

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(76) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How many UNHCR registered asylum seekers are currently awaiting resettlement worldwide and where are they?

Answer:

Global population of concern to UNHCR

UNHCR statistics on the global population of concern are available at www.unhcr.org and through the annual *Global Trends* publication:

Global population of concern at the end of 2008		
Category of displaced population	Total	Protected/assisted by UNHCR
Refugees under UNHCR mandate	10.5 million	10.5 million
Refugees under UNRWA* mandate	4.7 million	-
Asylum-seekers (pending cases)	827 000	200 000
Conflict-generated IDPs [#]	26 million	14.4 million
TOTAL	42 million	25.1 million

* United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinians in the Near-East

[#] Internally displaced persons

- Of the 10.5 million refugees who came under the UNHCR mandate, 2.1 million were in Africa, 800 000 were in the Americas, 3.6 million were in Asia and the Pacific, 1.6 million were in Europe and 2.4 million were in the Middle East and North Africa.
- The top ten locations for pending asylum-seeker cases were South Africa (227 000), the United States (69 000), Canada (54 000), Greece (38 000), Austria (37 000), Ecuador (34 000), France (34 000), Germany (33 000), Sweden (24 000) and Switzerland (17 000).
- Key locations for internally displaced persons included 3 million people in Colombia, 2.6 million in Iraq, 1.5 million in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1.3 million in Somalia and over 500 000 in Sri Lanka.

Resettlement

Resettlement is only one of the durable solutions promoted by UNHCR, and is used strategically to resolve refugee situations and create protection space in countries of asylum. UNHCR estimates that the number of refugees in need of resettlement in 2009 is 561 137, with 127 006 expected to be referred for resettlement (UNHCR Global Appeal 2009).