Get every one in the picture

Asia and the Pacific Regional Trends on Forced Displacement and Statelessness

15 September 2025
11:00-12:15 pm (UTC+7)

Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series

This Stats Café will present the case for CRVS as the foundation to end forced displacement and statelessness. Findings and trends from the latest UNHCR publication on Asia & the Pacific Regional Trends on Forced Displacement and Statelessness 2024 will be shared. Speakers will also provide insights on country-level initiatives to end statelessness and forced displacement.

Opening remarks:



Karen Whiting

Head of Bureau Protection and Solutions Service, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNHCR



Chao Huang

Statistics and Data Analysis Officer, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNHCR

Speakers:



Gunn Sirisingha

Special case officer, Department of Special Investigation (DSI), Ministry of Justice, Thailand



Marizza Grande

Assistant National Statistician of the Civil Registration Service, Philippine Statistics Authority, Philippines

Moderator:



Sovannaroth Tey

Associate Statistician, Statistics Division, ESCAP

Register here:
https://forms.office.com/e/5JjXhpzfeJ

Join the meeting:
https://rb.gy/iv6320

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

STATS CAFE
Good coffee makes your day
but good data helps you decide.



Asia-Pacific Regional Trends Report 2024

15 September 2025

Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNHCR

Full report is available at
https://www.unhcr.org/asia/asia-pacific-regional-trends

Regional Overview

Figures at a Glance

17.3 MILLION

PEOPLE[1] WHO ARE FORCIBLY DISPLACED, STATELESS, RETURNEES AND OTHERS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR IN ASIA-PACIFIC[2] AT THE END OF 2024.

The total figure relates to people UNHCR protects and/or assists.[3] It includes those who have been forcibly displaced (refugees, people in a refugee-like situation[4], asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and other people in need of international protection)[5]; 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[6]

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[7]

94%
of refugees and people in a refugee-like situation in the region are hosted in countries neighbouring the country of origin

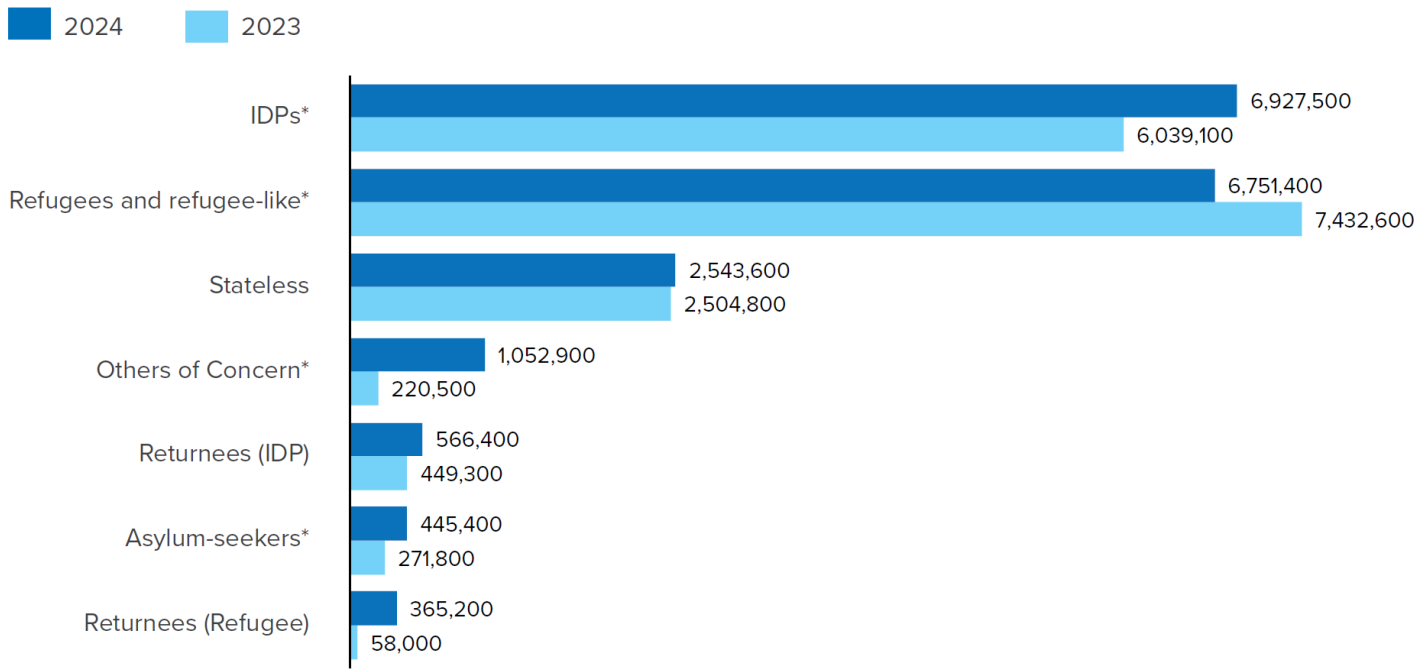
365,200
refugee returnees

1.1 MILLION
others of concern to UNHCR

47%
are children.[8]

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

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.

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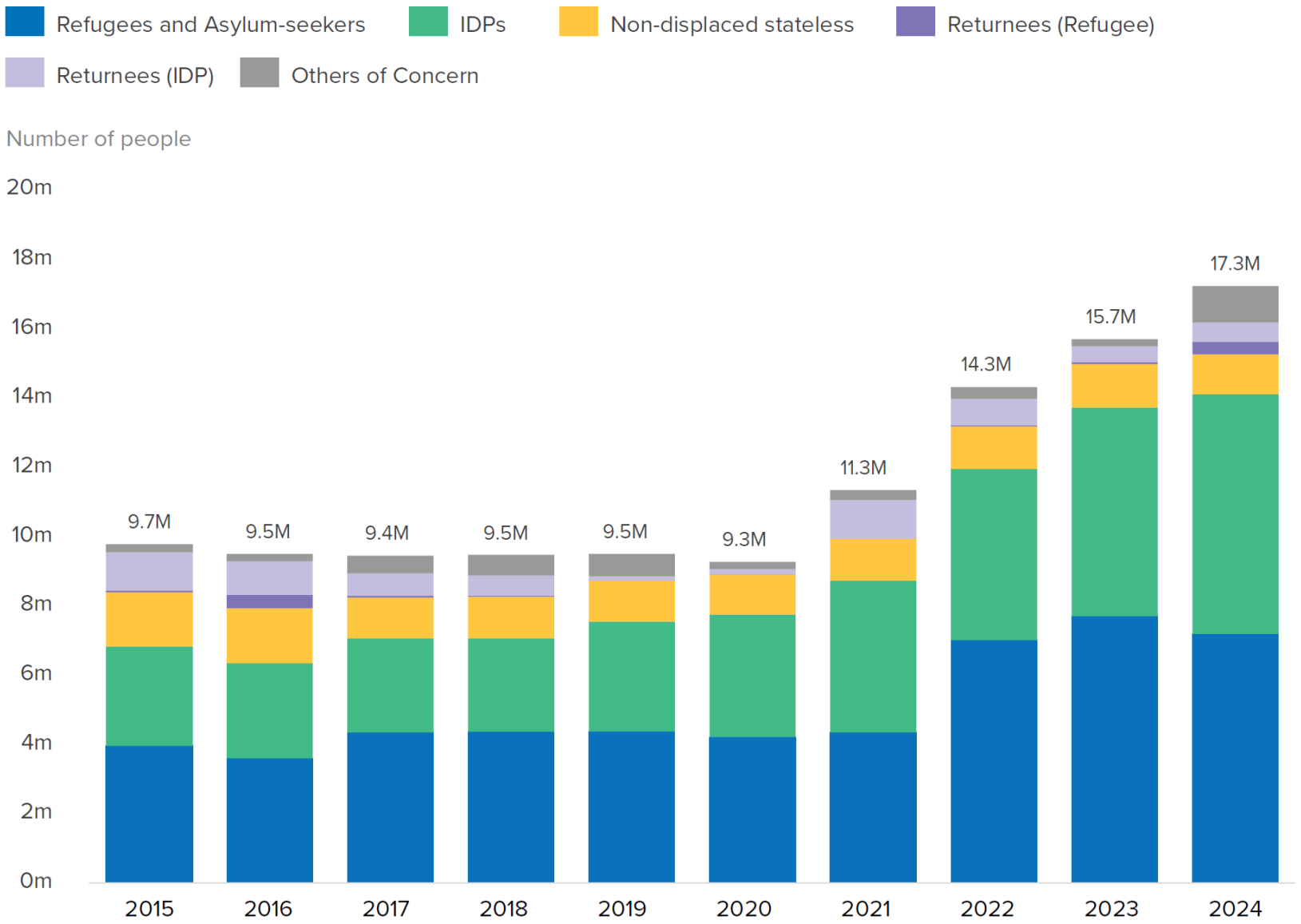
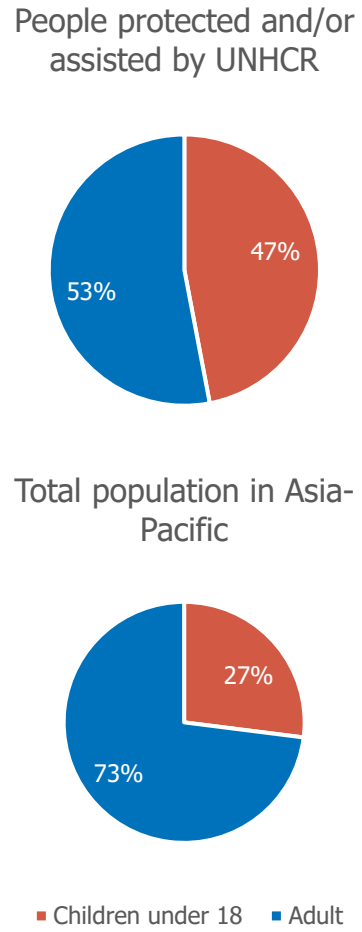
The UN Refugee Agency

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



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



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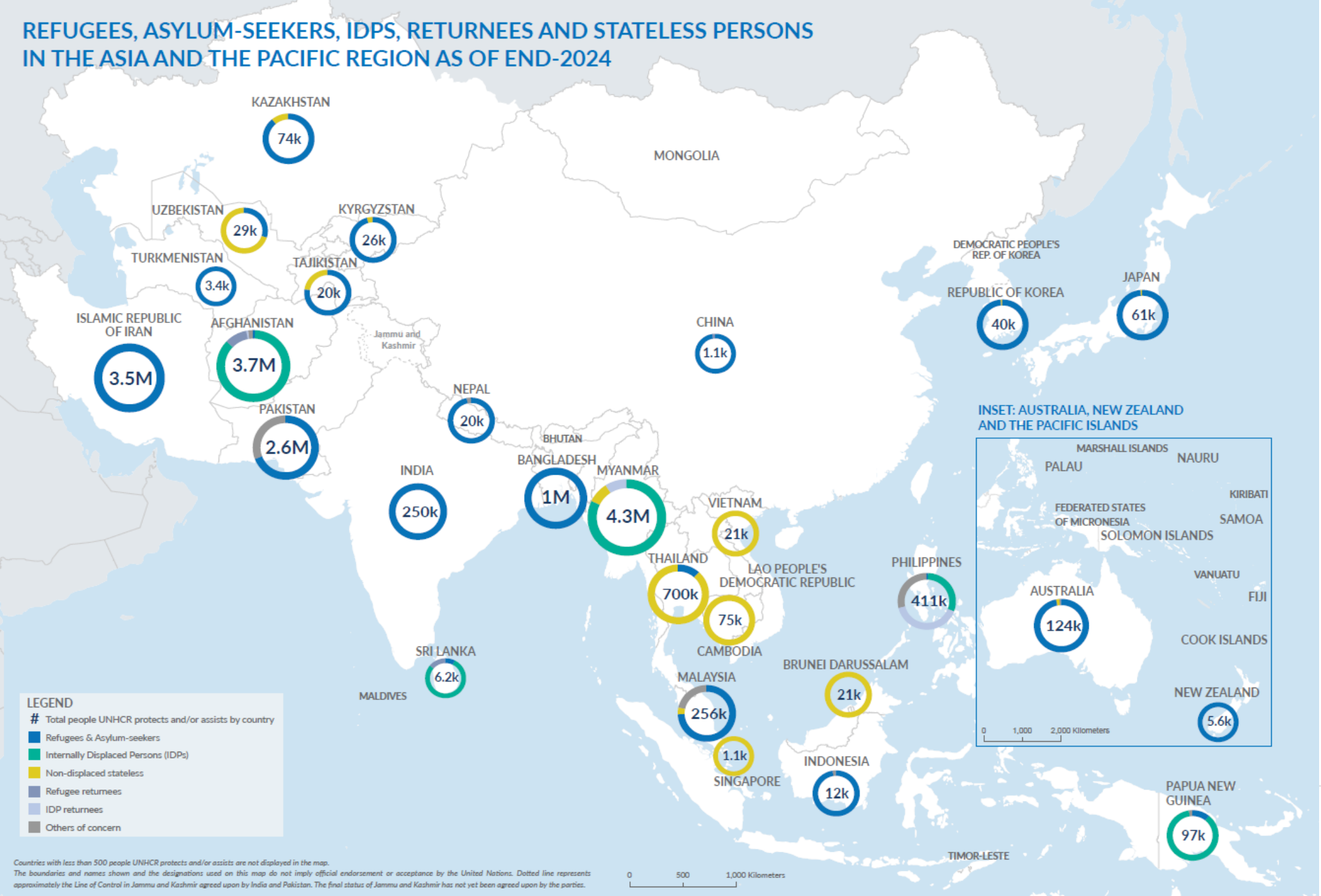
The UN Refugee Agency

REFUGEES, ASYLUM-SEEKERS, IDPS, RETURNEES AND STATELESS PERSONS 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 people UNHCR protects and/or assists 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.

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Refugees & People in a Refugee-Like Situation

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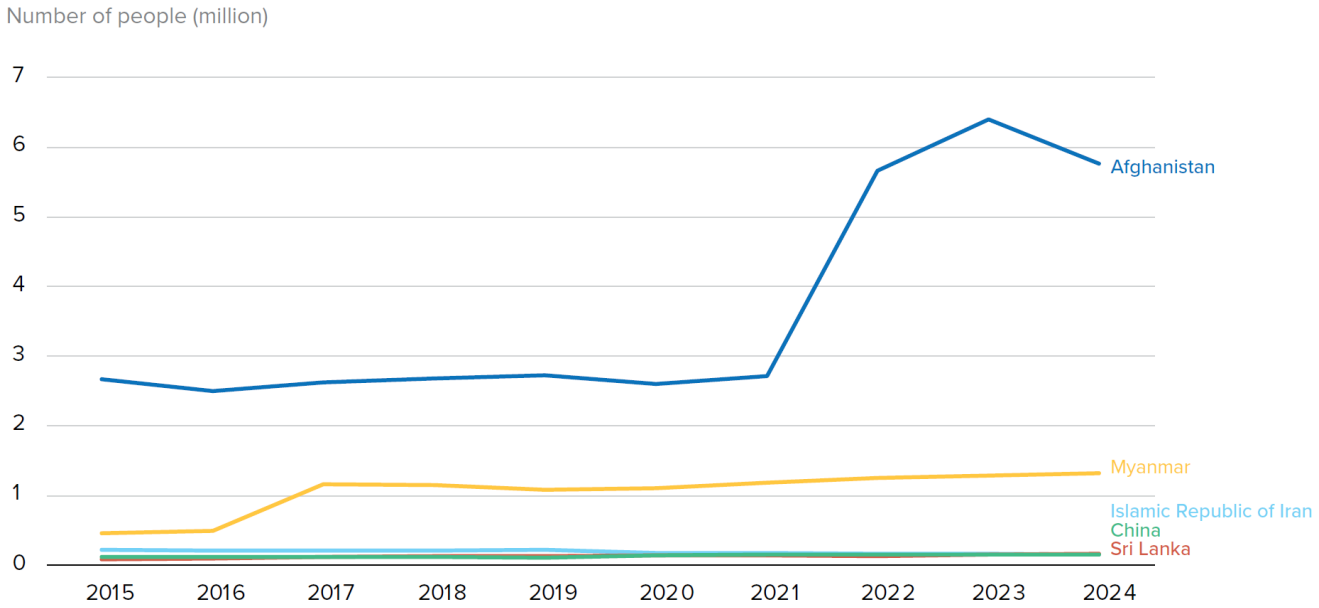
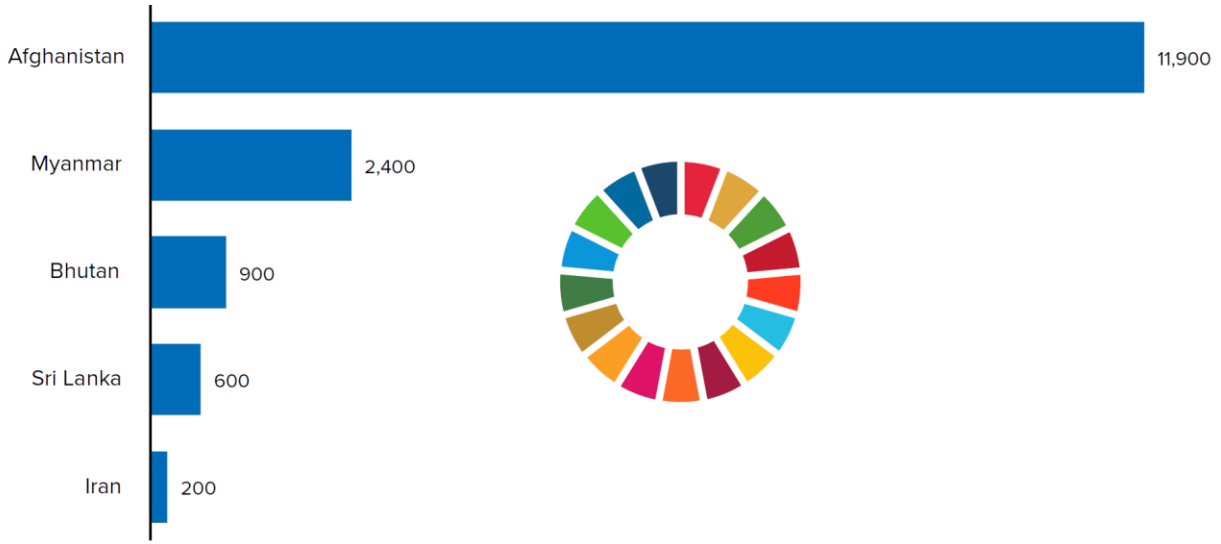
Refugees and people in a refugee-like situation by country of origin in Asia Pacific | 2024



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.

- Afghanistan is the largest country of origin of refugees (including refugee-like) in Asia-Pacific and the 2nd largest globally. Some 5.8 million Afghans were hosted in 104 countries around the world.
- Myanmar is the second largest country of origin in Asia-Pacific and the 6th largest globally.

SDG indicator 10.7.4, the proportion of a country's population who become refugees, is a useful way to identify the countries of origin with the most refugees relative to their number of inhabitants

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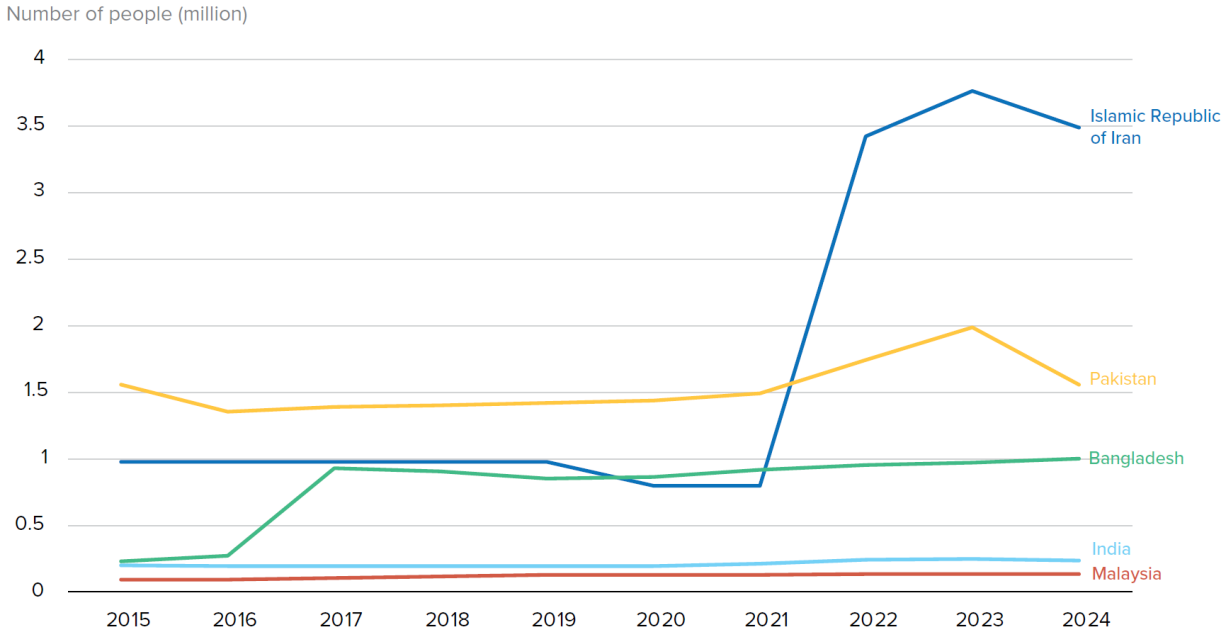
Refugees and people in a refugee-like situation by country of asylum in Asia Pacific | 2024



Number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants | 2024



GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

- The Islamic Republic of Iran remains the **largest refugee-hosting country globally**. Most refugees and people in refugee-like situations in the Islamic Republic of Iran are Afghans.

Comparing the size of the refugee population to that of the host country offers insight into the relative pressure felt by host countries.

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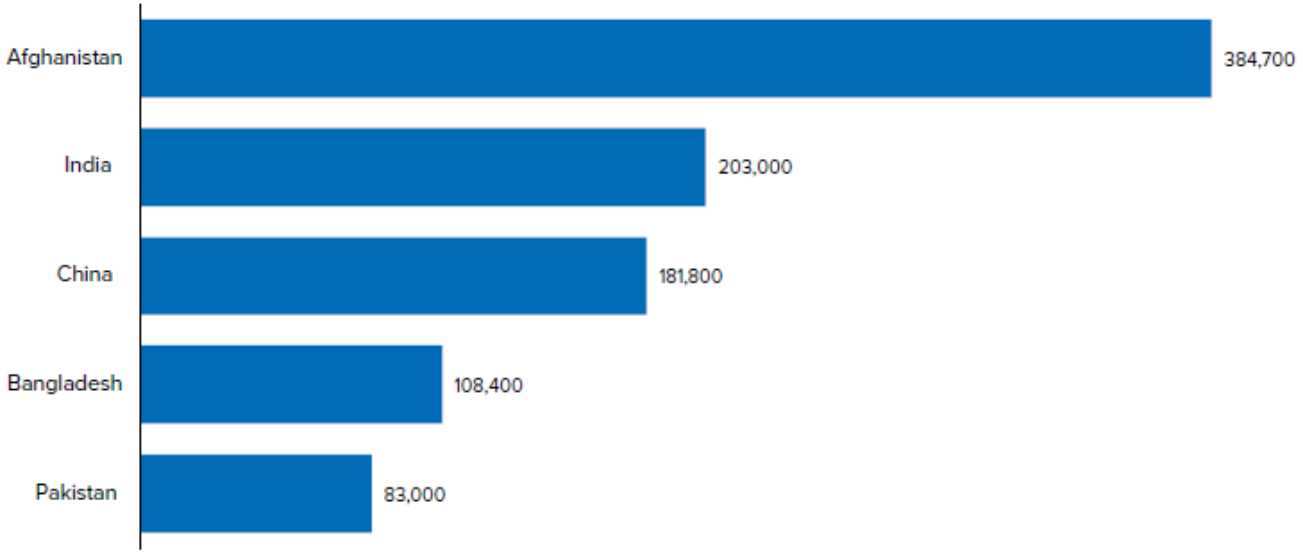
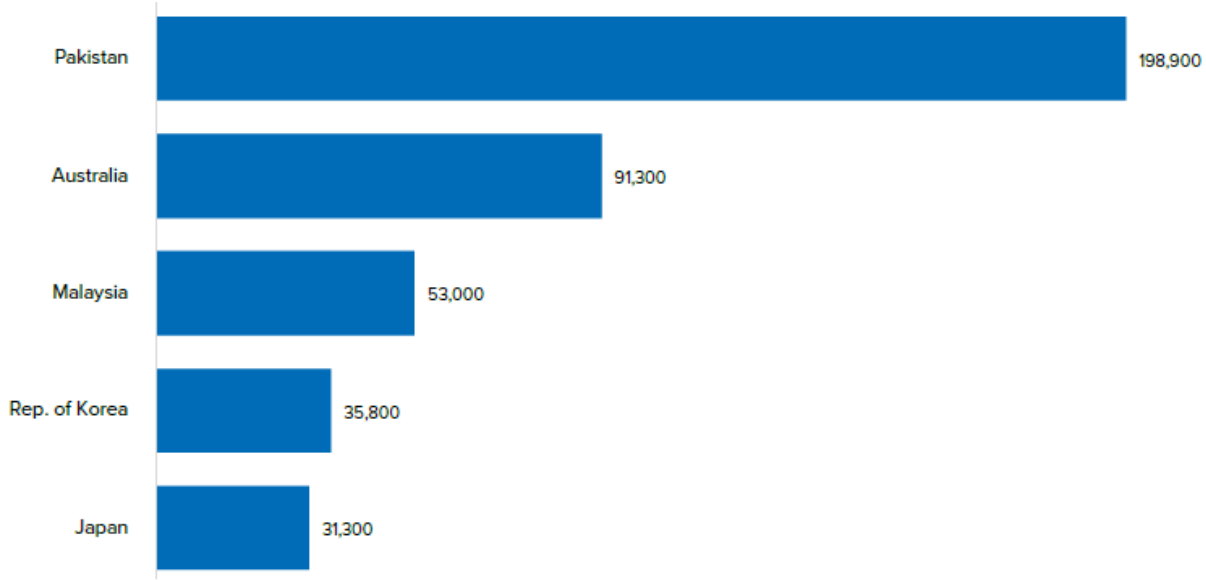
Asylum-seekers

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



Asylum-seekers by host country in Asia Pacific | 2024



- Asylum-seekers are people who have sought international protection but whose claims for refugee status have not yet been decided.
- Afghanistan is by far the largest country of origin for asylum-seekers from the Asia-Pacific region.
- EUAA*: Afghans remain the second largest group of asylum applicants in the EU+ in 2024, only behind Syrians.

The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) is an agency of the European Union mandated with supporting Member States in applying the package of EU laws that governs asylum, international protection and reception conditions, known as the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

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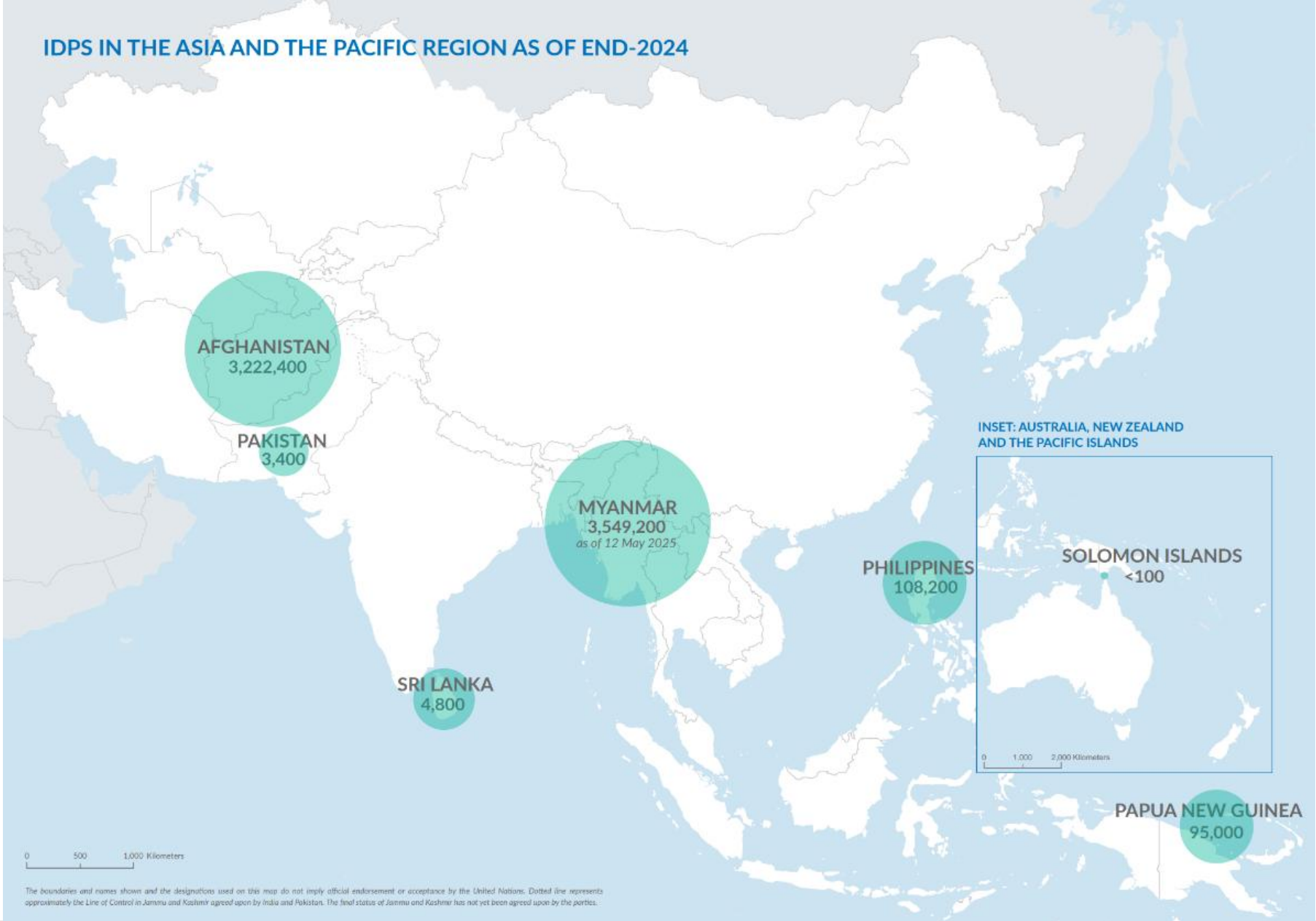
Internally Displaced People



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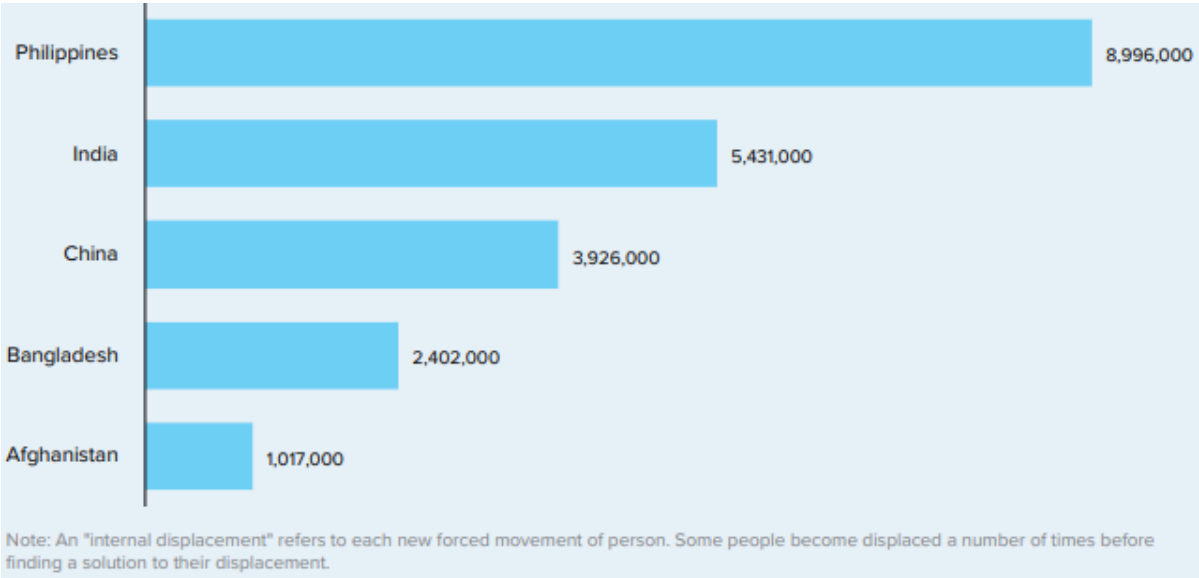
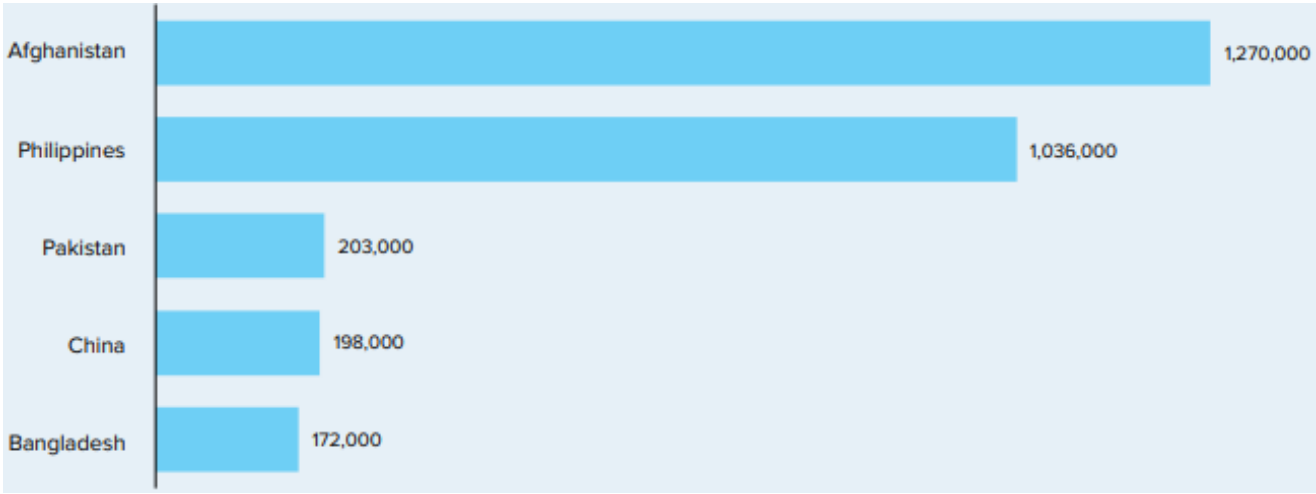
The UN Refugee Agency

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



Internally Displaced People by disasters in Asia-Pacific | As of end-2024



Data source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) 2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)

- 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 Asia-Pacific.

- In Afghanistan and Myanmar, extreme weather events and disasters compounded the crisis, exacerbating the humanitarian and protection situation of people already displaced by conflict.

Stateless People

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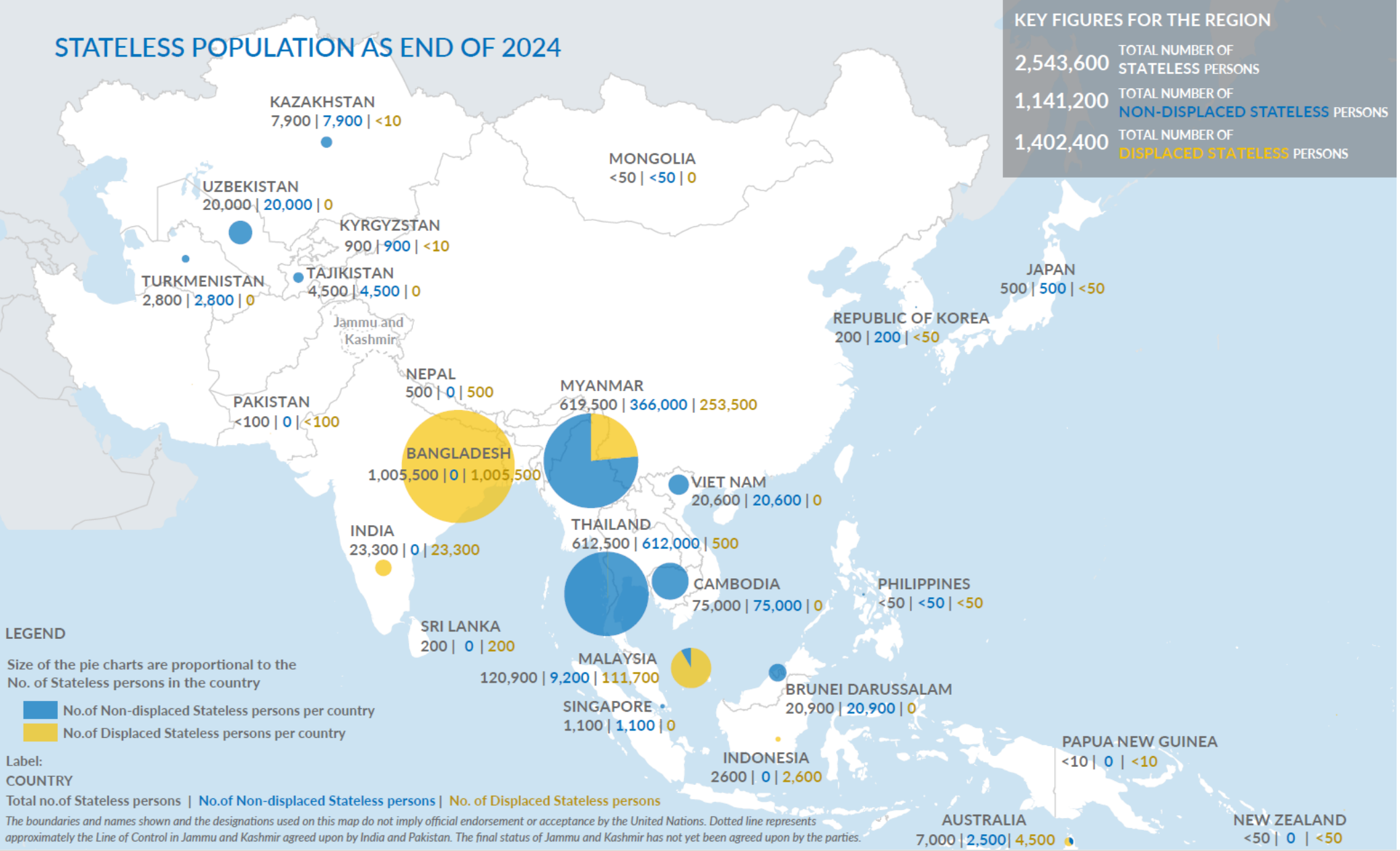
The UN Refugee Agency

STATELESS POPULATION AS END OF 2024



KEY FIGURES FOR THE REGION

2,543,600	TOTAL NUMBER OF STATELESS PERSONS
1,141,200	TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-DISPLACED STATELESS PERSONS
1,402,400	TOTAL NUMBER OF DISPLACED STATELESS PERSONS

LEGEND

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

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

Label:
COUNTRY
Total no.of Stateless persons | No.of Non-displaced Stateless persons | No. of Displaced Stateless persons

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.

2.5M

stateless people in the region

58%

of the global stateless population

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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.

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Mass Return of Afghans

SPOTLIGHT

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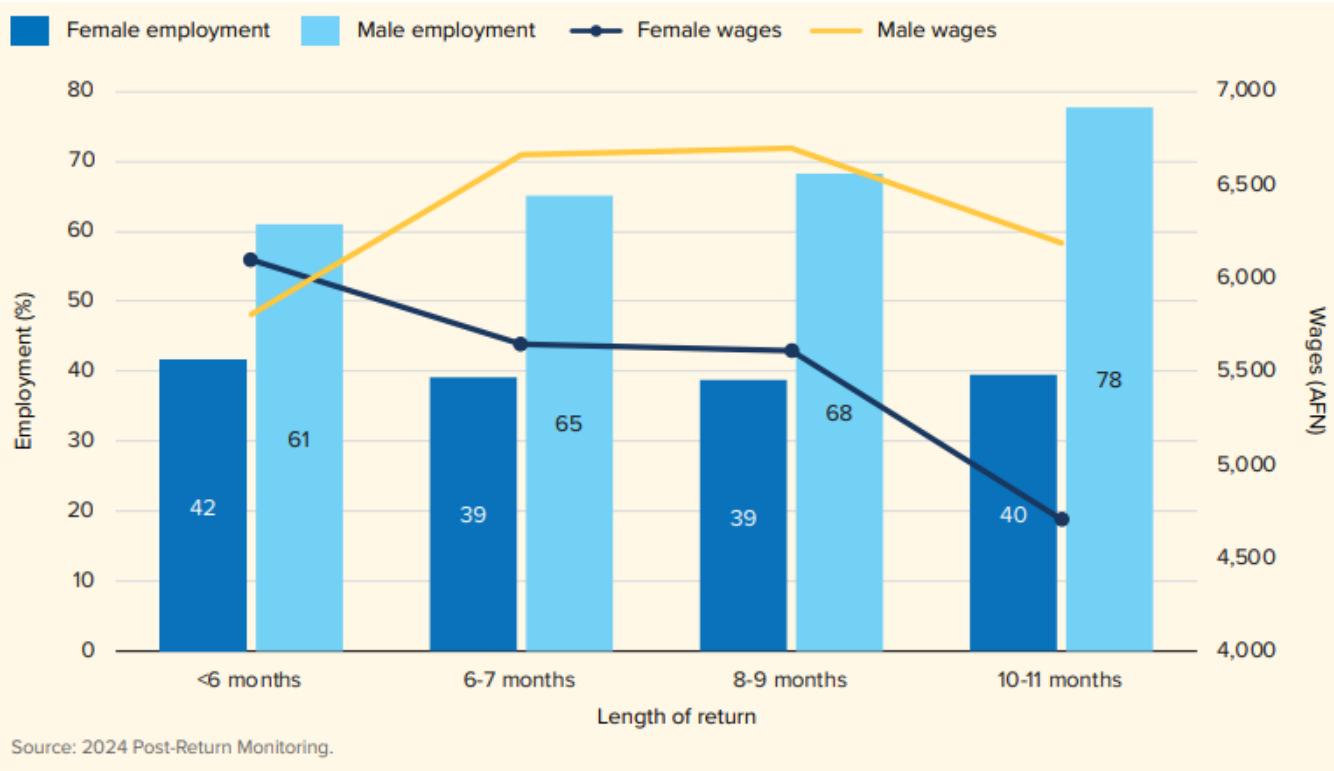
The UN Refugee Agency



The return trends escalated in Q3, As of 10 September, over 2.6 million Afghans have returned from Iran and Pakistan since the start of the year, nearly half (close to 1.3 million) of them deported.

Find updated report for Afghan returns:
The Pakistan-Afghanistan - Returns Emergency Response, as of 11 September 2025
and the Iran-Afghanistan - Returns Emergency Response, as of 10 September 2025

Gender disparity among Afghan returns in employment and wages



UNHCR's post-return monitoring study 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.

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A Panoramic/Route-Based Approach

HIGHLIGHT

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



Recognizing that the current responses to manage onward and mixed movement often fall short, UNHCR's Panoramic/Route-Based Approach (PA/RBA) calls for a shift to more humane and effective responses through a comprehensive and revitalized strategy that adopts a 'panoramic view' to the movements.

People fleeing Myanmar travel on both overland and maritime routes, which are often irregular and extremely risky.

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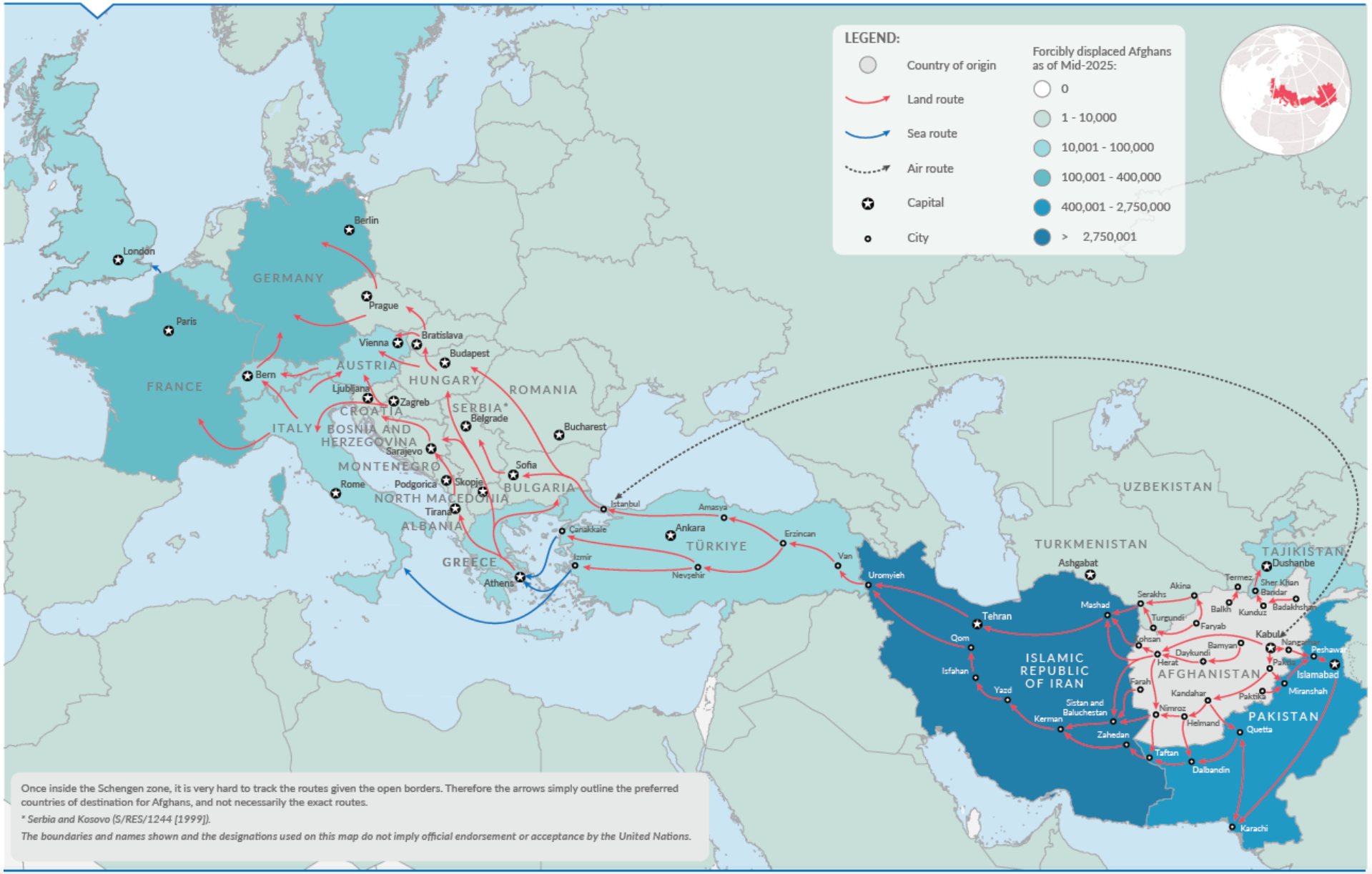

Once inside the Schengen zone, it is very hard to track the routes given the open borders. Therefore the arrows simply outline the preferred countries of destination for Afghans, and not necessarily the exact routes.

** Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)).*

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

Data sources: UNHCR operations | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP)
For feedback and clarifications, please write to UNHCR RBAP at < rbapdima@unhcr.org >

Onward and mixed movements of refugees and migrants along the South-West (SW) Asia Route, from Afghanistan to Pakistan and Iran onwards to Europe, entail complex challenges for governments, the people themselves and the communities in countries of origin, asylum, transit and destination.

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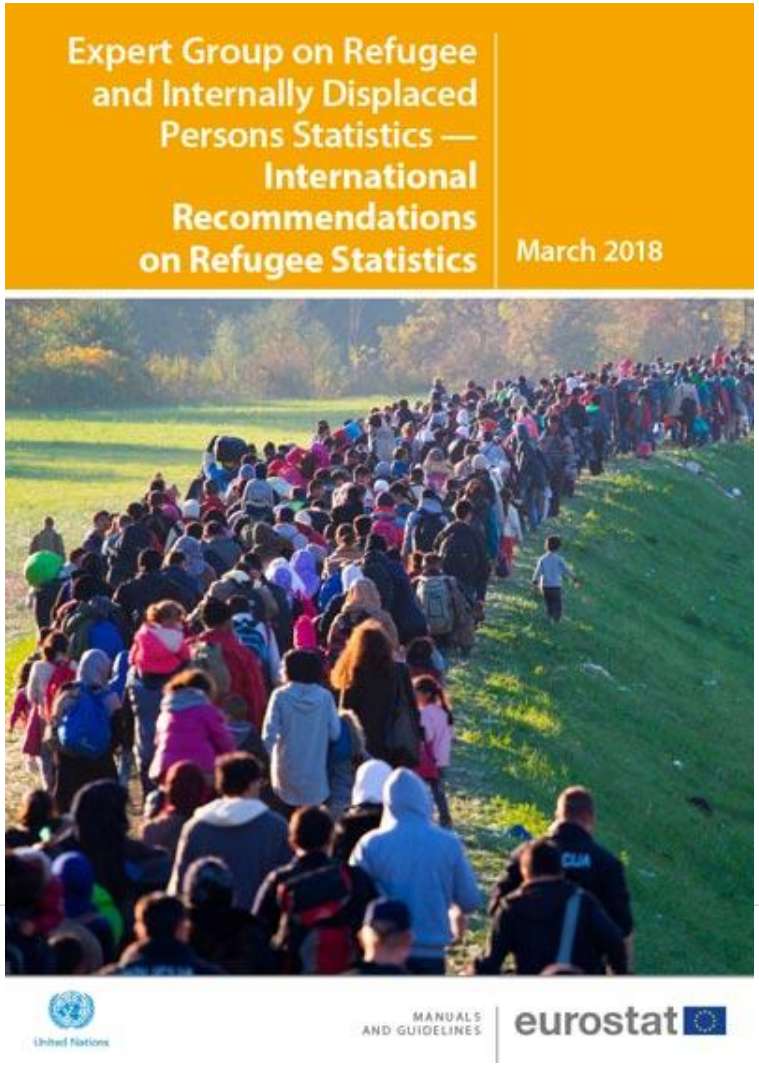
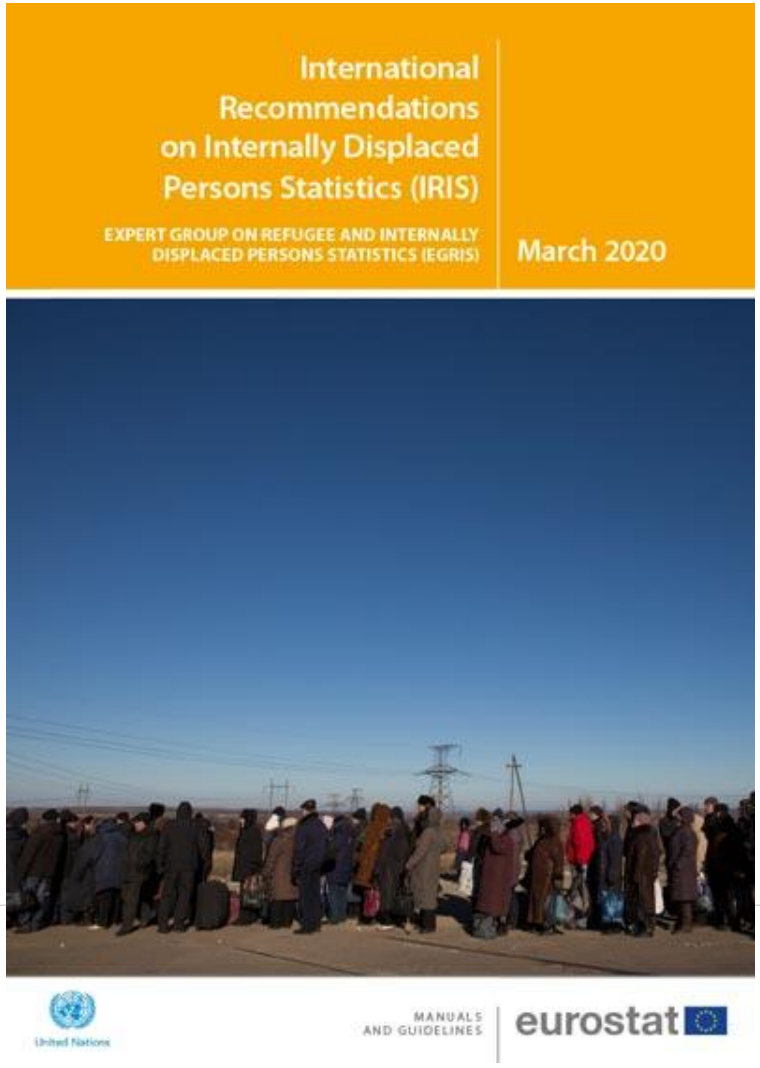
Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless People in National Systems

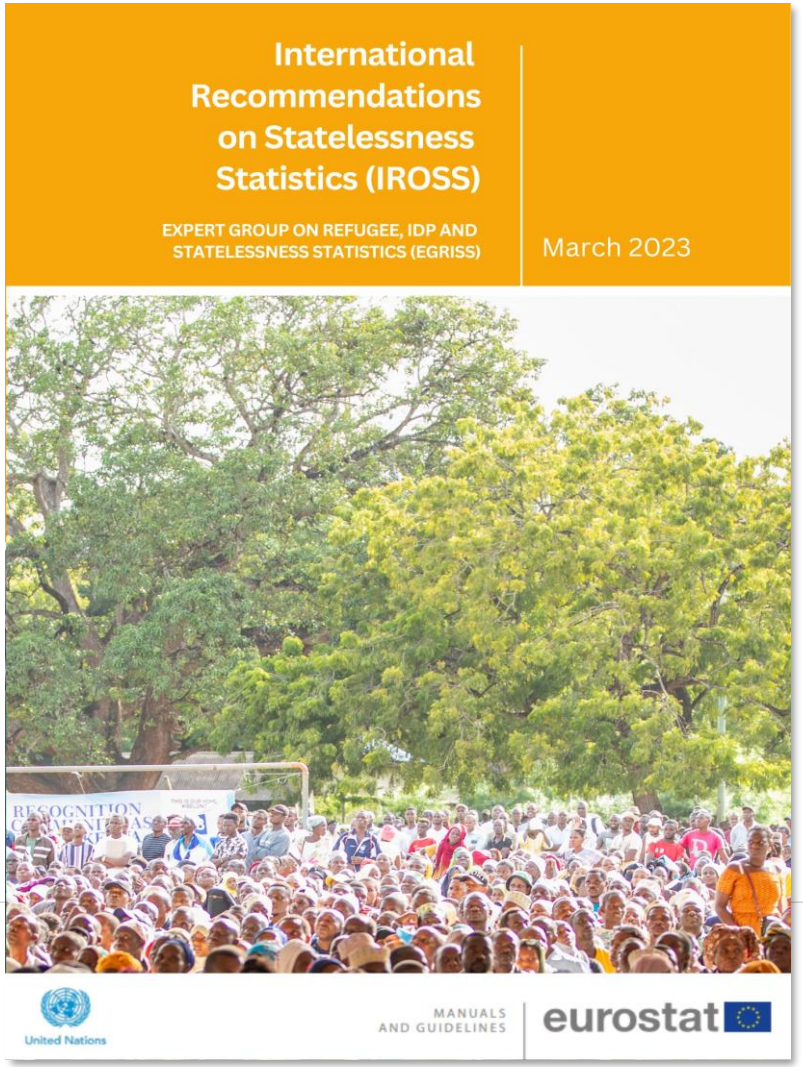
International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)



International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS)



International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS)



END



AN INTEGRATED CRVS APPROACH TO ENDING STATELESSNESS IN THAILAND

GUNN SIRISINGHA
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATION (DSI),
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



THANK YOU

GUNN_SIR@DSI.GO.TH

WWW.DSI.GO.TH/

Philippines Initiatives on Forcibly displaced and stateless persons

Engr. Marizza B. Grande
Assistant National Statistician
Philippine Statistics Authority

ESCAP-Stat Café
15 September 2025

Outline

- Background
- National Action Plan to End Statelessness No. 5 – Ongoing CRVS Projects and Programs
- National Action Plan No. 7- Inclusion of internally displaced and stateless persons in the Community Based Monitoring system
- Ways Forward

Philippines Legal Framework in Ending Statelessness

Get Everyone in the Picture and Leave no one behind

Proclamation No. 1106 declaring the Years 2015-2024 as Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade on 20 August 2015

The Philippines is the first and only country in Southeast Asia to accede to the 1954 (22 September 2011) and 1961 Stateless Conventions (24 March 2022).

Enactment of Republic Act 11767 entitled "Foundling Recognition and Protection Act", fulfilling the State's obligation under Article 2 of the 1961 Convention.

- Republic Act 11767 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (Administrative Adoption)
- PSA Memorandum Circular No. 2021-24 entitled "Guidelines in the Registration of the Certificate of Live Birth (COLB) of a Person with No Known Parents (Foundling)"
- PSA Memorandum Circular 2019-22 – entitled "Revised Guidelines for Registration of Undocumented Filipinos in Sabah"
- PSA Memorandum Circular 2022-15 – entitled "Dissemination and Operationalization of the.

PSA ongoing CRVS programs/projects under NAP 5 - *Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness*

1. **Implementation of the Birth Registration Assistance Project** for the delayed registration of births of Indigenous Peoples, Muslim Filipinos, and the poorest sectors – a total of 451,586 birth records out of the 2 Million target unregistered Filipinos as of 05 September 2025 were registered.
2. **Inclusion of Refugees and Stateless in National ID System Registration** - 138 refugees and stateless persons were registered in the registration of Refugees and Stateless persons in the National Identification System (PhilSys), initiated by PSA and the Department of Justice
3. **Ensure birth registration of Persons at Risks of Stateless (PAROS)**

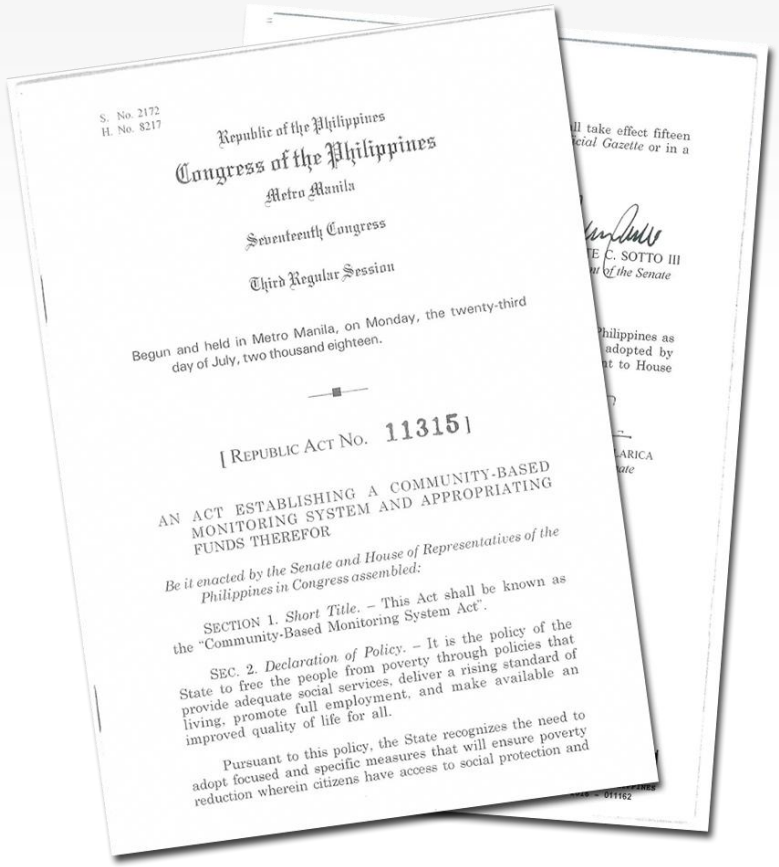
Five (5) Groups of Persons at Risks of Stateless

1. **Persons of Indonesian Descent (PID)** – 8,745 registered PIDs, of which 2,886 were confirmed Indonesians, 2,797 as Filipinos and 470 were of limited dual citizenship
2. **Sama Bajau-** 69,644 Sama Bajaus in the 2020 CPH mostly in Region IX and BARMM, almost 10,000 births registered in Zamboanga City and BARMM
3. **Unregistered Children in the Context of Displacement due to Armed Conflict** – 719,972 unregistered <5 years old in the 2020 CPH
4. **Children of Philippine Descent in Migratory Settings** – around 9,000 undocumented children from 2018 to 2020 in Middle East, among others, and around 2,000-3,000 children undocumented in Saudi Arabia.
5. **Persons of Japanese Descent** – PSA facilitated issuance of 30 civil registry documents and 47 Omnibus Negative Certificates of Delayed Registration

Data of the forcibly displaced, stateless persons and those at risks in the Philippines- as of June 2025

Population Group	Total Individuals	Note
Refugee	1,031	*figure includes 17 stateless refugees (Rohingyas)*
Asylum seekers	1,624	*figure includes 6 stateless asylum seekers*
Stateless (non-refugee/asy)	17	
PAROS	118,877	*Based on 2010 Census- PSA data minus the number of BR registrants provided with BCs* **Data only covers Sama Bajaus*
IDPs **Source: UNHCR Philippines**	123,000	*Data as of end of 2024 (IDMC)* https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/philippines/

National Action Plan No. 7- Inclusion of internally displaced persons and stateless in the Community Based Monitoring system



S. No. 2172
H. No. 8217

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Seventeenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand eighteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11315]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Community-Based Monitoring System Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, deliver a rising standard of living, promote full employment, and make available an improved quality of life for all.

Pursuant to this policy, the State recognizes the need to adopt focused and specific measures that will ensure poverty reduction wherein citizens have access to social protection and



20 May 2020

CBMS Act Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) was signed

Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)

Objectives:

Generation of local-level data that will aid in

1. Targeting beneficiaries of government social protection programs,
2. Comprehensive poverty analysis and needs prioritization,
3. Designing appropriate policies and interventions, and
4. Monitoring impact of government programs over time.

Source: RA 11315

2024 CBMS Question on Citizenship

Is [name] a citizen of the Philippines?

1 – Yes, Filipino citizen

2 – Yes, Filipino with dual citizenship

3 – No, foreign citizen

4 – No citizenship

5 – Undetermined nationality

8 – Don’t know (not known by respondent)

2024 CBMS Question on Reason for Migration

In the past 12 months (July 01 2023 to June 30 2024), did [name] move here due to

1 – [did not move]

2 – moved due to natural calamities

3 – moved due to man-made disaster or event

4 – moved due to peace and order situation

5 – refugee or asylum seeker

6 – relocation due to other reasons

8 – don’t know (not known by respondent)

Ways Forward

- Release of data on IDPs and stateless persons in the CBMS 2024 (ongoing data validation)
- Amend Act No. 3753 or the Law on Registry of Civil Status
- Intensify civil registration campaign on birth registration and other civil registry documents specially in BARMM and GIDA areas
- Full integration of CRVS and National ID System using e-CRVS system
- Improved data of undocumented Filipinos abroad to better respond to their needs

Thank you

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but good data helps you decide.


Q & A

- To get timely information on developments in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific, we are happy to encourage everyone to **subscribe to the free monthly CRVS newsletter** at getinthepicture.org/crvs-insight-newsletter

CRVS INSIGHT
NEWSLETTER

- Online information is at www.getinthepicture.org



Next Stats Café session will be on

AI and the future of National Statistical Offices

Monday 22 September 2025 at 12:00-13:30 hrs. (UTC+7)

- Register here: https://forms.office.com/e/6vGWKSt4Vn
- Link to join via MS Teams