

Expert Group Meeting on Older Persons in Emergency Crisis

# OLDER PERSONS IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT: INTERSECTING RISKS



**UNHCR**

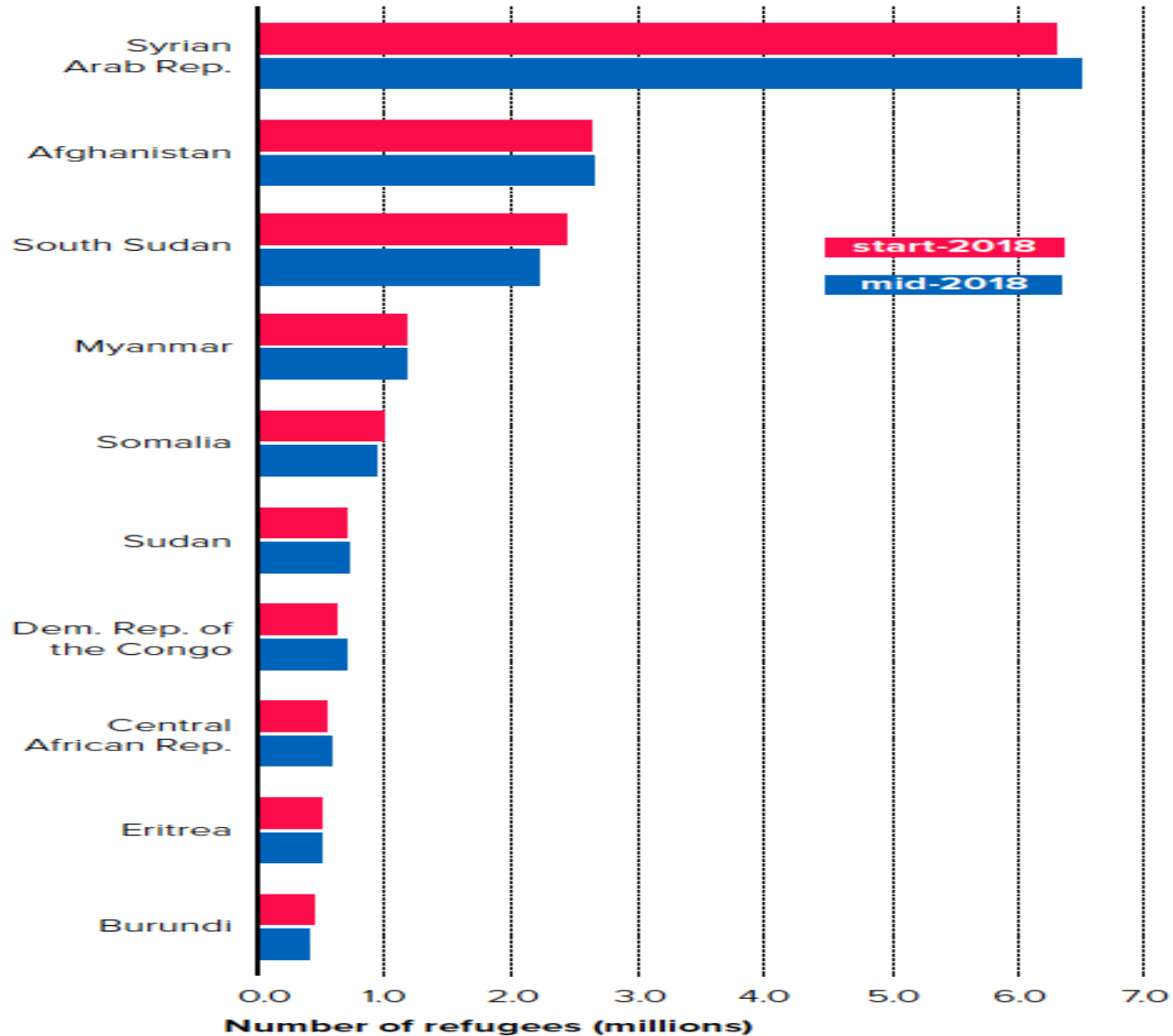
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

# Global figures

- At end June 2018, 70.4 million people were forcibly displaced. This includes 20.2 million refugees
- 5.2 million people were newly displaced in the first half of 2018
- 58% of refugees were living in urban areas in 2017
- 13.4 million (2/3 of all refugees) were in protracted refugee situations at end 2017
- 3% of refugees were over the age of 60 in 2017



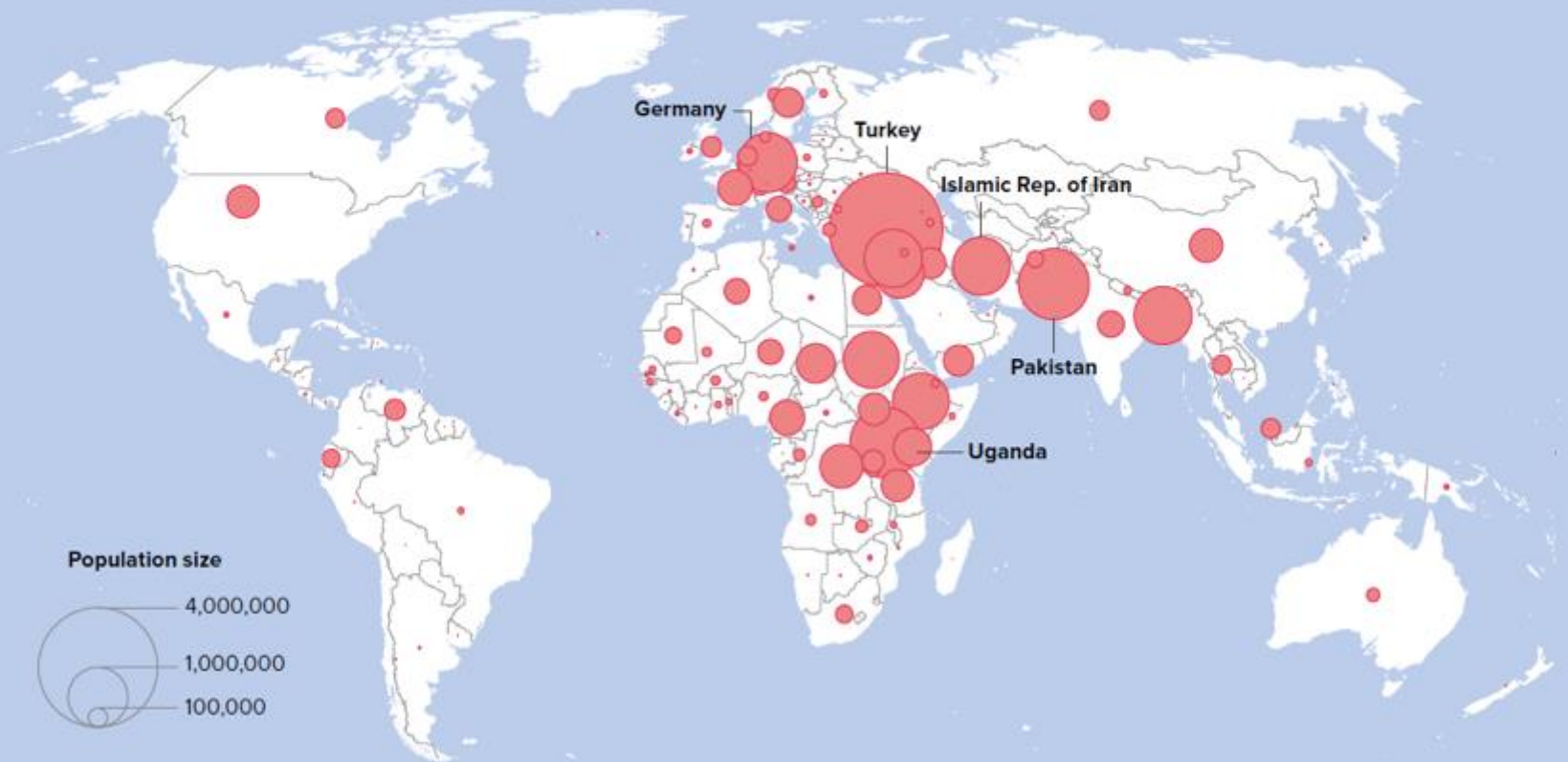
# Where do refugees come from?



# Where are refugees hosted?

## Map 1 Refugees, including persons in a refugee-like situation | mid-2018

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



# Risks for older persons on displacement

- Left behind when communities flee
- Isolated from support systems
- New roles as caregivers and heads of household
- Compounding barriers to accessing livelihoods





# Access to documentation and social security

- Lack of access to national systems for refugees
- Documents may be left behind or lost during flight
- Restrictions on freedom of movement
- Barriers to accessing registration



# Access to health care

- Barriers to reaching health centres
- Health programming may overlook the needs of older persons, such as NCD care and prevention, access to assistive devices and mental health and psychosocial support



# Violence, exploitation and abuse

Risks exacerbated on forced displacement due to:

- Less visibility to humanitarian actors delivering prevention and response programmes
- Perceptions regarding care for older persons and social norms
- Barriers to reporting
- Disruption of social networks





# Access to communication

- Technologies are increasingly being used in humanitarian action and older persons risk being left behind, due to:
  - Unfamiliarity with mobile phones and technologies
  - Unequal power relations within households
  - Language barriers



# The Global Compact on Refugees: An opportunity to strengthen response to older refugees



- Greater **support to hosting countries and communities**, for the benefit of refugees and hosts
- Engage a wider range of states and other partners in refugee response: **multi-stakeholder approach**
- Foster **resilience and self-reliance** of refugees through access to livelihood opportunities and national services and systems
- Support conditions in **countries of origin** for return in safety and dignity
- Significant references to older persons and to age

# Recommendations

- Enable non- discriminatory access to livelihoods opportunities
- Reflect the needs of older persons in health programming  
Include older persons in all aspects of work to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse
- Conduct research on measures to ensure that older persons are not left behind through the use of technology in humanitarian action
- Strengthen the active roles of older persons in displaced and host communities
- Ensure access to national systems, including pensions, for refugees and other displaced persons
- Strengthen inclusion of age- related considerations in needs assessment, planning, monitoring and reporting for humanitarian action

# THANK YOU

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