UNHCR Regional Trends 2021

Regional Burea of Asia and the Pacific
Regional Overview
Total population of refugee, Stateless Persons, IDPs and Returnees in Asia and the Pacific region is **11.3 M** at the end of 2021.

- **15% increase** compared to 9.8 M last year
- **12%** (11.3M out of 94.7M) of total forcibly displaced, returnees and stateless persons worldwide
- **19%** (4.2M out of 21.3M) of refugees under UNHCR mandate globally
- **56%** (2.4 M out of 4.3 M) of stateless persons globally

### Population Group in Asia Pacific | 2020-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refugees*</td>
<td>4,016,400</td>
<td>4,154,800</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDPs*</td>
<td>3,544,900</td>
<td>4,366,600</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stateless</td>
<td>2,285,100</td>
<td>2,412,500</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returnee (IDPs)</td>
<td>1,551,000</td>
<td>1,119,300</td>
<td>-28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum-seekers*</td>
<td>203,600</td>
<td>206,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returnee (Refugee)</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>-31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* including displaced stateless persons
Over the last decade, the overall trends in the region show a steady increase since 2011 with a spike in 2021.

- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)** has become a major population group in the region, increasing by over 130% since 2011.
- The non-displaced stateless population has declined by 47%, from 2.3 million to 1.2 million.
- The refugees and asylum-seekers population groups remained relatively stable with an average of +/- 5%.
Demographic coverage continues to improve for forcibly displaced people and other population groups

- 76% are women and children
- 4% are elderly people above 60.
- 52% are children, which is almost double compared to the proportion of children in the region, where children make up 28% of the region’s population

Demographics Data is Available for 78% of Population Groups

- 2% are women and children above 60
- 7% are children aged 12-17
- 10% are children aged 5-11
- 9% are children aged 0-4

Note: figures do not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

Percentage of children

- Displaced and Stateless: 52% children, 48% adults
- Total population: 28% children, 72% adults
Refugees and Asylum Seekers
Afghanistan (3rd) and Myanmar (5th) are among the top 10 countries of origin for refugees globally.

Refugees by country of origin in Asia Pacific | 2021

- The Afghan refugee population continues to be the largest in the region and the third-largest refugee population globally, with 2.7 million refugees hosted by 98 countries.
- Myanmar is the second-largest country of origin of refugees in Asia-Pacific and the fifth largest in the world. In 2021, the number of refugees reached 1.2 million, with more than 75% hosted in Bangladesh.
Sustainable Development Goals indicator 10.7.4: The proportion of a country’s population who become refugees

- SDG indicator 10.7.4 is a useful way to identify the countries of origin with the most refugees relative to their number of inhabitants.

- The countries that have seen the greatest proportion of their national population becoming refugees are Afghanistan (6,376 per 100,000 inhabitants), Myanmar (2,102 per 100,000), Bhutan (853 per 100,000), Sri Lanka (698 per 100,000) and Niue (677 per 100,000).
Pakistan (4th), Bangladesh (7th), and Iran (10th) are among the top 10 countries hosting refugees globally.

People displaced across borders by host country in Asia Pacific  |  end 2021

- Pakistan remains the largest hosting country in the Asia-Pacific region. The refugee and refugee-like populations in Pakistan, almost all of whom are Afghans, were almost 1.5 million.
- Bangladesh is the second-largest hosting country with 918,900 refugees, followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, which hosted 798,300 refugees.
Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) complementary indicator: The number of refugees among per 1,000 de facto inhabitants

Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) complementary indicator: The number of refugees among per 1,000 de facto inhabitants

- This GCR complementary indicator gives a relative perspective of the scale of burden in host countries.
- The top refugee-hosting countries in Asia-Pacific are Nauru (88 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants), Iran (9 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants), Pakistan (7 per 1,000), Bangladesh (6 per 1,000), and Malaysia (4 per 1,000).
New Refugees and New Asylum Seekers in 2021: where did they go?

- The majority of new refugees and new asylum seekers stayed within the Asia-Pacific region, including all the forcibly displaced people from Myanmar and around 60% out of the 276,000 displaced Afghans.

- Some 174,000 people from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran and India went to Europe seeking protection.

- Additionally, in 2021 Americas region received almost 12,000 applications from India and China.
Internally Displaced Persons
IDPs account for more than 50 per cent of all forcibly displaced people in the region

By the end of 2021, there were 4.4 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the region, a 23% increase compared to the end of 2020.

The newly displaced IDPs in 2021 are in Afghanistan (777,400), Myanmar (433,000), and Philippines (136,200). According to IDMC, there are newly displaced conflict-induced IDPs in Papua New Guinea (9,500) and Solomon Islands (1,000).
Stateless Persons
The Asia-Pacific region hosts 2.4 M or 56% of the world’s recorded stateless population.

Key figures for the region:
- Total number of stateless persons: 2,412,500
- Total number of non-displaced stateless persons: 1,210,300
- Total number of displaced stateless persons: 1,202,200

Legend:
Size of the pie charts is proportional to the No. of Stateless persons in the country.
- Blue: No. of non-displaced Stateless persons per country
- Orange: 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.
Solutions
The availability of durable solutions to the forcibly displaced and stateless persons improved compared to 2020. It remains however just a small fraction of the needs.

Refugee Returns (Voluntary repatriation)
- In 2021, only some 1,600 refugees returned to the region, including some 1,400 Afghans, some 100 Sri Lankans, and 100 other nationalities returning to their country of origin.

IDP Returns
- In 2021, returned IDP increased to 1.1 million mainly due to increases from Afghanistan (791,000) and Myanmar (130,000). Most of the returned IDPs in Afghanistan are people who were displaced within the year.

Granting nationality to Stateless Persons
- During the year, some 43,400 stateless persons acquired nationality and permanent residence within the region. Notably, in Uzbekistan the government continues to implement provisions that provide eligibility to citizenship for stateless persons with some 32,000 stateless acquiring nationality or citizenship in 2021.
Regional Trends Report 2021

The regional trends report will be released on 24 July. For additional information, including access to the full datasets please see www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/