

ICAO Facilitation Regional Forum

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
7 to 8 July 2025

Hosted by:



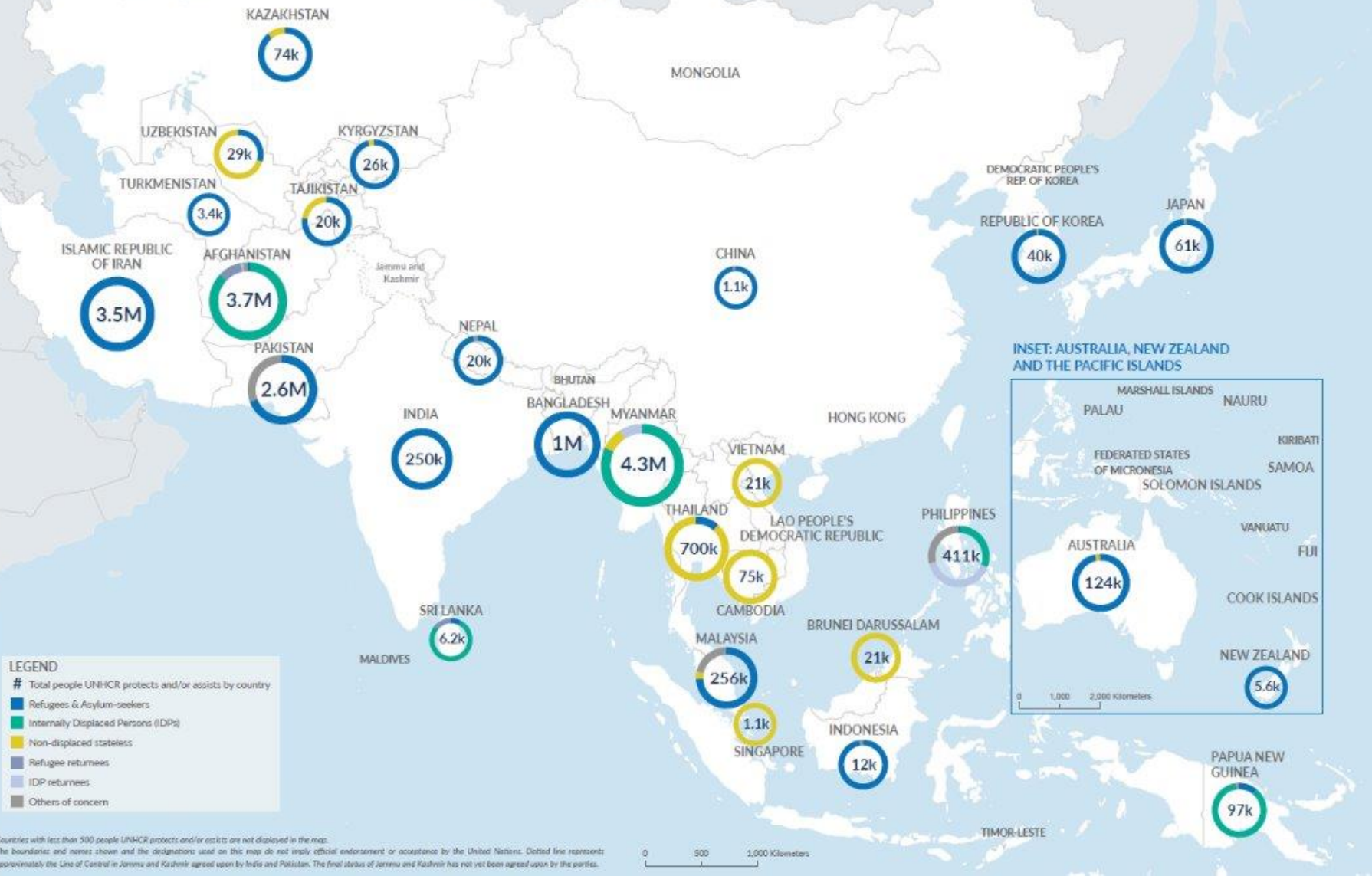


Enkhbayar Lkhagvasuren

Senior Protection Associate, UNHCR

Regional Refugee Situation Asia and the Pacific

REFUGEES, ASYLUM-SEEKERS, IDPS, RETURNEES AND STATELESS PERSONS
IN THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION AS OF END-2024



17.3M

Protected and
assisted by UNHCR

7.2M

refugees and
asylum seekers

6.9M

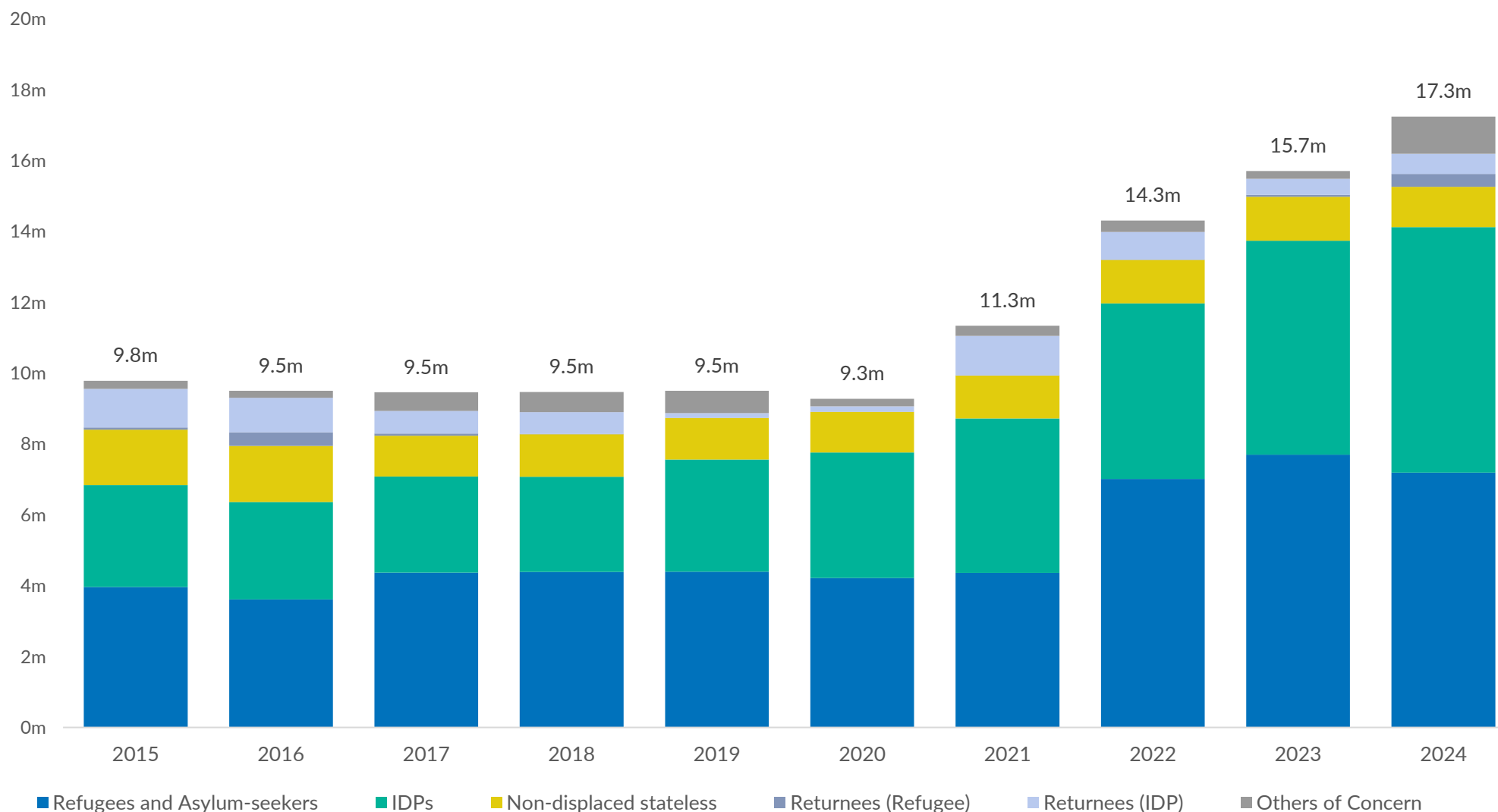
IDPs

2.5M

stateless

Population trends – Asia and the Pacific

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



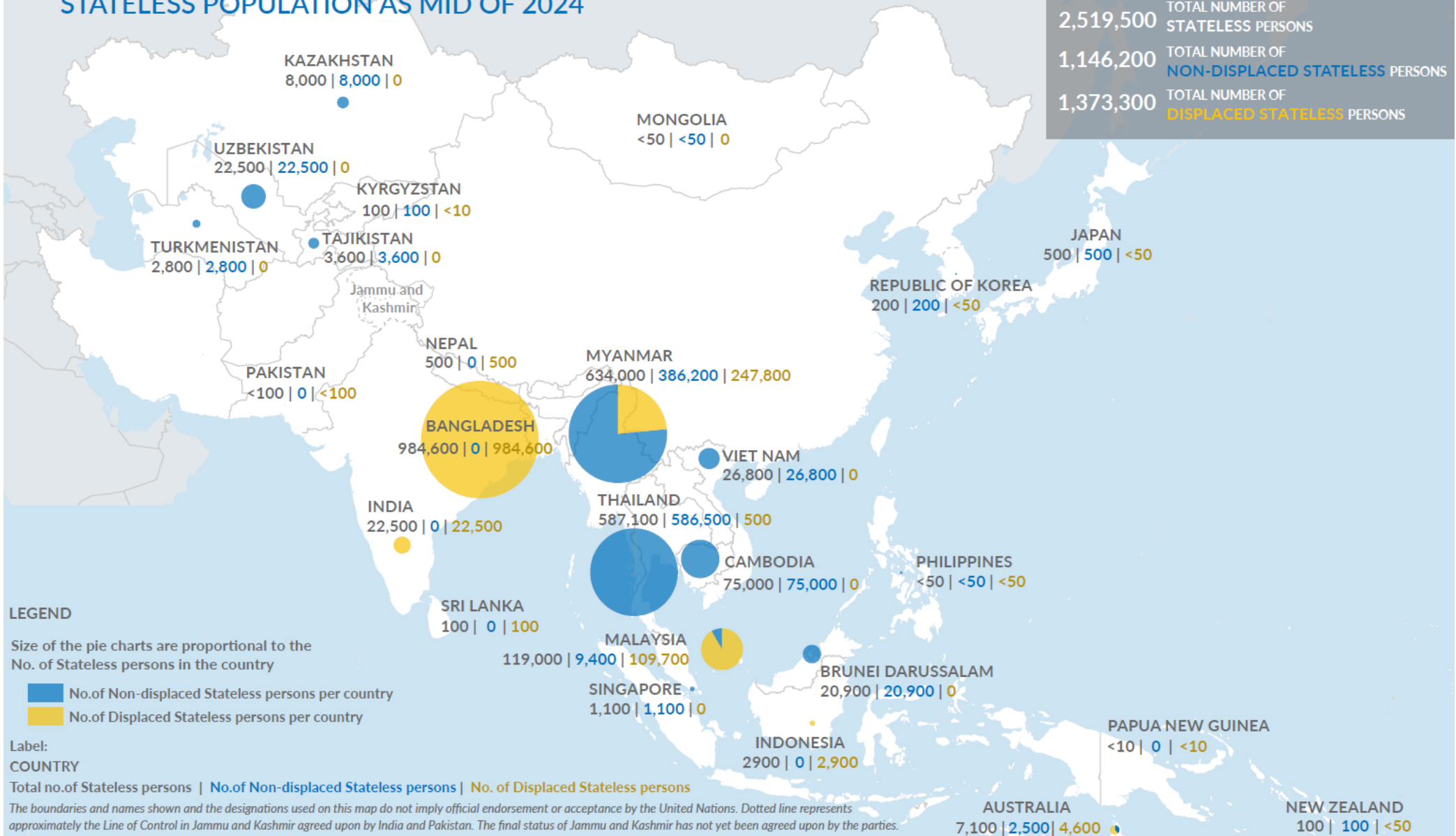
The total population UNHCR protects and/or assists in Asia and the Pacific reached **17.3M by end-2024**, the highest number on record according to available data.

This is an **increase of over 76%** compared to end-2015 figure from almost a decade ago.

STATELESS POPULATION AS MID OF 2024

KEY FIGURES FOR THE REGION

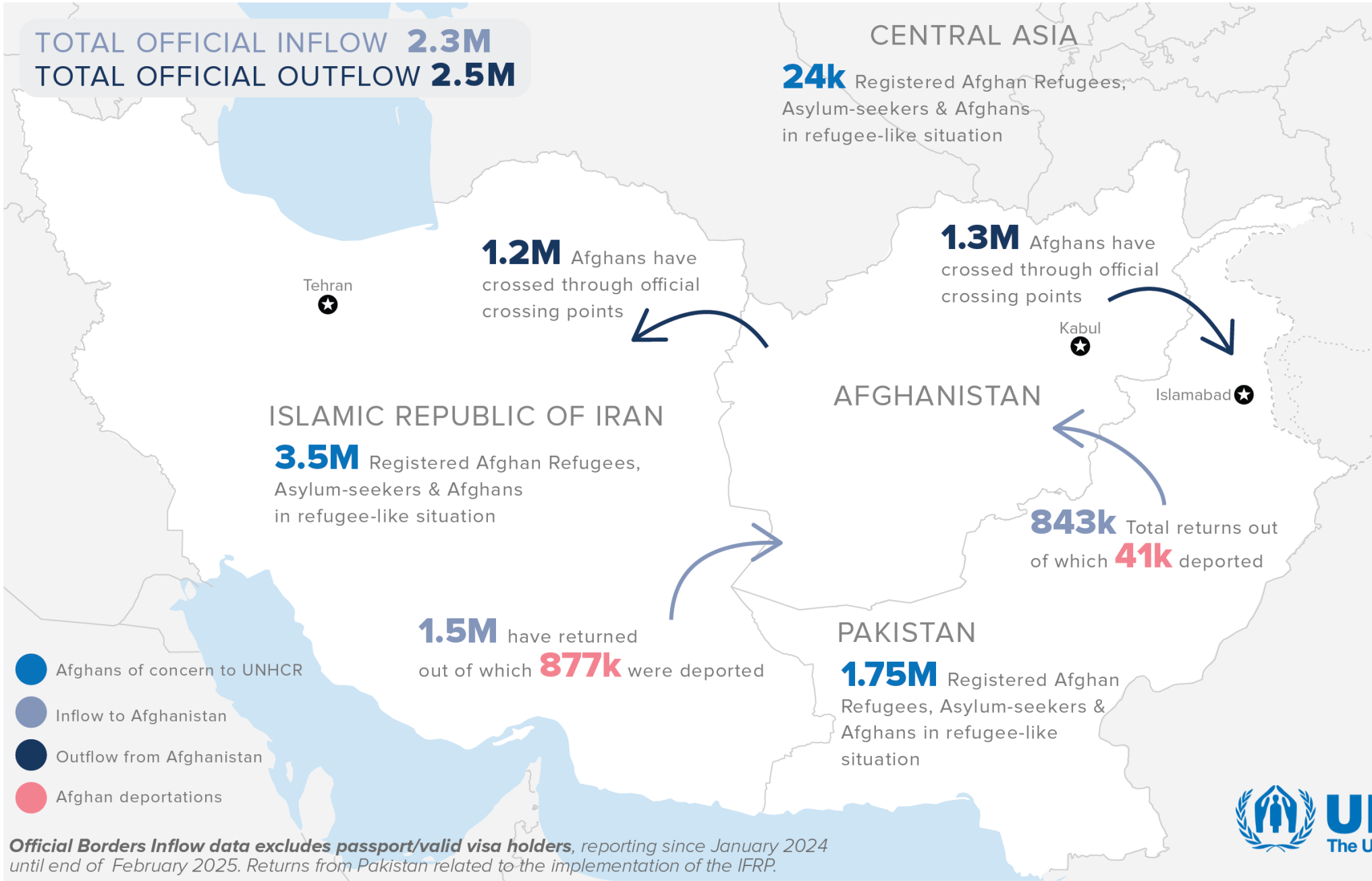
2,519,500	TOTAL NUMBER OF STATELESS PERSONS
1,146,200	TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-DISPLACED STATELESS PERSONS
1,373,300	TOTAL NUMBER OF DISPLACED STATELESS PERSONS





States Party 1951 Refugee Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol

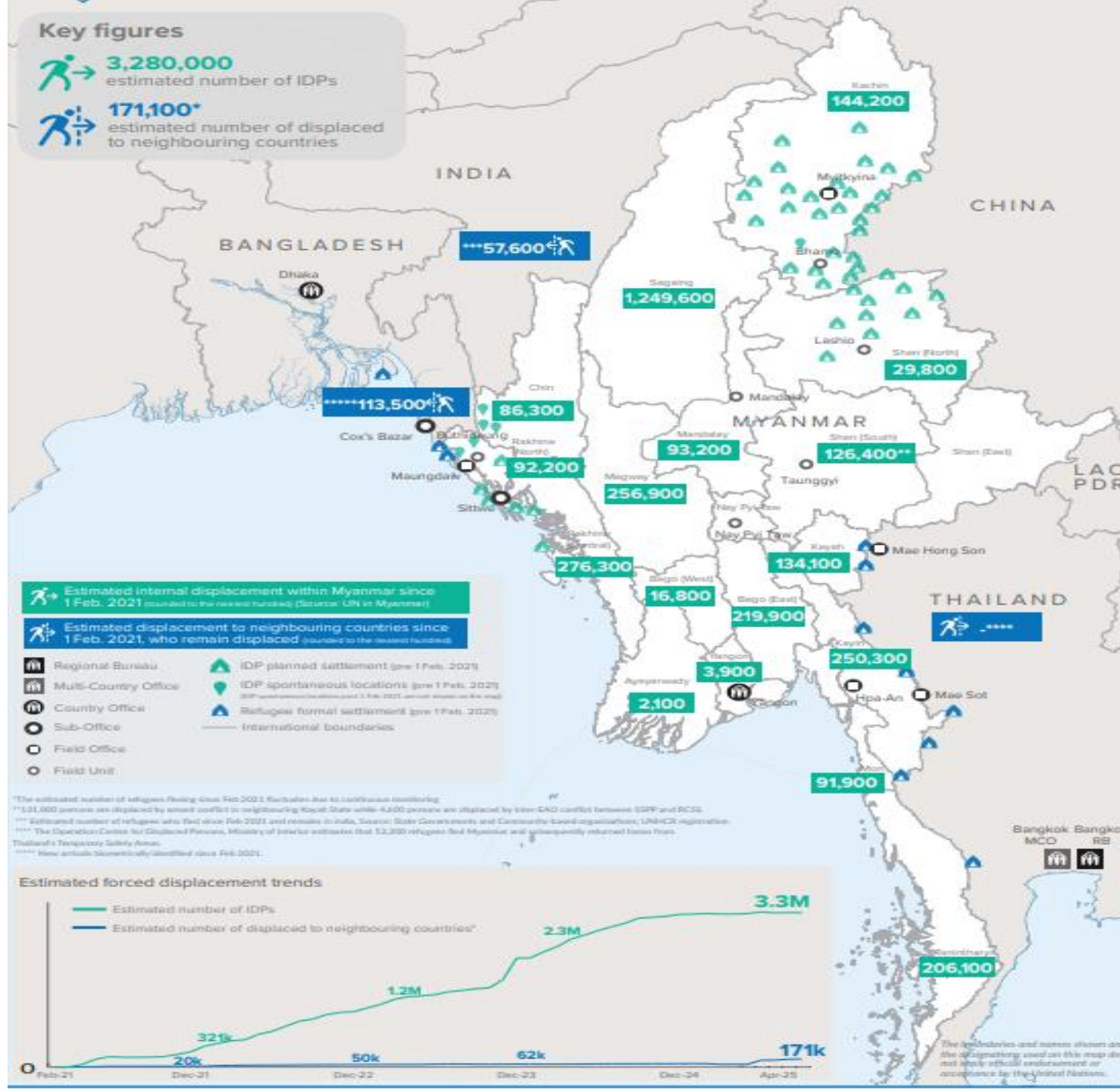
Afghan population figures & movements





Panoramic
approach:

South-West
Asia Route



Myanmar situation

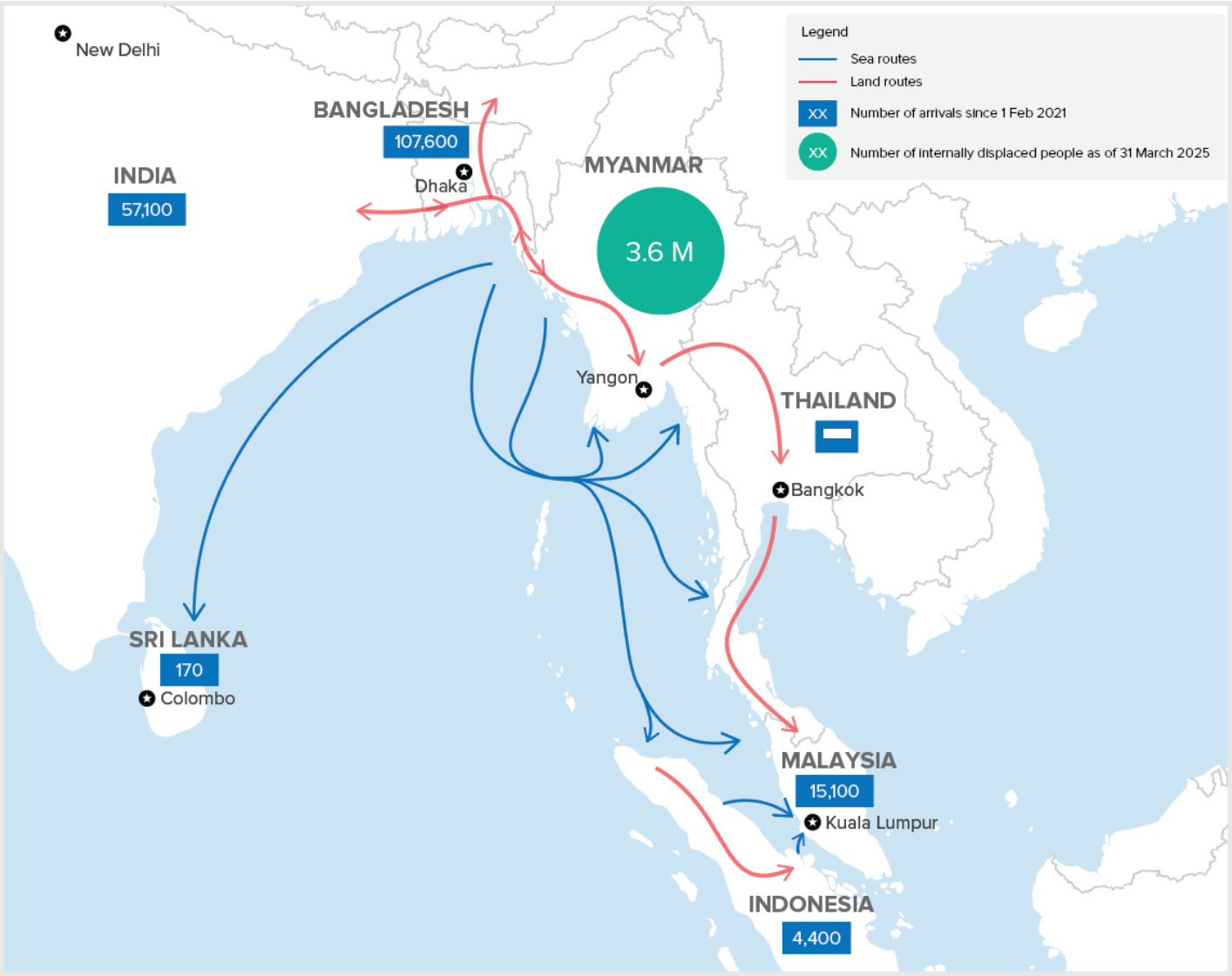
5.1 M

Forcibly displaced people from Myanmar are in Asia-Pacific

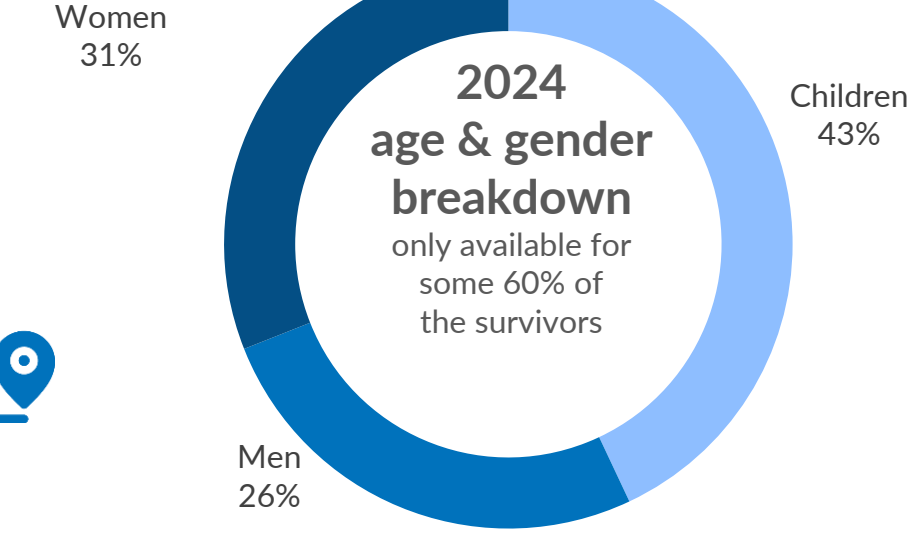
3.6 M IDPs in Myanmar
1.5 M refugees and asylum-seekers

(Map: Post-2021 displacement)

Rohingya Refugees Fleeing Over Land and Sea



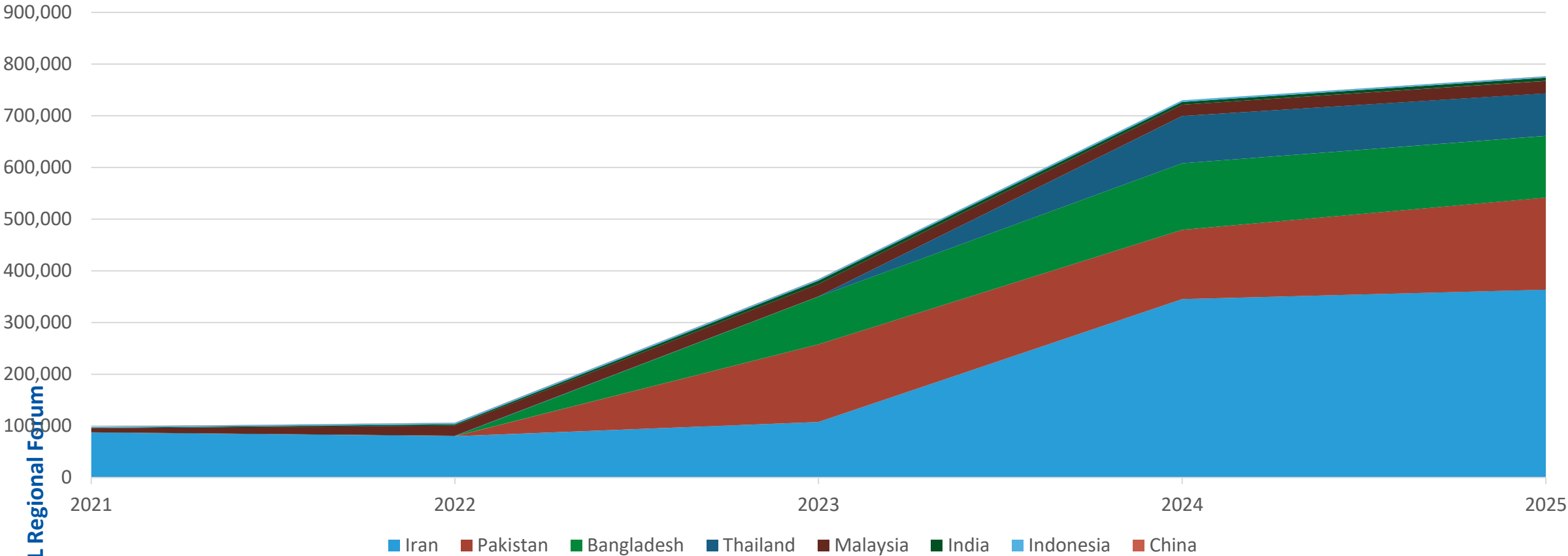
9,200 Rohingya refugees attempted the **sea** journey on **157** boats in 2024
4,300 attempted the sea journey in 2023,
and some **3,700** in 2022

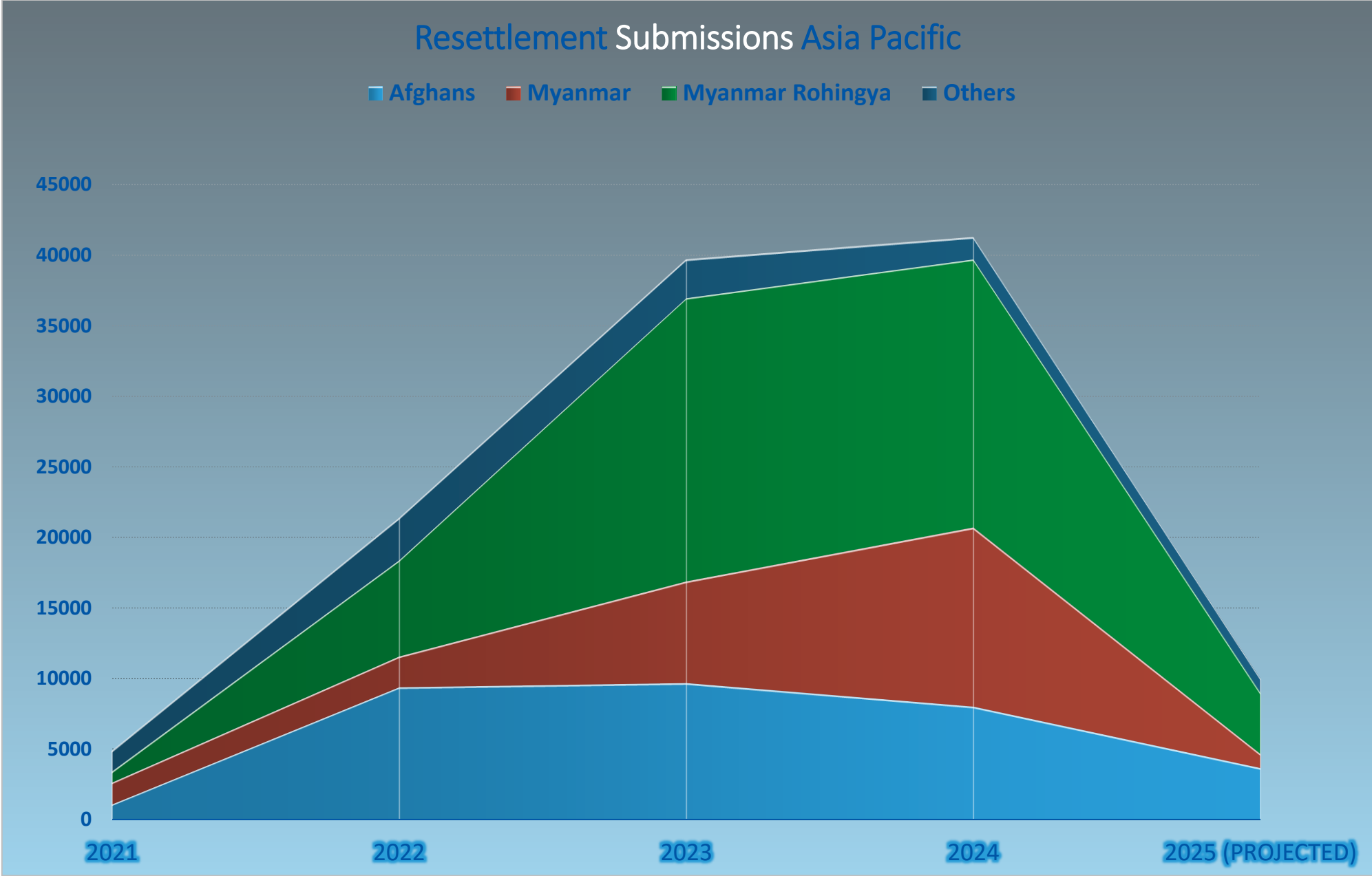


2,100 Rohingya refugees attempted the **land** journey in 2024

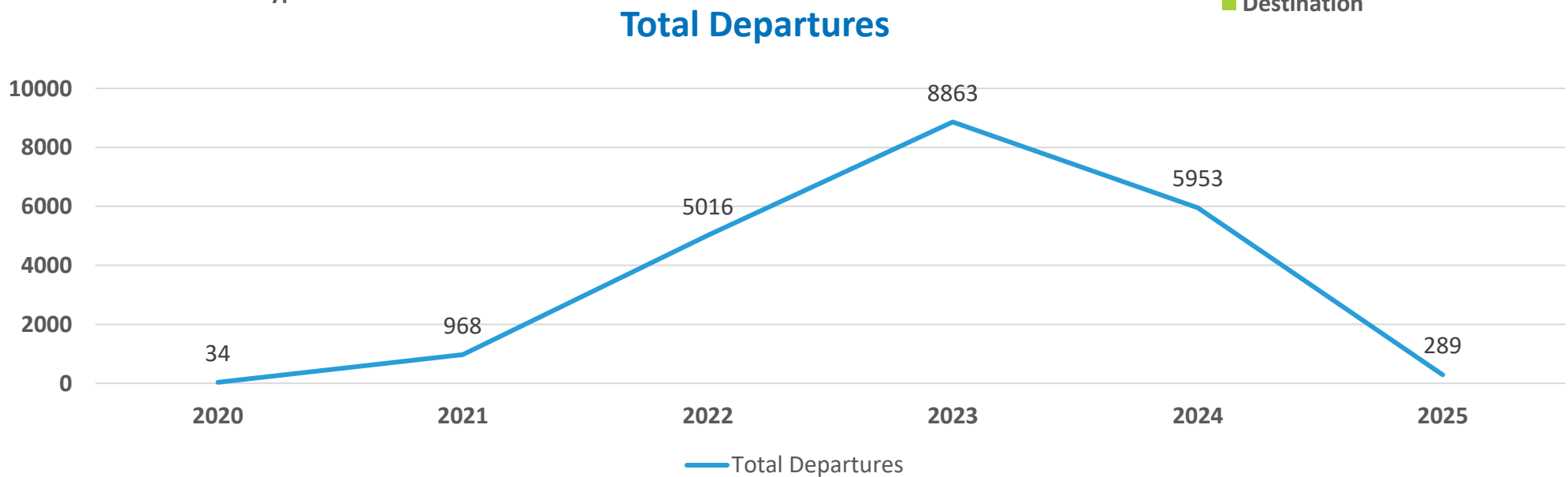
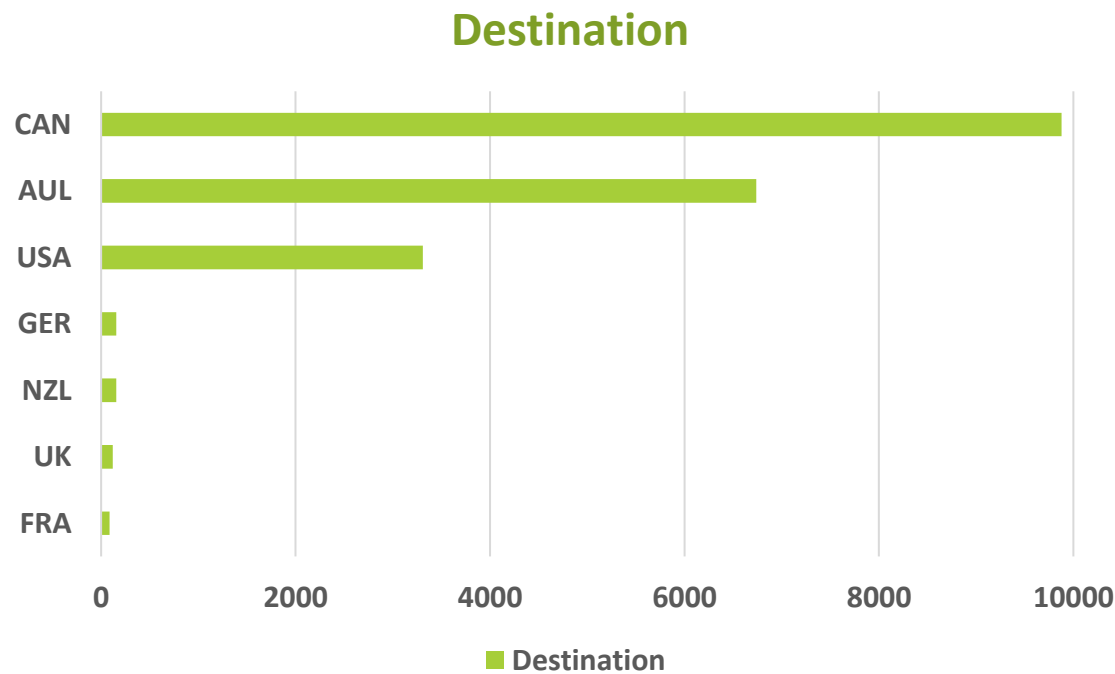
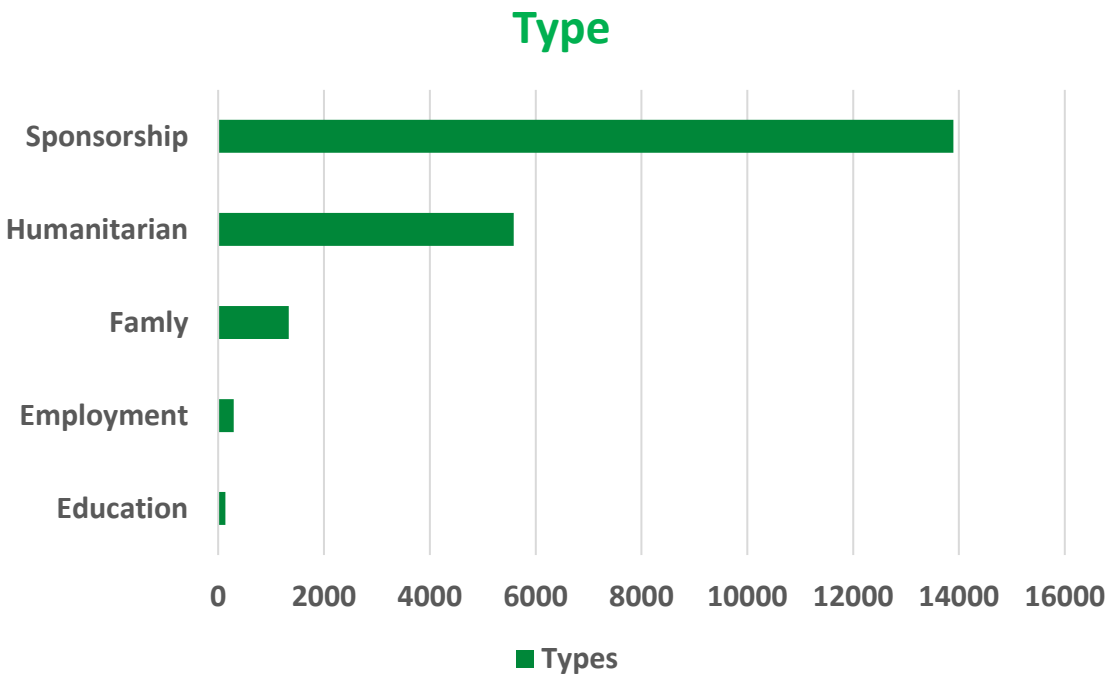
Resettlement Needs - Asia and the Pacific

Estimated Needs by Country of Asylum

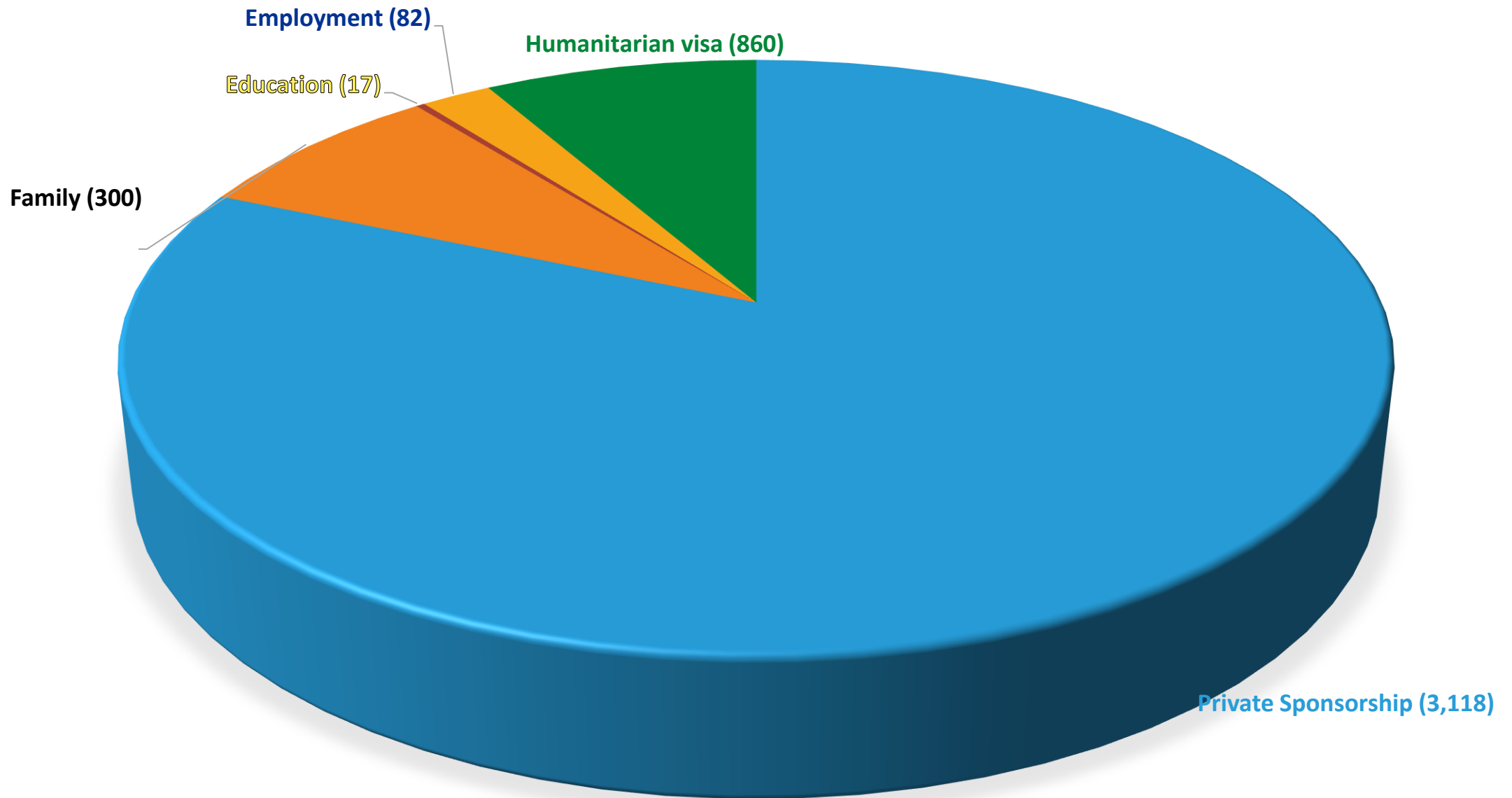




Complementary Pathways Departures from Asia Pacific



Complementary Pathways Departures 2024 Asia Pacific: 4,377





Protection and Solutions

- Legal status
- Socioeconomic inclusion
- Voluntary repatriation



“It has been 15 long years, but I am thankful to UNHCR, Bosco and TBB for giving my family a better life.

I want all refugees to know that it is possible. If I can do it at this age (do you know my age?) it's 57, then anyone can do it.”

- Refugee from Myanmar departed India to Canada via EMPP in June 2024

UNHCR on Travel Documents for Refugees and Stateless Persons

Review of Recent Activities

December 2023 –
UNHCR launches
multi-stakeholder
pledge on at GRF

February 2024 –
UNHCR submits a
working paper to
FALP13 / WP 12

Sep 2024 –
Formation of NTWG
subgroup on refugee
travel documents

October 2024 –
Expert Roundtable held
at University of Essex

December 2024 –
workshop at ICBWG on
RTDs and Annex 9
amendment

May 2025 – soft
launch of dashboard
on UNHCR 2024
survey data

Amendment

CHAPTER 3.

ENTRY AND DEPARTURE OF PERSONS AND THEIR BAGGAGE

D. Travel documents

3.12 Contracting States shall ensure that travel documents for refugees and stateless persons are machine readable, in accordance with the specifications of Doc 9303.

Note. --- Travel documents for refugees are provided for in Article 28 of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and for stateless persons in Article 28 of the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. The UNHCR Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, in Travel Documents for Refugees No.13 (XXIX) -1978, called upon Contracting States who are not party to the 1951 Convention to provide similar machine readable documents to refugees residing lawfully in their territory.

Dashboard



ABOUT:

The dashboard on Travel Documents Issued to Persons in Need of International Protection and Stateless Persons is maintained by UNHCR's Division of International Protection.

The dashboard has four separate pages 1) Global overview of travel documents issued by States to refugees, 2) Global overview of travel documents issued by States to stateless persons and 3) Country profiles on travel documents issued by States to persons in need of international protection and stateless persons and 4) Other travel documents for refugees and stateless persons, which include alien/foreigner passports, certificates of identity or other types of travel documents that refugees or stateless persons may benefit from.

The dashboard data is collected from a survey to UNHCR country and multi-country offices initiated in 2024. Updates and improvements to survey data accuracy are ongoing. Feedback and suggestions are welcome.

CONTACT: Amanda Lane Stovall – stovall@unhcr.org at Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Service, Division of International Protection and Valeriia Cherednichenko, (cheredni@unhcr.org), Statelessness section, Division of International Protection.

Acronyms used in the dashboard pages:

- ✓ TD - Travel Document
- ✓ CTD - Convention Travel Document (linked to Article 28 of 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1954 Statelessness Convention)
- ✓ MRCTD - Machine Readable Convention Travel Document
- ✓ eCTD - Machine readable convention travel document with an electric chip
- ✓ GRF - Global refugee forum (specifically the GRF multi-stakeholder pledge on refugee travel documents)
- ✓ RTD - refugee travel document
- ✓ A.P - Alien Passport
- ✓ F.P - Foreigner Passport
- ✓ C.I - Certificate of Identity
- ✓ SPTD - stateless persons travel document
- ✓ ONIP - other in need of international protection
- ✓ Manual Country non-machine readable - travel document with specific country template
- ✓ Manual UNHCR non-machine readable - travel document standard UNHCR booklet issued by a country
- ✓ RBA - Regional Bureau Americas
- ✓ RBAP - Regional Bureau Asia and Pacific
- ✓ RBE - Regional Bureau Europe
- ✓ RBEHAGL - Regional Bureau Eastern Horn of Africa and Great Lakes
- ✓ RBMENA - Regional Bureau Middle East and Northern Africa
- ✓ RBSA - Regional Bureau Southern Africa
- ✓ RBWCA - Regional Bureau West and Central Africa

For more information on travel documents for refugees and stateless persons, please check out these pages:



Global overview of travel documents issued by States to refugees



Convention Travel Documents- Stateless Persons



Other Travel Documents for Refugees and Stateless Persons



Country Page

Compliance

- **Out of the 136 survey responses of countries party to the 1951 Refugee Convention (1951C), 59 countries (43%) are not issuing a MRCTD/eCTD as obligated in the 1951C and ICAO Chicago Convention.**
- **Some of the countries are issuing a different type of machine readable travel document, but even if this is considered, it results in 53 countries (39%) still not issuing a machine readable travel document to refugees.**
- **When expanding analysis to all 167 cleared survey responses, 84 countries (50%) are not issuing a MRTD to refugees.**
- **Out of 90 survey responses of countries that are party to the 1954 Statelessness Convention, 37 countries (59%) are not issuing a MRCTD/eCTD for stateless persons as obligated in the 1954C and ICAO Chicago Convention.**
- **When expanding analysis to all 167 cleared survey responses, 114 countries (68%) are still not issuing a MRTD to stateless persons.**

Obstacles and Solutions

- Economic outcomes
- Identity confirmation
- Costs
- Admin challenges
- Procedures
- Tech developments

For Issuance

- Political challenges

- Info & specimen sharing
- Training and capacity building
- Security concerns

For Acceptance

Recommendations

The Roundtable concluded that the optimal minimum characteristics for travel documents for non-nationals unable to obtain national passports would mean ***a multi-journey machine-readable document that guarantees readmission to the issuing country, does not specify the nationality in the document, can be renewed from abroad, does not exceed the lowest scale of cost for a national passport and has a minimum validity of five years.***

-Guidance

-Advocacy and Awareness (TAG)

-Operational/Tech Support and Capacity Building

-Research and Data

-Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

Guide on Issuing MRCTDs (2017)

- Scope
- Amendment on TDs for refugees and SPs
- Updating SARPs and Doc9303 technical guidance
- Additional Components
- ICBWG volunteers to support updating of this guidance



Multistakeholder Pledge on Refugee Travel Documents

- Launched at the **Global Refugee Forum** in 2023 (covering until next GRF in 2027)
- Collects pledges from States to issue machine readable refugee travel documents and/or make improvements to law and policy frameworks that incorporate good practices (e.g. extended validity periods, renew from abroad, increase acceptance, etc)
- May also pledge legal and policy expertise, technological assistance, research and other relevant areas
- Travel documents are key to linking refugees to scholarship opportunities, labour mobility, self reliance, career development and meaningful refugee participation in regional and global spaces.

Multistakeholder Pledge on Refugee Travel Documents

- A **high-level officials meeting (HLOM)** will take place in Dec 2025 that will take stock-taking of pledge progress
- Ahead of HLOM, pledging entities should provide an update on pledge activity
- Commitments can be viewed on the pledge [page](#)
- New States and actors are encouraged to [submit a pledge](#) (at any time) and join the ongoing work

Upcoming Plans

Release of Summary
Conclusions from
Roundtable

Compliance letters,
compliance report and
dashboard

Updating of joint ICAO
& UNHCR guidance on
MRCTDs

WGTD from
Expert
Roundtable

Supporting
ICBWG in
relevant
areas

Case studies
& resources

Pledge stock-
taking at
HLOM

Thank You

LET'S LEAVE NO ONE
BEHIND

