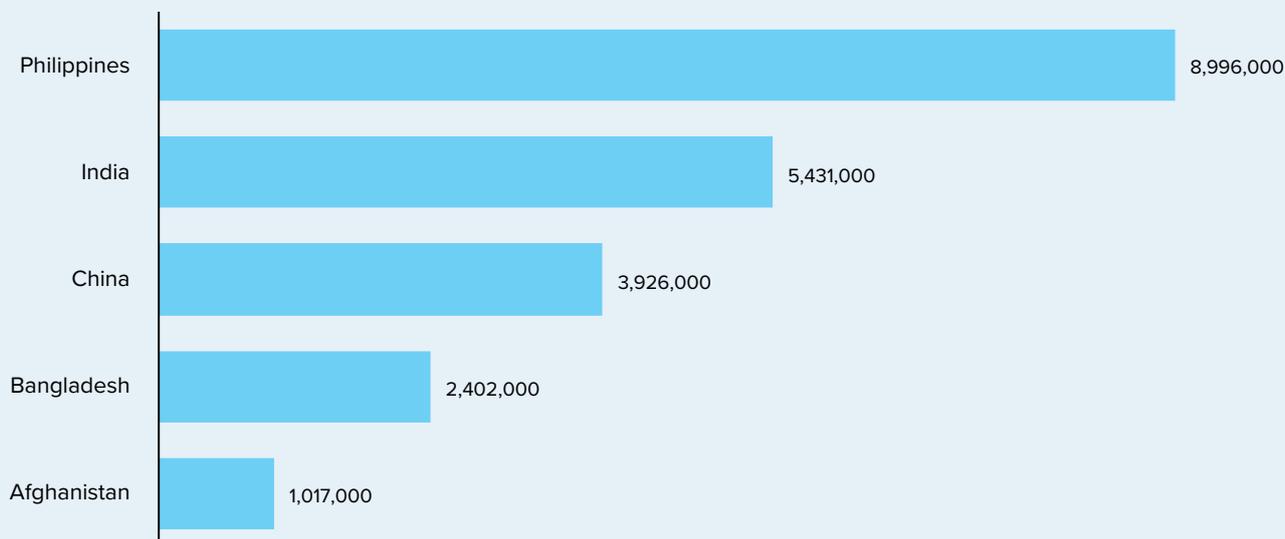
Note: An "internal displacement" refers to each new forced movement of person. Some people become displaced a number of times before finding a solution to their displacement.

Source: [2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement \(GRID\) | IDMC](#)

In Myanmar, 1.4 million people were newly displaced in 2024, bringing the total number of IDPs to 3.5 million by year's end – a 35% increase from the previous year. North-west Myanmar was among 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 increased by approximately 12%, reaching 121,600 due to ongoing armed conflict and violence.

## DISPLACEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS

Figure 17 | Internal displacements during the year by disasters in Asia-Pacific | 2024



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: [2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement \(GRID\) | IDMC](#)

Extreme weather and disasters continue to drive large-scale displacement across the Asia and the Pacific region. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) around 74% of all disaster-related displacement globally over the past decade occurred in this region. Many countries have faced multiple crises in recent years, including droughts, floods, earthquakes, typhoons and cyclones, which have disrupted lives and reversed development gains – even in emerging economies. In 2024 alone, disasters triggered 24.5 million internal displacements. By year's end, 4 million people were still displaced – around 54% of the global total.<sup>31</sup>

Four countries in the region were among the top five globally for disaster-related displacement in 2024:

- **The Philippines** saw a record 9 million people displaced, the most of any country worldwide. As one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, it experiences more typhoons than anywhere else, with 86% of displacements linked to these storms.
- **India** reported 5.4 million displacements, two-thirds of which were caused by floods. The state of Assam was especially affected, with 2.5 million internal displacements – the highest national figure in 12 years.
- **China** saw 3.9 million displacements, down from 4.7 million in 2023. Many of the same storms that struck the Philippines also moved north to China. Typhoon Yagi displaced nearly a third of the total.
- **Bangladesh's** displacement numbers rose for the fourth consecutive year, reaching 2.4 million in 2024 – its third highest figure on record. More than half of these displacements were triggered by flooding during the monsoon season.

<sup>31</sup> See [2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement \(GRID\)](#), IDMC - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

Afghanistan also experienced significant disaster displacement in 2024. Between mid-April and August, flooding displaced 1 million people across three-quarters of the country’s provinces – the highest disaster-related displacement on record. Inter-agency teams were deployed to affected areas to assess the impact, identify needs and support the response.<sup>32</sup> IDPs’ access to healthcare and other assistance was limited in many locations due to areas being cut off by rising waters and damaged roads and bridges. IDPs and returnees from Pakistan living in shelters were also affected by the floods.<sup>33</sup>

In Myanmar, extreme weather events and disasters compounded the crisis, exacerbating the humanitarian and protection situation of people already displaced by conflict. Over 80% of the damage caused by Cyclone Mocha in May 2023 was concentrated in Rakhine and Sagaing, where many lives were lost and IDP camps were heavily affected.<sup>34</sup> In March 2025, a powerful earthquake struck areas already hosting 1.5 million IDPs, further deepening humanitarian needs across the country.<sup>35</sup>

Figure 18 | IDPs by disasters | As of end-2024



Source: [2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement \(GRID\) | IDMC](#)

Afghanistan had the highest number of people displaced by disasters globally, with around 1.3 million left internally displaced by end-2024. In Pakistan, disaster displacements dropped significantly compared to the previous two years, with 169,000 recorded displacements. Most occurred between July and September, when monsoon floods hit Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh – provinces that host around 84% of registered Afghan refugees.

Extreme weather and disasters are also increasingly interlinked with conflict and displacement. They heighten the vulnerability of those who have already been forced to flee, erode communities’ coping capacities,

<sup>32</sup> See [UNHCR Afghanistan: Flash Floods Update, 18 July 2024](#), UNHCR.

<sup>33</sup> See [Afghanistan Floods: Flash Update #2 - Floods hit Eastern and Northeastern Afghanistan, 21 July 2024](#), UNOCHA

<sup>34</sup> See [Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Mocha, May 2023, Myanmar: Global Rapid Post-Disaster Damage Estimation \(GRADE\) Report](#), Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and World Bank.

<sup>35</sup> See [Myanmar Earthquake Emergency: UNHCR response to urgent needs of displaced people and host communities](#), UNHCR.

and worsen existing inequalities in access to systems and services. These vulnerabilities make it harder for displaced people to find long-term solutions. A 2024 analysis by UNHCR in Afghanistan found that climate-related risks, lack of preparedness, and limited access to information were major barriers to return and reintegration. As a result, returnees were often more exposed to natural hazards and disasters than host communities, increasing their vulnerability and risk of secondary displacement. The analysis also highlighted how population growth driven by displacement and returns can exacerbate tensions and competition over scarce resources (especially around access and use of natural resources) and how shifting precipitation patterns are contributing to drought and desertification. These findings, along with lessons learned from other countries in the region, underscore the importance of targeted funding and interventions that link durable solutions to resilience-building programming.

Against this backdrop, UNHCR continues to implement its Regional Climate Action Plan<sup>36</sup>, with a particular focus on building the resilience of refugees and host communities. Given the frequency of disasters, inclusive policies are central to this approach, particularly those that ensure refugees and displaced people are included in disaster risk reduction strategies and other relevant policies addressing the impacts of climate change.

At the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Manila in October 2024, UNHCR launched a global mapping of how human mobility is reflected in national disaster risk reduction strategies and related frameworks. Co-authored with the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the report – which updates a 2018 analysis – found that 78% of national strategies worldwide (among the 112 identified) now reference human mobility, including displacement. However, most strategies offer little detail on specific populations at risk or how to operationalize inclusive policies. The lack of robust data on vulnerable populations like refugees was cited as a major gap needing attention to improve implementation.

Equally important is ensuring that climate financing reaches the most vulnerable. This requires a strong disaster risk approach and inclusive, evidence-based policies and strategies. As the ADB and IDMC have noted, “embedding displacement into development planning and investment strategies... can create the conditions and demand for development and climate finance to effectively respond to their needs.”

In this evolving regional risk landscape, and in line with its Focus Area Strategic Plan on Climate Action 2024 – 2030, UNHCR remains committed to working with partners to ensure that forcibly displaced people fleeing from or living in climate-vulnerable countries are included in policies and funding frameworks and that they are protected, resilient and able to find solutions.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>36</sup> See [Asia and the Pacific: Climate Action Plan](#), Global Focus (unhcr.org).

<sup>37</sup> See [Focus Area Strategic Plan for Climate Action 2024-2030](#), UNHCR.

**HIGHLIGHT**

# Afghanistan situation

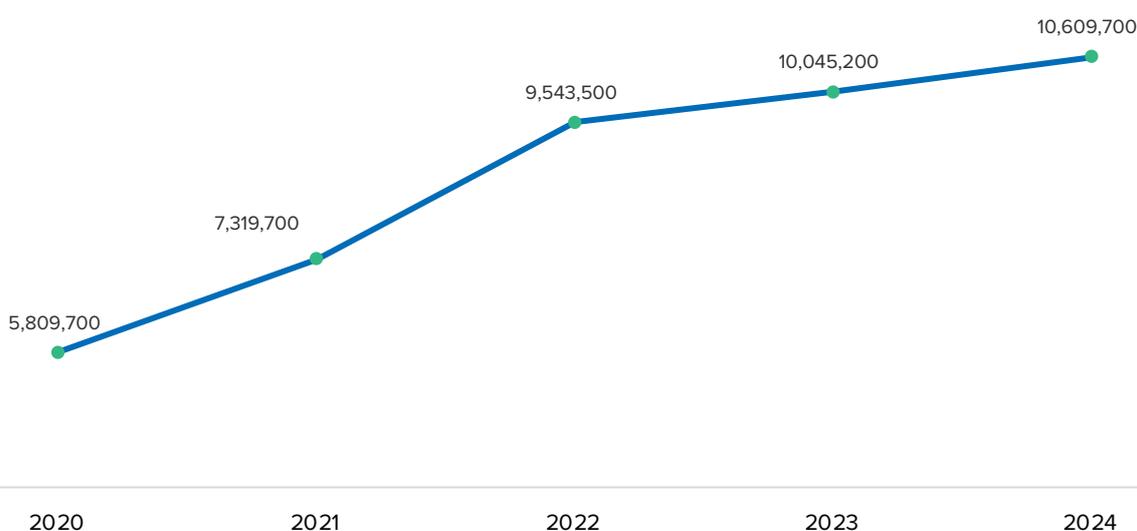


	GLOBAL	ASIA-PACIFIC REGION	SOUTH-WEST ASIA
Afghans protected and/or assisted by UNHCR	<b>10,609,700</b>	<b>9,744,900</b> (92%)	<b>9,693,700</b> (91%)
Afghan refugees and people in a refugee-like situation	<b>5,766,600</b>	<b>5,079,700</b> (88%)	<b>5,037,000</b> (87%)
Afghan asylum-seekers	<b>384,700</b>	<b>207,200</b> (54%)	<b>198,600</b> (52%)
Afghan IDPs	<b>3,199,700</b>	<b>3,199,700</b>	<b>3,199,700</b>
Other Afghans of concern to UNHCR	<b>871,500</b>	<b>871,200</b>	<b>871,200</b>

Note: The total number of Afghans protected and/or assisted by UNHCR also includes 364,400 refugee returnees and 22,700 IDP returnees during 2024.

Although large-scale conflict subsided in Afghanistan in 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 10.6 million Afghans<sup>38</sup> were protected and/or assisted by end-2024 – a 6% increase from the previous year. The vast majority are displaced within Afghanistan or in neighbouring countries. Afghanistan remains one of the world's largest countries of origin for refugees and people in a refugee-like situation, while Iran continues to be the largest country of asylum, primarily hosting Afghans.

Figure 19 | Afghans UNHCR protects and/or assists | 2020 - 2024



Note: Figures are as of the reporting period during their respective years and can be changed as the data is updated retroactively.

The Afghanistan situation is the largest in the region, with the number of people UNHCR protects and/or assists still on the rise. Most Afghan refugees<sup>39</sup> are hosted in Iran and Pakistan, which are among the world's largest refugee-hosting countries. By end-2024, the number of Afghan refugees and people in a refugee-like situation stood at 3.5 million in Iran and 1.6 million in Pakistan – reflecting a decrease of 7% and 22% respectively compared to the previous year. In both countries, policies and measures affecting the presence of Afghans and other undocumented foreign nationals remained in place or were further enforced.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Includes refugees, people in a refugee-like situation, asylum-seekers, IDPs, refugee returnees, IDP returnees and others of concern to UNHCR.

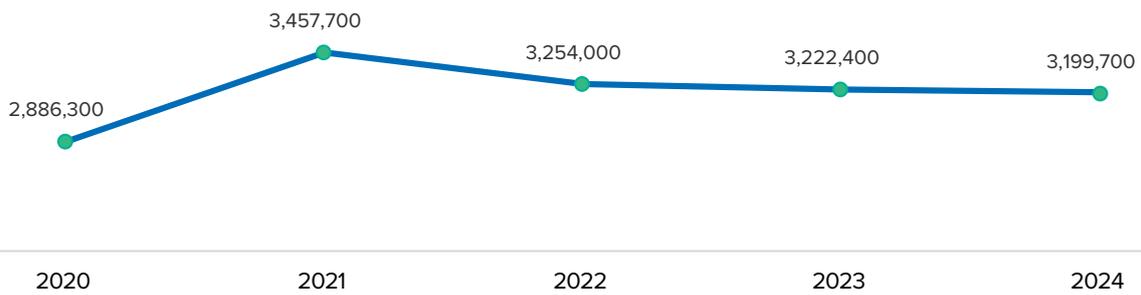
<sup>39</sup> Includes people in a refugee-like situation. All subsequent references to refugees include people in a refugee-like situation.

<sup>40</sup> In October 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced a new 'Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan', initiating the return of all undocumented foreigners. On 23 February 2025, the Government of Iran announced that headcount slips would not be extended beyond 20 March 2025.

### Conflict-induced IDPs in Afghanistan

Prior to 2022, the number of IDPs in Afghanistan steadily increased, reaching 3,457,700 by end-2021. Since then, the figure has gradually declined, with about 3,199,700 people still internally displaced by end-2024 – a 7% decrease from 2021. Children under the age of 18 accounted for 62% of the IDP population, while 21% were women aged 18 and over.

Figure 20 | IDPs in Afghanistan | 2020 - 2024



Nargis, 12, carries her belongings with determination, ready to load them onto the truck as her family begins their journey back to Afghanistan after returning from Pakistan. Despite the challenges, her resilience shines through as she helps with the preparations.

©UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production



Gul Bano recently returned from Pakistan with her family. With an uncertain future ahead, they arrived at the Encashment Centre seeking stability and a chance to begin again in their homeland.

©UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

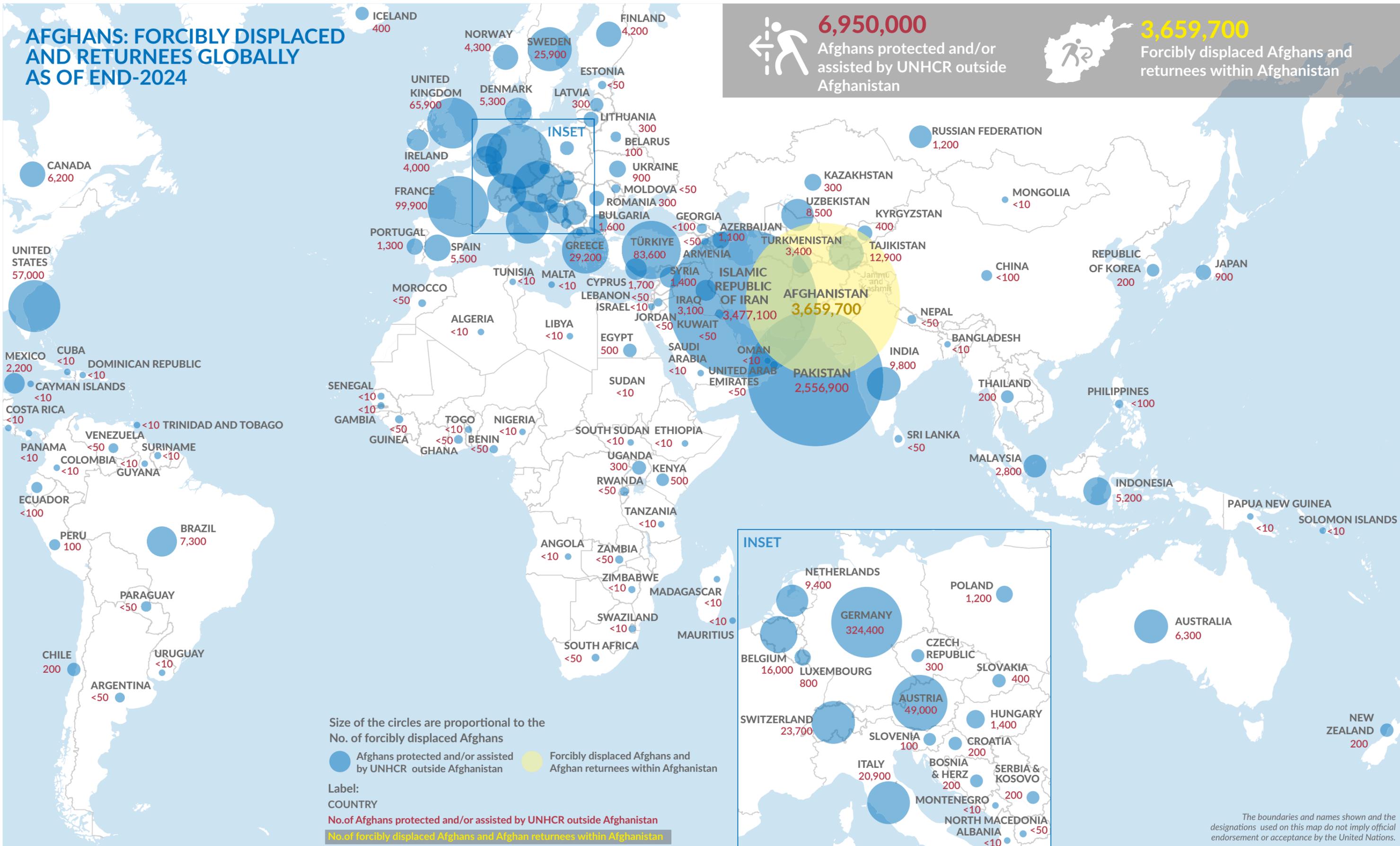
# AFGHANS: FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND RETURNEES GLOBALLY AS OF END-2024



**6,950,000**  
Afghans protected and/or assisted by UNHCR outside Afghanistan



**3,659,700**  
Forcibly displaced Afghans and returnees within Afghanistan



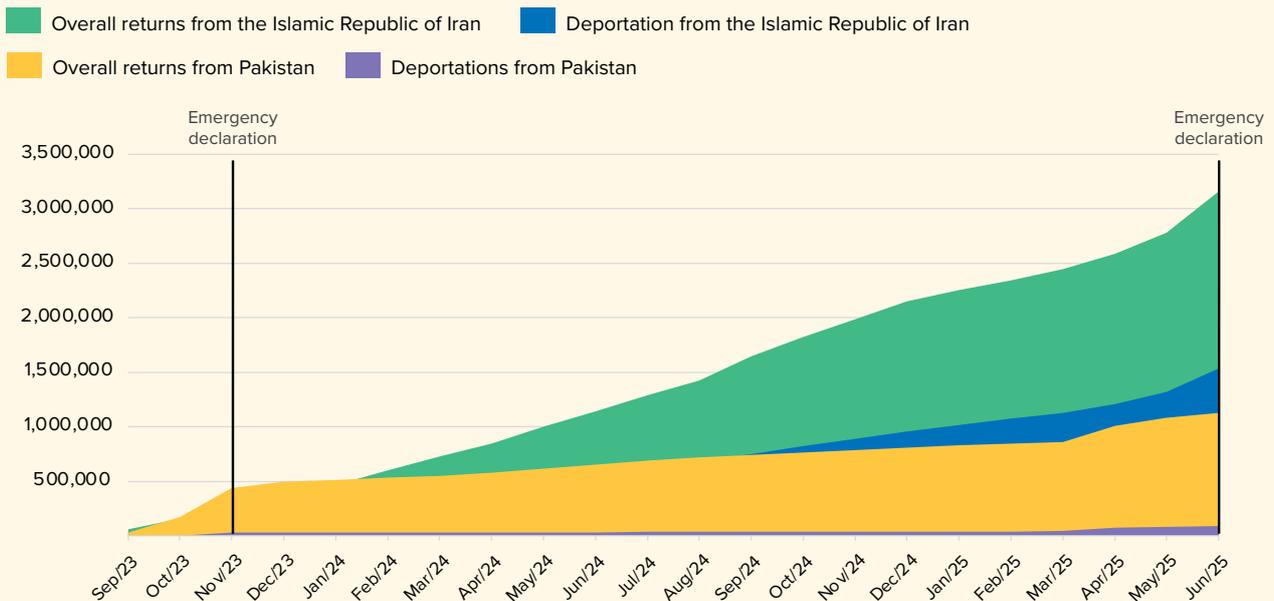
## Mass return of Afghan nationals during the first half of 2025



\*Total returns during the first half of 2025 also includes approximately 700 returns from countries other than Iran and Pakistan.

The scale of returns has worsened Afghanistan’s ongoing humanitarian crisis, putting additional pressure on already limited resources and hindering the voluntary, safe and dignified return and reintegration of Afghans.

Figure 21 | Overall returns of Afghans from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran



In October 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced the ‘Illegal Foreigners’ Repatriation Plan’ (IFRP). Following the plan’s implementation in November 2023, UNHCR declared an internal Level 2 emergency for Pakistan and Afghanistan for six months to scale up the humanitarian response amid the rapidly evolving situation. In 2023, almost half a million Afghans returned from Pakistan, including those who were deported.<sup>41</sup> Approximately 49% of those who returned were women or girls.

On 7 March, the Government of Pakistan publicly announced it would resume the IFRP, requiring all Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC) holders<sup>42</sup> to voluntarily return to Afghanistan by 31 March 2025 or face deportation from 1 April 2025. As of 9 July 2025, over 279,100 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan since

<sup>41</sup> See [UNHCR Dataviz – Returns to Afghanistan](#).

<sup>42</sup> In an effort to address unregistered Afghan refugees, the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR initiated the issuance of ACC during 2017-2018.

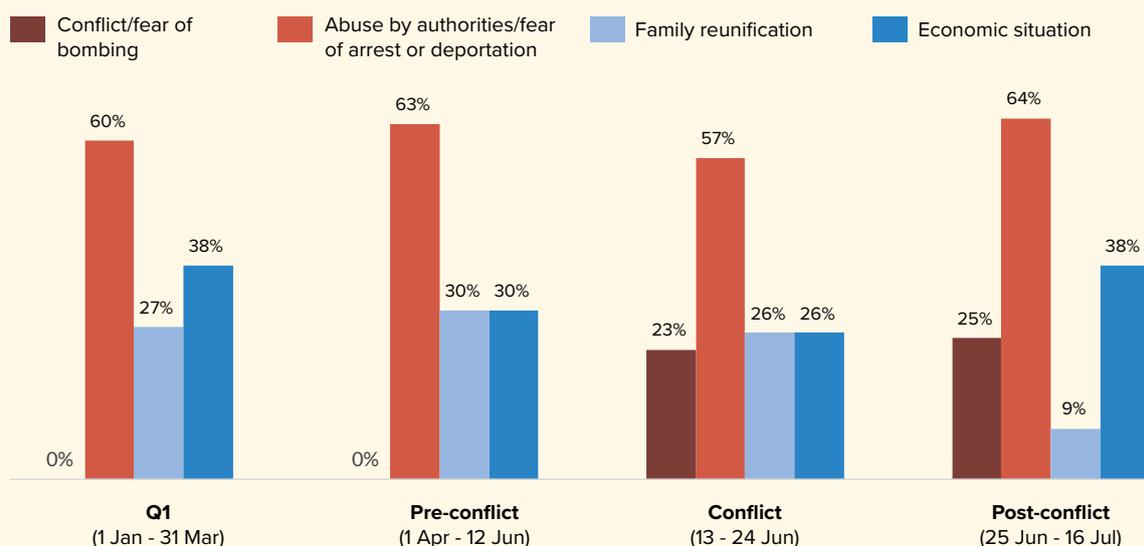
April.<sup>43</sup> Most returnees were undocumented (69%), followed by ACC holders (17%) and Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders (14%)<sup>44</sup>. The percentage of PoR card holders returning increased to 33% in the first nine days of July compared to 6% in April. Deportations since 1 April 2025 reached 49,000, with April marking the highest monthly figure since September 2023.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring Iran, following the expiration of headcount slips on 20 March 2025, the Government of Iran introduced a regularization and return scheme to manage the status of over 2 million affected people. Headcount slip holders must undergo government assessments to determine whether they must leave the country or are allowed to remain. Some people qualify for exemptions, including those in mixed-status families comprising *Amayesh*<sup>45</sup> card holders, as well as former Afghan government and military personnel granted Temporary (*Movaqqat*) cards that afford temporary stay rights and access to services like *Amayesh* card holders. The long-term validity of these cards remains subject to further government policy decisions. Most people, however, must leave Iran and may only return with a visa.

As of 9 July 2025, almost 1.1 million Afghans had returned since 20 March 2025 and more than 1.3 million since the beginning of the year.<sup>46</sup> 59% of the total returns are deportations. Daily returns climbed steeply following the escalation of hostilities between Iran and Israel on 13 June, with further spikes after 25 June that continued into early July. In early July, the average daily return was significantly higher than before the conflict, with peaks of approximately 46,000 and over 50,000 Afghan returnees on 3 and 4 July, respectively.

UNHCR and its partners have scaled up protection activities at Afghanistan's border crossing points with the Islamic Republic of Iran (Islam Qala, Zaranj and Abo Nasr Farahi). Teams are present daily to conduct border protection monitoring, including interviews with returnees and deportees to identify protection concerns and risks and their intended areas of return in Afghanistan. Help desks have also been set up to enhance protection screening interviews, facilitate the identification and referral of people at risk and support their referral for assistance both at the border and in Encashment Centres.

Figure 22 | **Reasons for leaving Iran | 2025**



Note: Percentage of interviews reporting reasons/multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%.

Note: In the graph, 'conflict' refers to the hostilities between Israel and Iran, while 'post-conflict' denotes the period following these events.

<sup>43</sup> See [Document - Pakistan-Afghanistan - Returns Emergency Response #38](#), UNHCR.

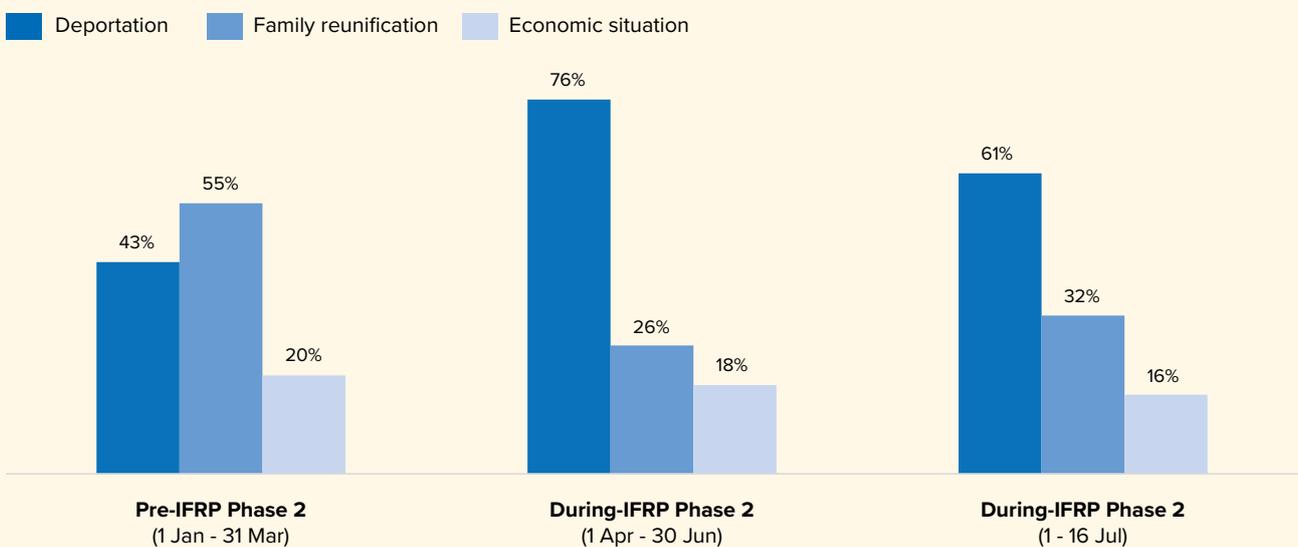
<sup>44</sup> In 2006, PoR cards were issued during a joint exercise by the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR to document and register all Afghan refugees.

<sup>45</sup> An identification document issued by the Iranian Government to Afghan refugees residing in Iran. For more information visit [UNHCR Iran Help Page](#).

<sup>46</sup> See [Document - Iran-Afghanistan - Returns Emergency Response #12](#), UNHCR.

Border protection monitoring indicates that abuse by authorities or fear of arrest/deportation remained the most common reasons for return from Iran throughout the first half of 2025, with around 60% of respondents reporting these concerns consistently. The escalation of hostilities between Israel and Iran from 13 to 24 June also emerged as a significant and immediate driver, with a quarter of respondents citing conflict as a key reason for return during and after this period. Other factors such as family reunification and economic situation were also commonly reported. While motivations vary across time, the findings underscore that security-related drivers – including fear of persecution and conflict – remain central to return dynamics.

Figure 23 | **Reasons for leaving Pakistan | 2025**



Note: Percentage of interviews reporting reasons/multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%.

Similarly, in Pakistan, abuse by authorities or fear of arrest and deportation emerged as the primary driver of returns, particularly following the launch of the second phase of the IFRP on 31 March. The proportion of respondents citing this reason rose sharply from 43% to 76%. So far in the third quarter of the year - as of 16 July - the rate has remained high at 61%. In contrast, the share of respondents citing family reunification and economic reasons declined since the start of the second phase.

**Length of return and reintegration dynamics of Afghans**

UNHCR’s latest post-return monitoring study<sup>47</sup> shows that while returnees - particularly men - experience gradual improvements in income and employment over time, others, especially women, face mounting barriers that deepen their vulnerability. These contrasting realities reveal the fragile nature of reintegration and underscore the urgent need for targeted development interventions to ensure no one is left behind.

<sup>47</sup> See [Post-Return Monitoring Survey Report](#).

Some economic indicators suggest cautious progress: employment among returnees increased by 14% when comparing those back in the country for less than six months with those who have been home for up to 11 months. Once back in Afghanistan, people transition from receiving humanitarian aid to engaging in wage-earning work. Men benefitted the most, with male-headed households experiencing average wage increases of 16% and employment rates rising from 53% to nearly 69%.

In contrast, women were excluded from these gains. Female-headed households saw declining income and shrinking employment opportunities, with wages falling by 23% and employment dropping from 42% to 39% over the same period. On average, women earned nearly 17% less than men and continued to face barriers to essential services, legal protections, and safety.

Without targeted, gender-responsive interventions to expand viable economic opportunities, the resilience of the most vulnerable will continue to be undermined by socioeconomic exclusion, rising debt, and food insecurity.

Figure 24 | **Gender disparity in employment and wages**



Source: 2024 Post-Return Monitoring.

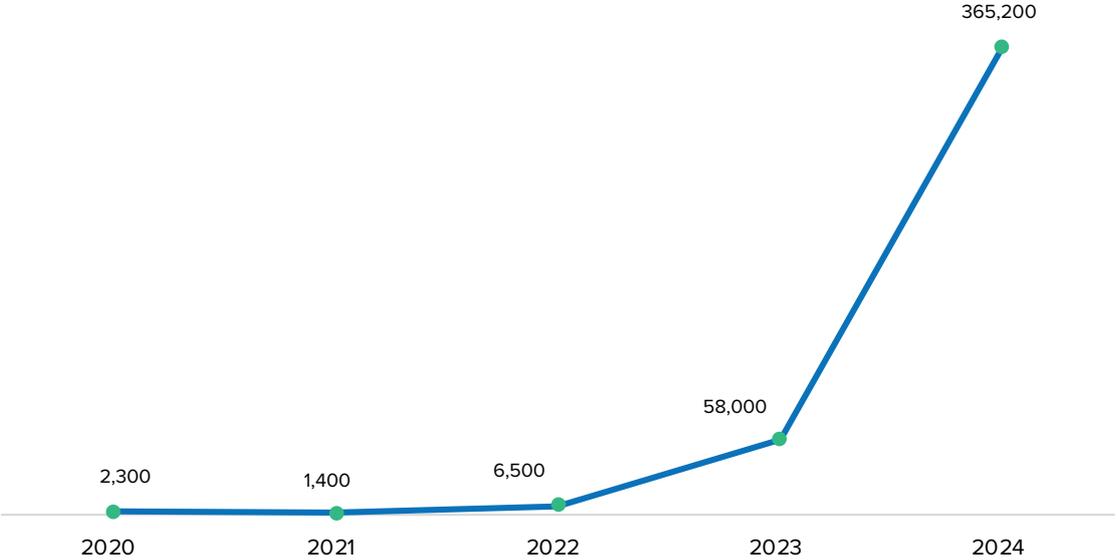
CHAPTER 5

# Solutions

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 in the region, and a 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. Although the number of refugee returns increased significantly in 2024, they accounted for only 7% of those displaced at the end of the previous year.

## Refugee returns

Figure 25 | Refugee returnee trends | 2020-2024



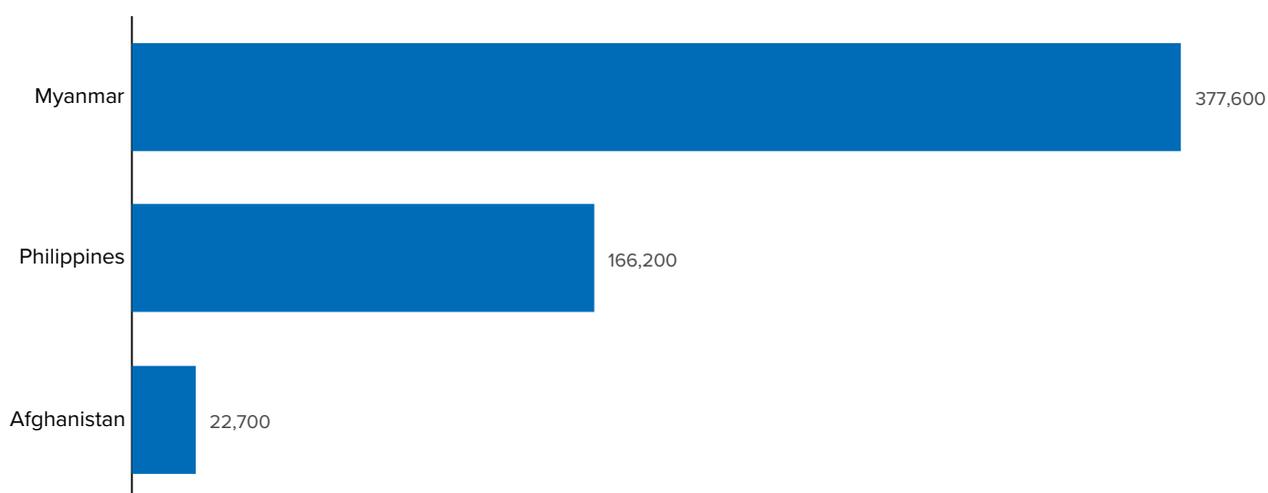
Afghans (364,400) constituted the third-largest group of refugee returnees globally in 2024, accounting for over 20% of all returns and surpassed only by Syrians (512,700) and South Sudanese (404,700). Afghan refugee returns in 2024 represented more than one-third of all returns over the last decade (962,700 in total). Almost all Afghan refugee returnees in 2024 were from Iran (237,500) and Pakistan (126,800).<sup>48</sup> Returnees are

<sup>48</sup> 813,300 Afghans returned to their home country from Pakistan between September 2023 and December 2024 (see [Pakistan-Afghanistan - Returns Emergency Response #26](#), UNHCR). Total returns includes all types of returns such as deportations, assisted voluntary repatriation and other returns of Afghans of all statuses in Pakistan, including undocumented Afghans (see the Afghanistan situation overview, UNHCR).

arriving in a country impacted by widespread poverty, soaring unemployment, the effects of climate change, and critical gaps in essential public services, which pose significant hurdles to sustainable reintegration.<sup>49</sup> For women and girls, returning is particularly difficult, as they face an environment where their basic rights, including education, freedom of movement and freedom of expression, are being systematically eroded.

## IDP returns

Figure 26 | IDP returnees in Asia-Pacific | 2024



IDP returnees in the region increased to 566,400 in 2024 from 449,300 in 2023. Myanmar (377,600) and the Philippines (166,200) accounted for most IDP returnees in 2024, with IDP returns rising by 37% in Myanmar and 21% in the Philippines compared to 2023. In contrast, IDP returnees in Afghanistan decreased by 28%. UNHCR continues to support UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams across the region in operationalizing the commitments outlined in the [UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#).

## Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

UNHCR resettlement submissions from the region reached 44,800 in 2024, marking a 13% increase compared to 2023. About 31,900 refugees who were considered for resettlement were from Myanmar, including more than 19,500 Rohingya refugees. Nearly 20,000 refugees departed for resettlement from the region, an increase of over 30% compared to 15,200 resettlement departures in 2023. Over half (10,100) of those departing were from Myanmar, marking a 47% rise from 2023. The main countries of resettlement included the United States of America, Australia and Canada.

UNHCR also recorded almost 6,000 departures from Asia in 2024 through sponsorship, education, other humanitarian and labour complementary pathways, primarily to Canada, the United States and Australia. This represents a significant decrease from around 8,500 in 2023.

<sup>49</sup> See [UNHCR Dataviz Platform - Returns to Afghanistan](#).

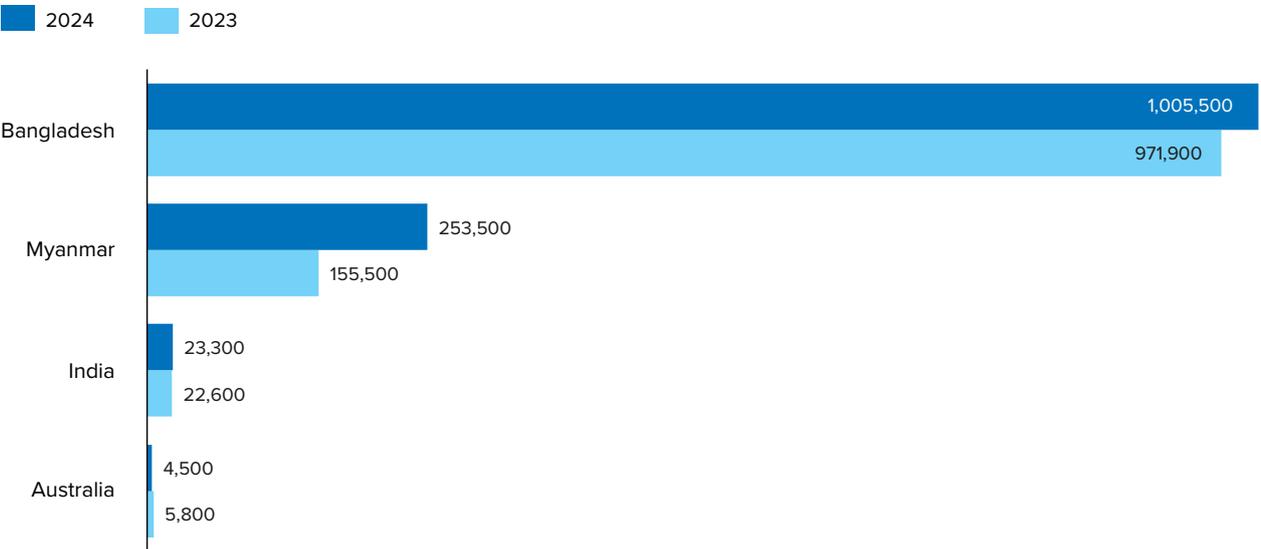
CHAPTER 6

# Stateless Population

The Asia and the Pacific region hosts 58% of the world’s recorded stateless population. By end-2024, there were 2.5 million stateless people, of whom 1.1 million were non-displaced and 1.4 million displaced. Displaced stateless people include refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs who are not considered nationals by any State. The overall stateless population in the region remained relatively stable in recent years, with Rohingya accounting for 69%.

## Displaced Stateless People in Asia-Pacific

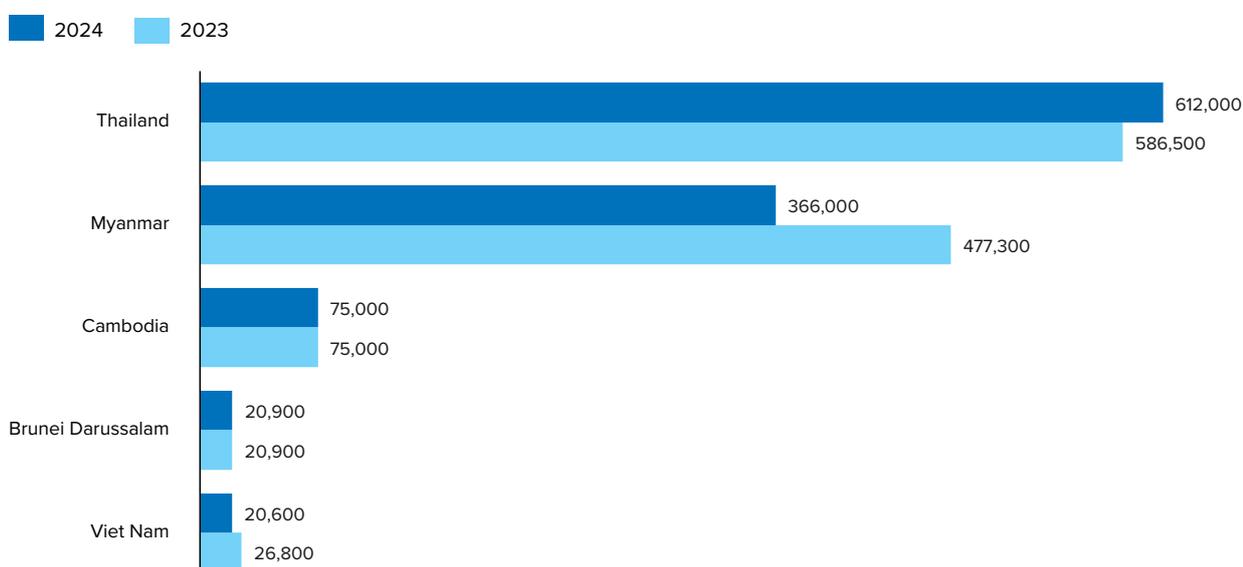
Figure 26 | Countries with the most displaced stateless people in Asia-Pacific | 2023 - 2024



The 1.4 million displaced stateless people include 1.1 million refugees, 253,500 IDPs and 18,300 asylum-seekers. This represents an 11% increase in displaced stateless people from 1.3 million at the end of 2023. Nearly all displaced stateless people in the region were Rohingya from Myanmar, most of whom reside in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

## Non-Displaced Stateless People in Asia-Pacific

Figure 27 | Countries with the most non-displaced stateless people in Asia-Pacific | 2023 - 2024



The total number of non-displaced stateless people in the region declined in 2024, primarily due to the displacement of stateless Rohingya following the escalation of violence in Myanmar. In Viet Nam, around 6,200 formerly stateless people acquired citizenship, while in Thailand, 5,700 people were granted nationality.

At the same time, Thailand recorded an increase of approximately 25,400, largely due to the registration of newborns, undocumented people and the re-registration of previously de-registered cases. In a landmark development, Thailand announced an accelerated pathway to permanent residency and nationality for nearly 484,000 registered stateless people who have lived and contributed to the country for generations. Under the Government's Cabinet Resolution of 29 October 2024, 335,000 long-term residents and members of recognized ethnic minorities can apply for permanent residency (and Thai nationality after five years), while over 142,000 Thailand born children are now immediately eligible for citizenship.<sup>50</sup> Streamlined criteria and shorter processing times are expected to unlock access to education, employment and mobility. Supported by UNHCR's technical and financial assistance, this measure represents the most significant single reduction in statelessness ever taken globally.

Progress was also recorded elsewhere in the region. In 2024, 20,600 stateless people acquired nationality and permanent residence. In Central Asia<sup>51</sup>, the number of newly registered stateless people reported by governments and UNHCR partners indicated a further reduction of around 7,700 stateless people. Notably, Turkmenistan announced the resolution of all known statelessness cases within its territory, following the naturalization of a final group of 1,100 people in 2024.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>50</sup> See [UNHCR commends Thai Cabinet's landmark resolution to end statelessness](#) and [Thailand moves forward on historic statelessness resolution](#), UNHCR.

<sup>51</sup> Central Asia includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. See <https://www.unhcr.org/centralasia/en>.

<sup>52</sup> See [UNHCR applauds Turkmenistan in resolving statelessness](#), UNHCR.

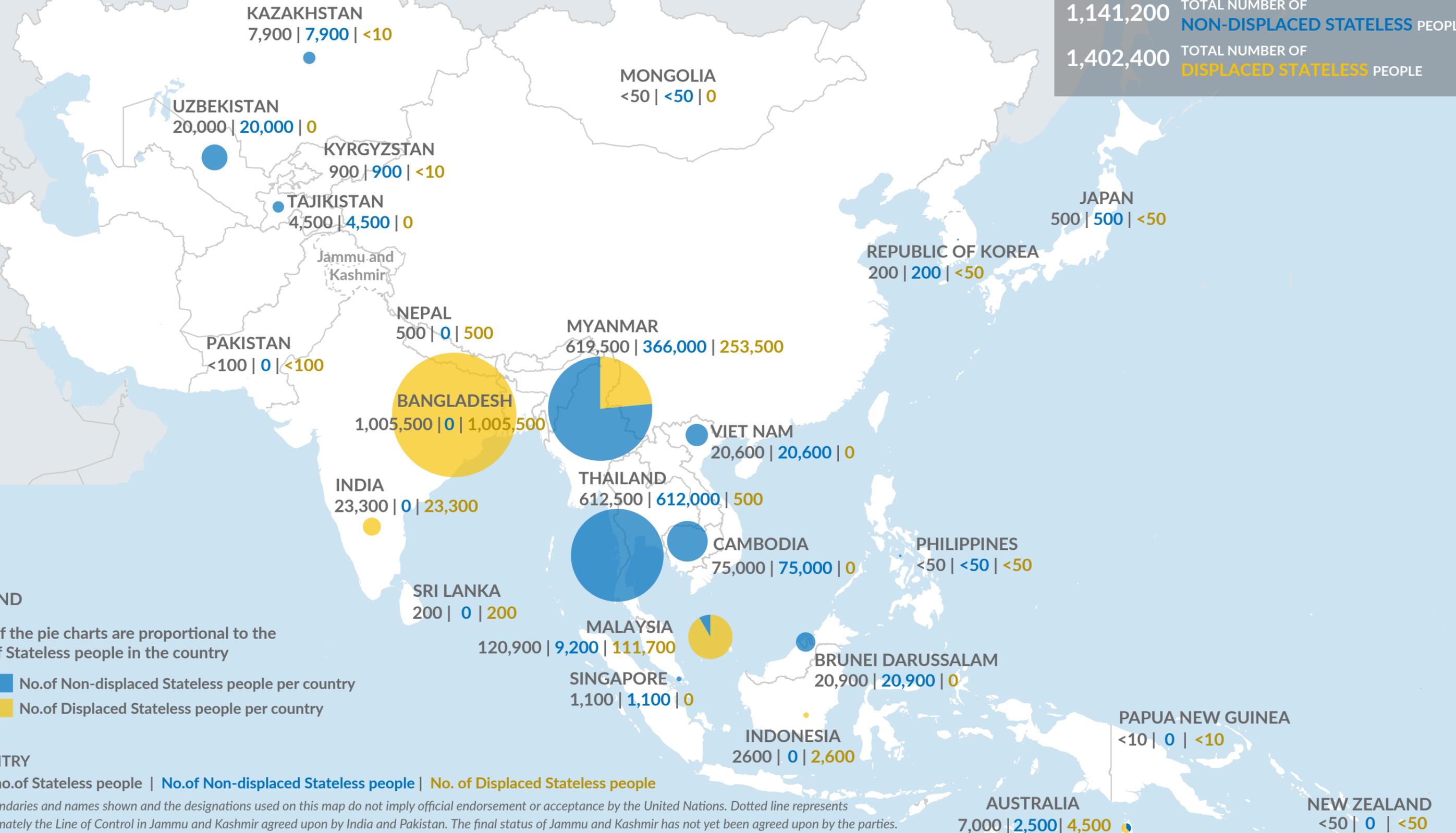
# STATELESS POPULATION AS END OF 2024

## KEY FIGURES FOR THE REGION

2,543,600 TOTAL NUMBER OF STATELESS PEOPLE

1,141,200 TOTAL NUMBER OF **NON-DISPLACED STATELESS** PEOPLE

1,402,400 TOTAL NUMBER OF **DISPLACED STATELESS** PEOPLE



### LEGEND

Size of the pie charts are proportional to the No. of Stateless people in the country

- No. of Non-displaced Stateless people per country
- No. of Displaced Stateless people per country

Label:

COUNTRY

Total no. of Stateless people | No. of Non-displaced Stateless people | No. of Displaced Stateless people

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.

Efforts to address statelessness among Rohingya continued, with a focus on ensuring access to birth registration and civil status documentation, supported through regional cooperation.<sup>53</sup> Civil documentation continued to play a critical role in preventing and reducing statelessness by providing legal proof of identity and family relationships, often required to establish or acquire nationality. In most countries across the region, civil status documents are essential to access basic rights: birth certificates are required in 18 countries for infant vaccinations, in 36 countries to attend school, in 20 countries to access healthcare, and in 39 countries to obtain a national ID. These documents also lay the foundation for solutions (including through complementary pathways) by verifying identity, age and family ties.

In line with these needs and priorities, UNHCR provided technical support for the preparation of a new Regional Ministerial Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in the Asia-Pacific adopted by all 62 member states of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in June 2025. The Declaration reinforces the importance of ensuring refugees, IDPs and statelessness people have access to civil registration services; emphasizes data protection standards and privacy safeguards; and calls on States to promote gender equality in CRVS laws and procedures, including by permitting mothers to register births and obtain birth certificates, and by ensuring women can receive civil status documentation in their own name.



Arso, 25, a stateless person, at the football school where he volunteers as assistant coach. Arso's dream is to become a professional football player representing Thailand. But if his stateless status is not resolved, he won't be able to realize his dream.

©UNHCR/Apipar Norapoompipat

<sup>53</sup> See [Ensuring everyone counts: working together to include stateless and displaced persons in civil registration systems](#), UNHCR and [Towards the realization of the regional vision for inclusive civil registration and vital statistics systems](#), United Nations.

HIGHLIGHT

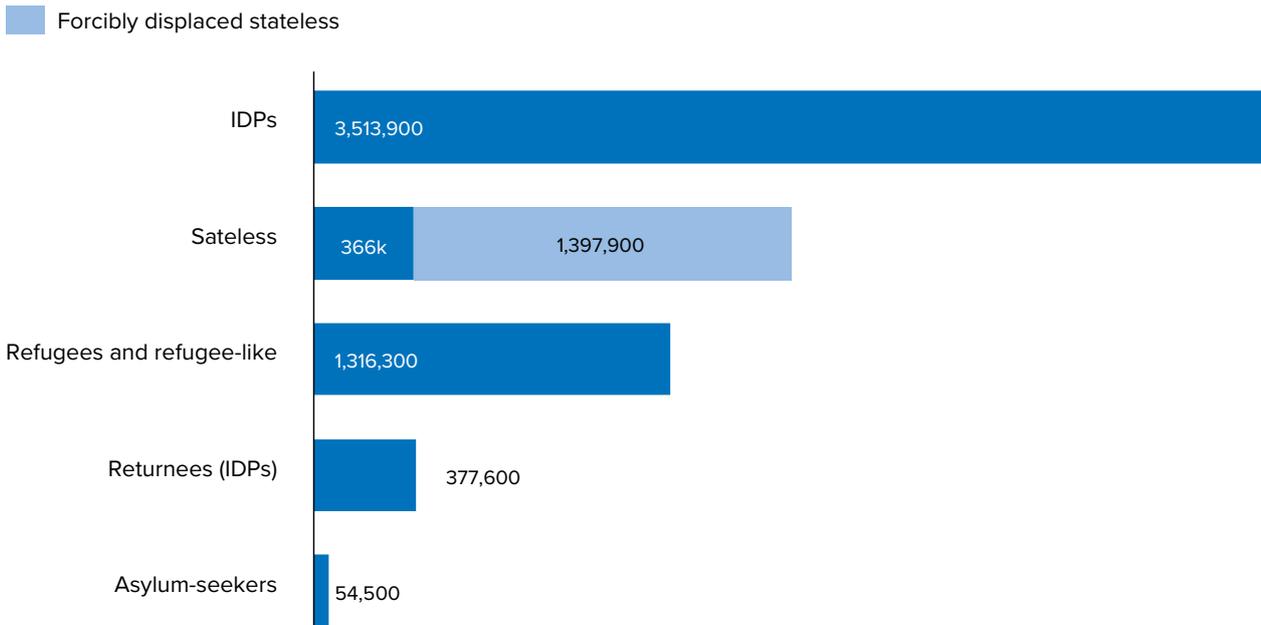
# Myanmar situation

	GLOBAL	ASIA-PACIFIC REGION
People protected and/or assisted by UNHCR from Myanmar	5,646,400	5,628,700 (99.7%)
Refugees (including people in a refugee-like situation) from Myanmar	1,322,500	1,316,300 (99.5%)
Asylum-seekers from Myanmar	66,000	54,500 (82.7%)
IDPs in Myanmar	3,513,900	3,513,900

Note: The total number of people protected and/or assisted by UNHCR from Myanmar also includes 377,600 IDP returnees during 2024, 366,000 non-displaced stateless people and 500 others of concern to UNHCR.

The Myanmar situation refers to refugees, people in a refugee-like situation, 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 4.7 million in 2023 to over 5.6 million in 2024 – representing a 20% rise. The vast majority (99.7%) remained within Asia and the Pacific.

Figure 28 | **Forcibly displaced and stateless persons from Myanmar in Asia-Pacific | 2024**



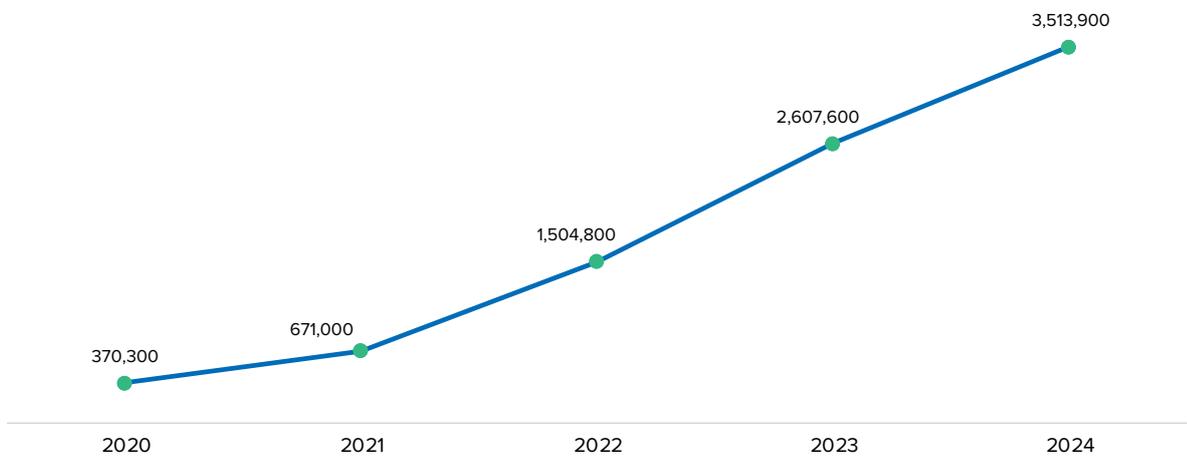
Most refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar seeking international protection are hosted by neighbouring countries.<sup>54</sup> Bangladesh hosts the vast majority, with over 1.1 million as of June 2025. Many are Rohingya who fled successive waves of violence in Rakhine State and the impact of Myanmar’s discriminatory laws, which have rendered nearly all of them stateless, severely restricting their rights.

Elsewhere in the region, 181,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar are hosted in Malaysia, 83,000 in India, 83,900 in Thailand and 2,700 in Indonesia (as of June 2025). In Thailand, 81,000 refugees reside in nine camps along the border with Myanmar,<sup>55</sup> many of whom have lived there since the mid-1980s. Although the camp-based refugee population has declined by 15% since 2021, new arrivals fleeing ongoing violence in Myanmar continue to grow. According to the Royal Thai Government, around 52,000 refugees fled Myanmar and subsequently returned from Thailand’s Temporary Safety 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.

<sup>54</sup> 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.

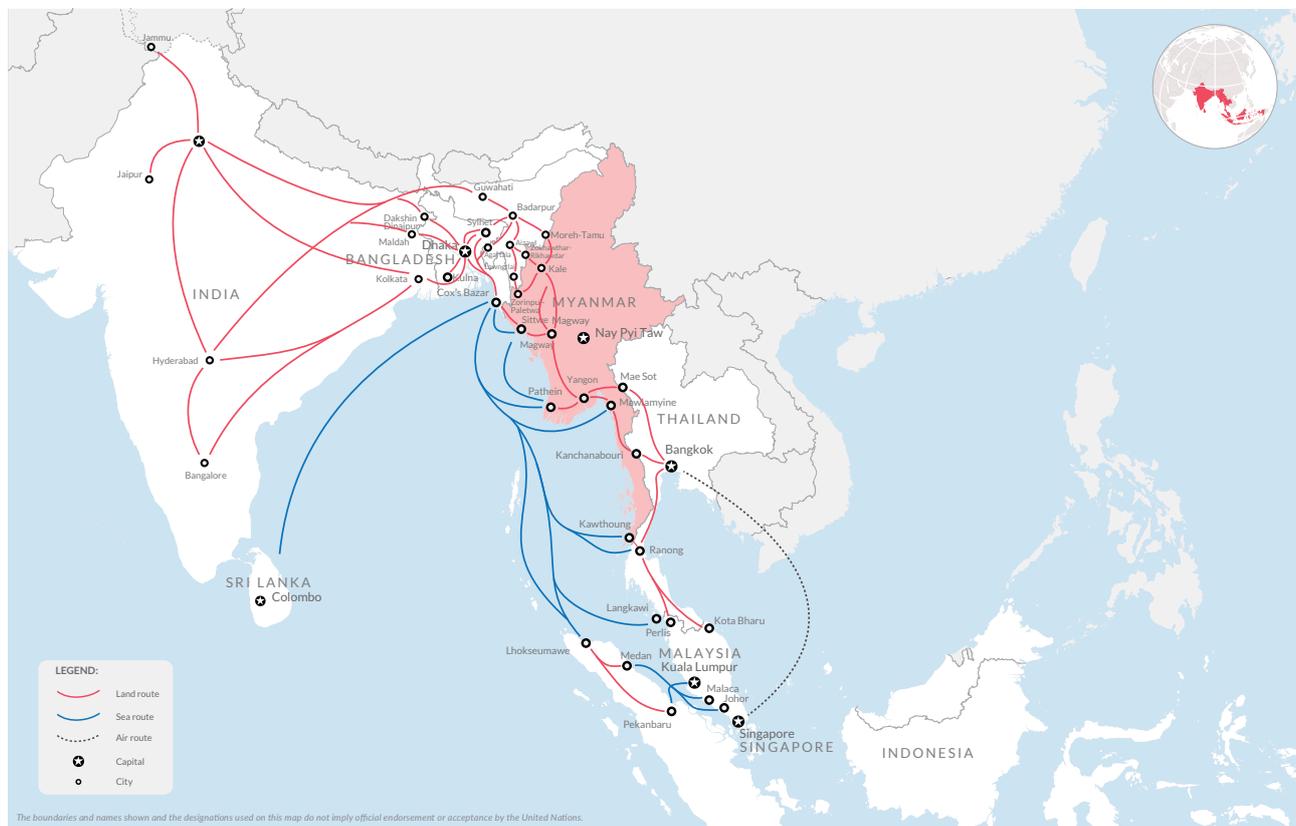
<sup>55</sup> The camps in Thailand hosting refugees from Myanmar are Ban Don Yang, Ban Mae Surin, Ban Mai Nai Soi, Mae La, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Nu Po, Tham Hin and Umpiem.

Figure 29 | IDPs in Myanmar | 2020 - 2024



Prior to the military takeover in February 2021, some 370,300 people were internally displaced in Myanmar, mostly within Rakhine State. By mid-2023, this number had increased nearly five-fold to 1.8 million, with displacement affecting nearly all parts of the country. A renewed escalation of violence starting in October 2023 and continuing through 2024 led to a further surge in internal displacement.<sup>56</sup> As a result, the number of IDPs has almost doubled, reaching 3.5 million by the end of June 2025.

**Panoramic/route-based approach | South and South-East Asia route**



<sup>56</sup> See [Myanmar Emergency Update, December 2024](#), UNHCR.

The humanitarian crisis in Myanmar continues to be marked by recurring waves of displacement and limited prospects for durable solutions. Escalating conflict and human rights violations have displaced millions within Myanmar and across its borders. As of 30 June 2025, 3.6 million people were internally displaced while 1.5 million had sought refuge in neighbouring countries. The crisis has been further compounded by disasters and extreme weather in recent years.

People fleeing Myanmar travel on both overland and maritime routes, which are often irregular and extremely risky. In 2024, nearly 94,300 people crossed into Bangladesh, 20,600 into India, 1,400 into Malaysia and around 80 into Indonesia, frequently in precarious conditions with limited access to formal protection mechanisms. In the first half of 2025, these movements dropped to around 17,900 into Bangladesh, 3,085 into India, and 15 into Malaysia.<sup>57</sup>

While land routes accounted for most movements – 93% of those recorded in 2024 and 86% in the first half of 2025 – maritime journeys continued to pose grave risks for those seeking safety, family reunification and livelihoods. In 2024, an estimated 9,200 people attempted these journeys – a 112% increase from the previous year, with about 87% of intercepted or disembarked in Myanmar or Bangladesh, often resulting in prolonged immigration detention or return to unsafe locations despite UNHCR's calls to States to stop the return of Myanmar nationals and former habitation residents seeking safety.<sup>58</sup> The trend continued into 2025, with 3,300 people embarking on sea journeys in the first half of the year despite the known dangers. Tragically, 457 people were reported dead or missing during this period.

Those who reach neighbouring countries frequently face detention upon arrival or strict restrictions on movement and access to services. To address these risks, UNHCR has adopted a route-based (or panoramic) approach to strengthen protection along key routes and opportunities for solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers at the earliest possible stage, reducing reliance on dangerous onward movement. UNHCR also continues to engage with States across the region to promote greater coordination at sea, including timely rescues and safe disembarkation, in line with the principles of humanity, solidarity and responsibility sharing.



Fatimah, a Rohingya refugee who fled Myanmar in 2010, now lives in Kuala Lumpur. Despite being a single mother, she also fosters a young girl with vulnerabilities.

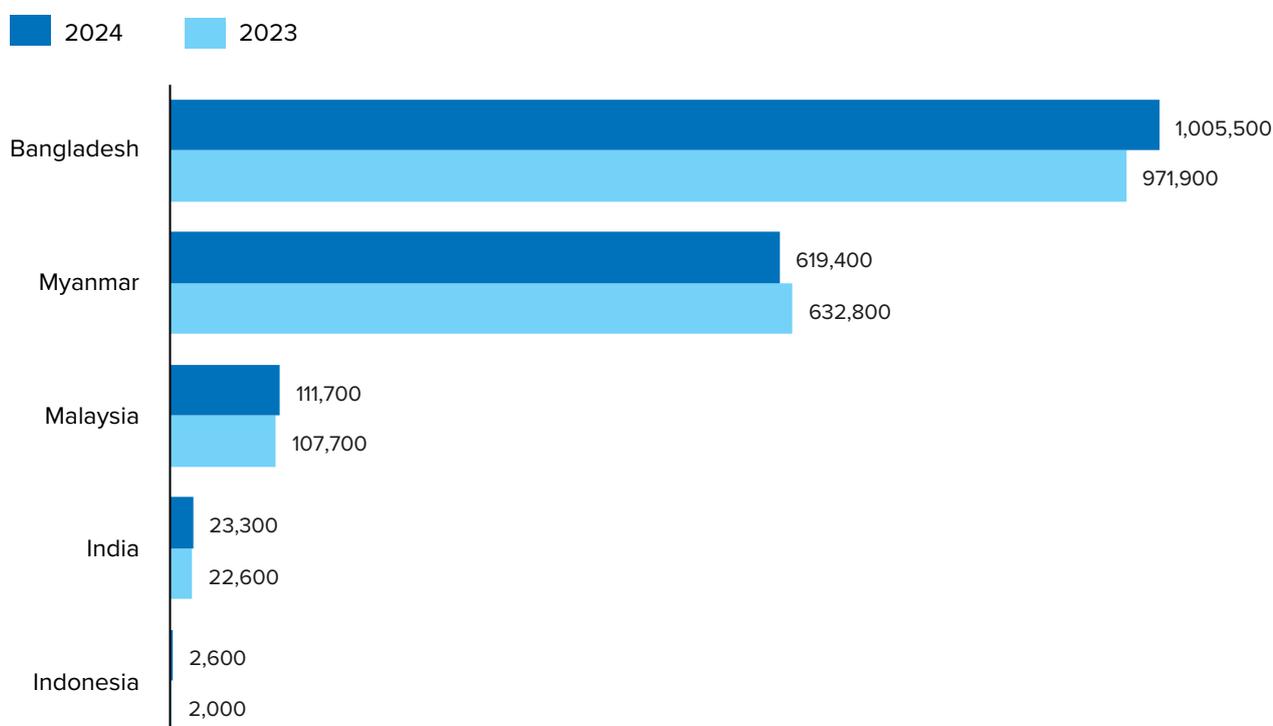
©UNHCR/Azwan Rahim

<sup>57</sup> Based on UNHCR biometrics exercise in Bangladesh and border monitoring in neighbouring countries.

<sup>58</sup> See [Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Myanmar](#), UNHCR.

## Rohingya

Figure 30 | Countries with Rohingya | 2023 - 2024



Rohingya from Myanmar's Rakhine State represent the largest known stateless population globally. For decades, they have faced institutionalized discrimination and systemic legal, policy and practical barriers to acquiring citizenship. Persecution of the Rohingya dates back to the 1970s and intensified significantly during the military crackdown in Rakhine State in August 2017.

As of end-2024, there were 1.8 million Rohingya across the region, 79% of whom were displaced as refugees, asylum-seekers or IDPs. Within Myanmar, 619,400 Rohingya were reported, of whom 41% were internally displaced. The overall Rohingya population in the region increased slightly by 1.5% compared to end-2023, largely due to birth registrations in Bangladesh, which accounted for the largest increase – around 33,600.

## UNHCR's work in Asia and the Pacific

In 2024, UNHCR advanced inclusive protection and solutions for 17.3 million people who are forcibly displaced, stateless, returnees and others of concern to UNHCR in Asia and the Pacific. These efforts unfolded against a backdrop of large-scale displacement, shrinking protection space, and dwindling resources. UNHCR's response to support the population it protects and/or assists can be summarized using the organization's core output indicators, as presented in the following infographic:

### 2024 Year-end achievements: Core output indicators Reporting period 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2024

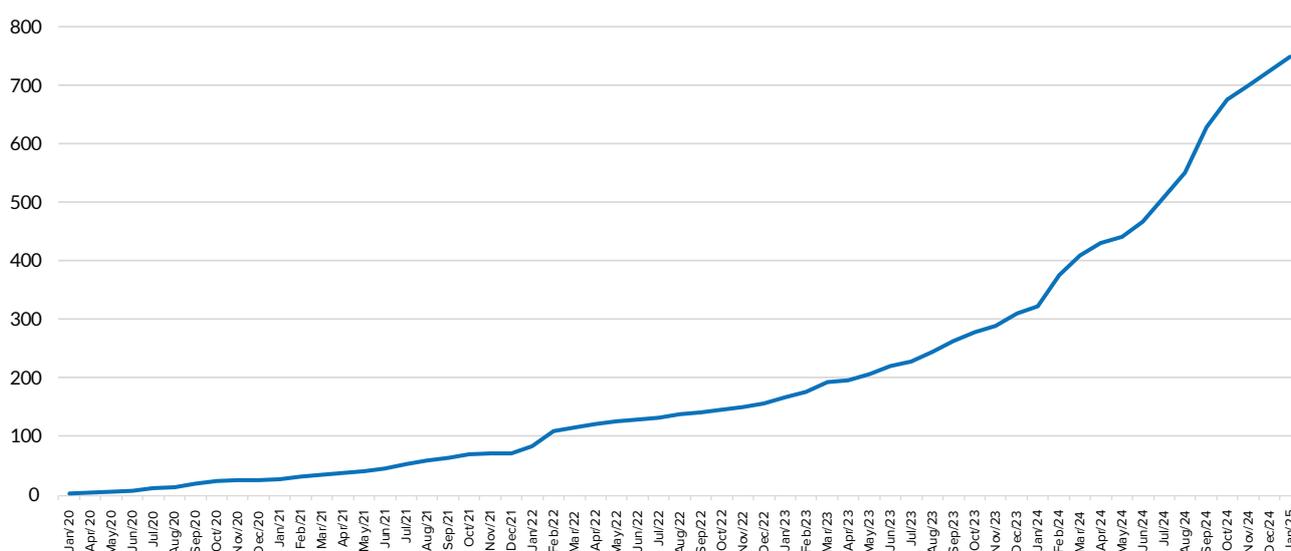


## Anonymized Microdata

Apart from population statistics, UNHCR collects a vast wealth of survey data on protection needs, socioeconomic characteristics, living conditions and well-being of people it protects and/or assists. Efforts to make these (micro)data available beyond UNHCR's operations and systems have started to take place with the design and implementation of [UNHCR's Microdata Library \(MDL\)](#) initiative.

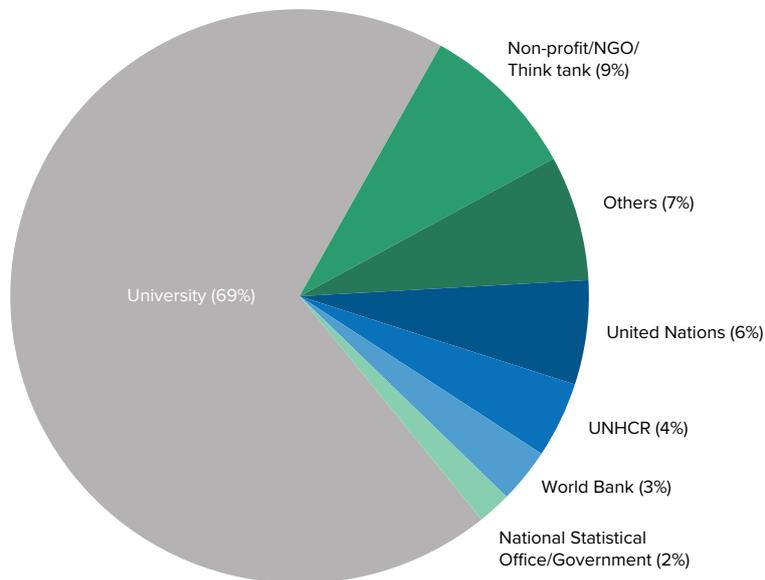
The MDL is a secure online data repository that provides access to anonymized microdata on forcibly displaced and stateless populations. It hosts datasets collected directly by UNHCR or indirectly through partners with UNHCR's support. The initiative is aligned with UNHCR's commitment outlined in its [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 March 2025, the MDL hosted 927 datasets, including 178 from the Asia-Pacific region.

Figure 31 | License requests of datasets from Asia and the Pacific



Externally, the Microdata Library 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 32 | License request of datasets from Asia-Pacific by organization type



License requests for datasets from the Asia and the Pacific region have steadily increased since January 2020, reflecting growing demand for displacement-related data. By January 2025, cumulative license requests exceeded 700. Universities accounted for 69% of all requests, underscoring the strong academic interest in refugee and displacement-related data.



UNHCR is on the ground, responding at scale to this growing humanitarian emergency. Through a comprehensive response spanning border points and areas of return, UNHCR is actively supporting Afghans to return and reintegrate with dignity.

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## 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 support for displaced people, leaving them with little option than to resort to dangerous onward movements.

Reliable and timely data underpins effective humanitarian action, yet this critical foundation is also under threat. Funding gaps put the maintenance of essential datasets at risk, with potentially severe consequences for the ability to respond to crises worldwide. Weaknesses in data production reduce the accessibility, accuracy, comparability, reliability, and timeliness of the key statistics that guide humanitarian responses.

In 2025, UNHCR requires \$957.9 million to support operations in the Asia and the Pacific region. By end-June, only 30% of this amount had been received. UNHCR remains grateful to the following donors who have stepped up, particularly those providing earmarked support for the region, as well as those offering flexible funding, both of which are essential to ensuring life-saving assistance reaches those most in need:

Australia | Belgium | Canada | China | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Republic of Korea | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | UN CERF | UN Country-based Pooled Funds | UN Joint Programme

With thanks to the following private donors from:

España con ACNUR | Italy | Malaysia | MENA | the Republic of Korea | the Philippines | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Japan for UNHCR | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe | UK for UNHCR | USA for UNHCR

# ASIA & THE PACIFIC REGIONAL TRENDS

Forced Displacements and  
Statelessness 2024



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