

Refugee and Asylum Flows in Asia and the Pacific

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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Overview



- Statistics Globally and in the Region
- Persons of Concern
- UNHCR's Role
- Challenges Ahead
- Regional Cooperation
- 10-Point Plan of Action



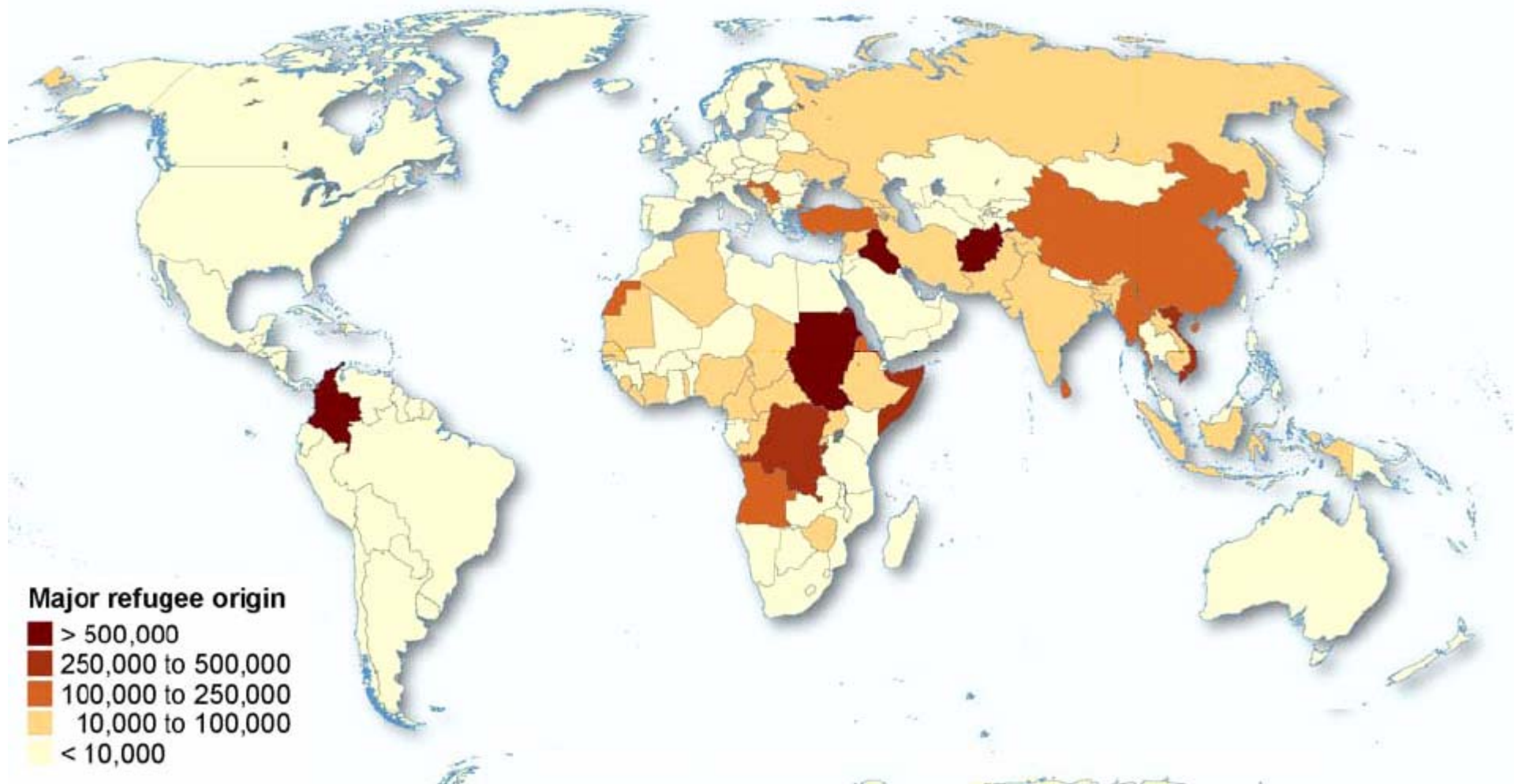
Refugee Population by UNHCR Regions



UNHCR regions	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total refugees end-2007
- Central Africa and Great Lakes	1,100,100	-	1,100,100
- East and Horn of Africa	815,200	-	815,200
- Southern Africa	181,200	-	181,200
- West Africa	174,700	-	174,700
Total Africa*	2,271,200	-	2,271,200
Americas	499,900	487,600	987,500
Asia and Pacific	2,675,900	1,149,100	3,825,000
Europe	1,580,200	5,100	1,585,300
Middle East and North Africa	2,654,000	67,600	2,721,600
Total	9,681,200	1,709,400	11,390,600

* Excluding North Africa.

Major Refugee Source Countries Globally



Major Refugee Source Countries in the Asia – Pacific



- Afghanistan – 3.1 million
- Iraq - 2.3 million
- Viet Nam – 327,700
- Myanmar – 191,300
- China – 149,000
- Sri Lanka – 134,900
- Iran – 68,300
- Pakistan – 31,800
- Tibetans – 20,170

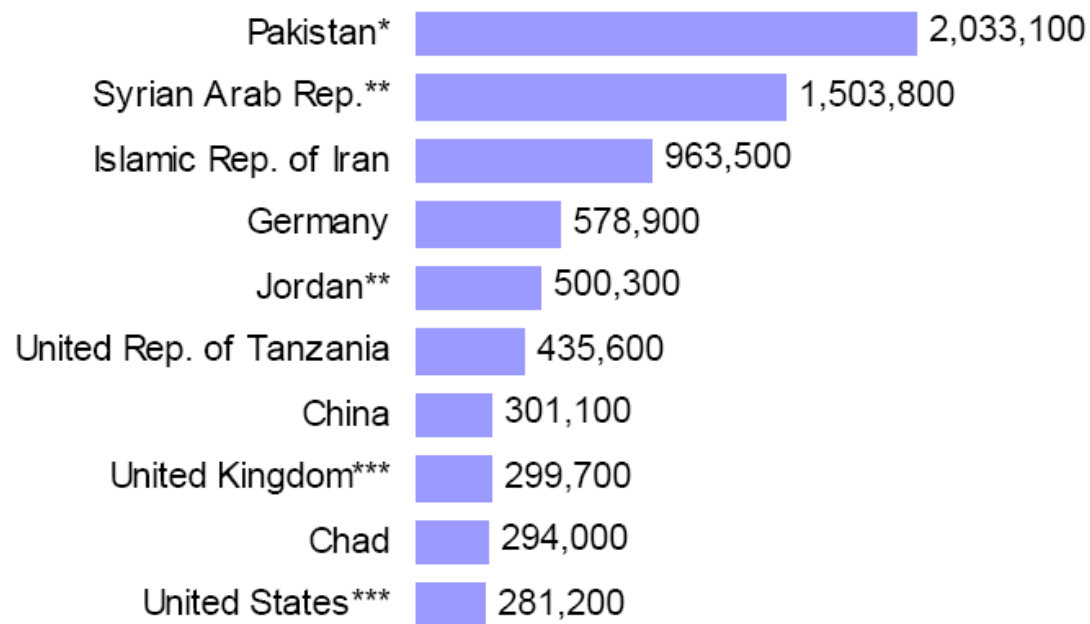
(As of June 2008)



Major Refugee Hosting Countries Globally



Fig 3: Major refugee hosting countries, end-2007



* Includes Afghans in a refugee-like situation.

** Government estimate.

*** UNHCR estimate based on 10 years of individual recognition of asylum-seekers. Figure excludes resettled refugees.

Other Major Refugee Hosting Countries in the Asia-Pacific



- India – 161,537
- Nepal – 130,600
- Thailand – 125,600
- Malaysia – 32,600
- Bangladesh – 27,500
- Australia – 22,164

As of June 2008

Major Asylum-Seeker Populations in the Asia-Pacific



- Myanmar – 5,700
- Sri Lanka – 1,700
- Pakistan - 900
- Afghanistan – 800
- Iraq – 800
- Somalia - 700

Who is a Refugee?



- **Refugees are forced to flee their countries because of armed conflict, serious disturbances of public order or persecution/denial of their human rights.**
- **They do not enjoy the protection of their home country**



Others of Concern to UNHCR

Asylum-Seekers
Internally Displaced Persons
Returned refugees (returnees)
Returned IDPs
Stateless persons
Other groups protected/assisted



UNHCR's Role



-
- **Providing International Protection to Refugees**
 - **Finding solutions to refugee problems**
 - **Voluntary Repatriation**
 - **Local Integration**
 - **Resettlement**

Challenges Ahead : Forced Migration and Migration/Development



- Mixed movements
- Safe and Legal mechanisms for movements
- Prevention of forced displaced

Challenges in Asia-Pacific: Identifying/Protecting Refugees in Mixed Movements

- Forced displacement mixed with broader movements
- Low accession rate to refugee instruments
- National refugee protection structures scarce
- UNHCR often main actor for protection
- Hostile environment encourages onward movement
- Civil Society often focuses on citizens' rights



Challenges in the Asia-Pacific: Safe and Legal Movement



- Labour sending and Labour receiving countries present
- Governments often focus on migration control
- Tradition of bilateralism

Challenges in the Asia-Pacific: Prevention of forced displacement



- Major refugee producing countries:
- Myanmar
- Sri Lanka
- DPRK: North Korea

Opportunities for Regional Cooperation



- ASEAN
- Bali Process
- APC- Intergovernmental Asia-Pacific Consultation on Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Migration
- SAARC – South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

10 Point Plan of Action



- Cooperation among key partners
- Data collection and analysis
- Protection-sensitive entry systems
- Reception arrangements
- Mechanisms for profiling and referral
- Differentiated processes and procedures
- Solutions for refugees
- Addressing secondary movements
- Return arrangements for non-refugees and alternative migration options
- Information strategy

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Thank You

