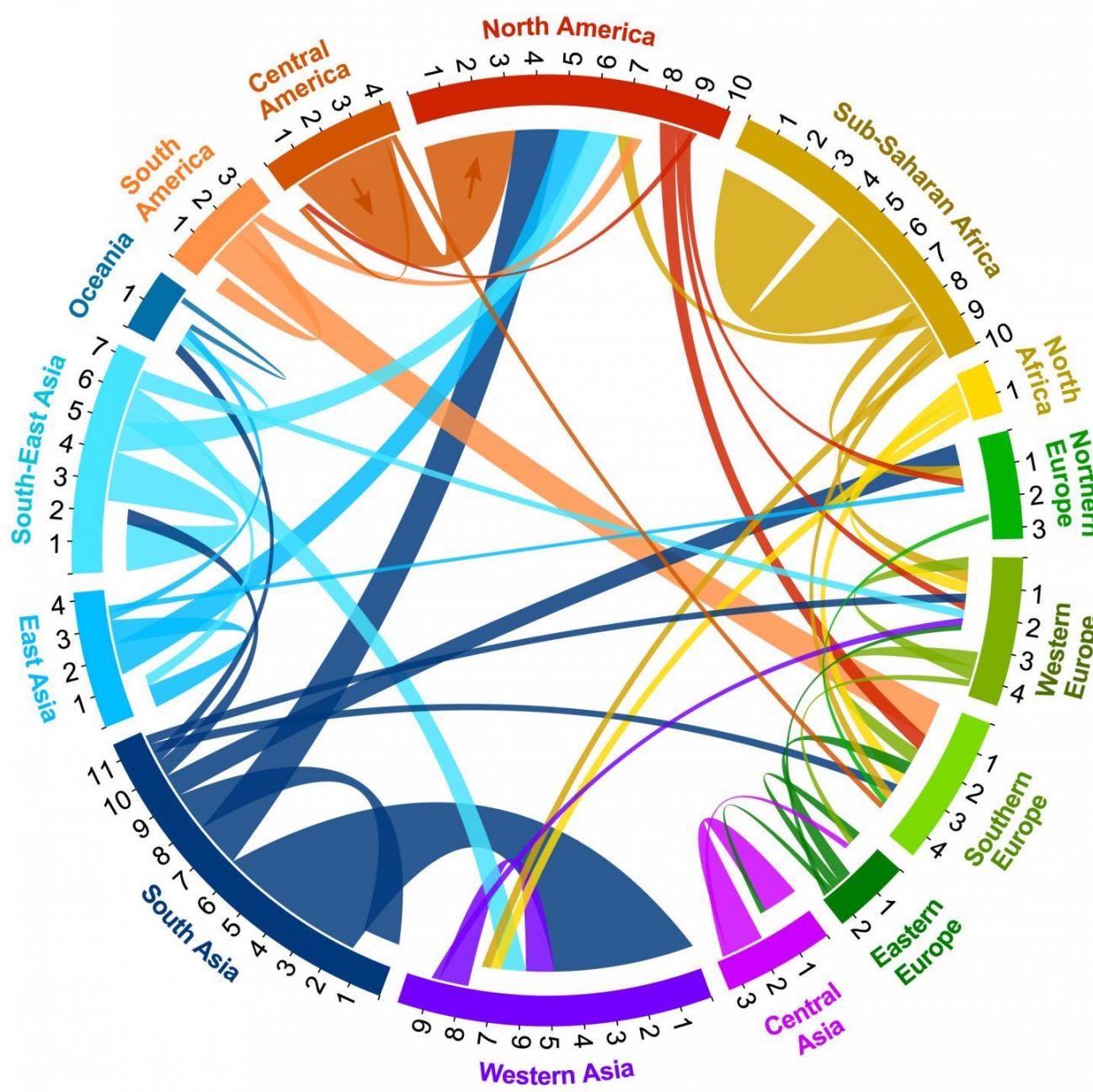


* **Welcoming Refugees
and Migrants:
European Cities and
Local Cultural Policies**

International Forum “Creating Community”
Munich, 17 March 2016

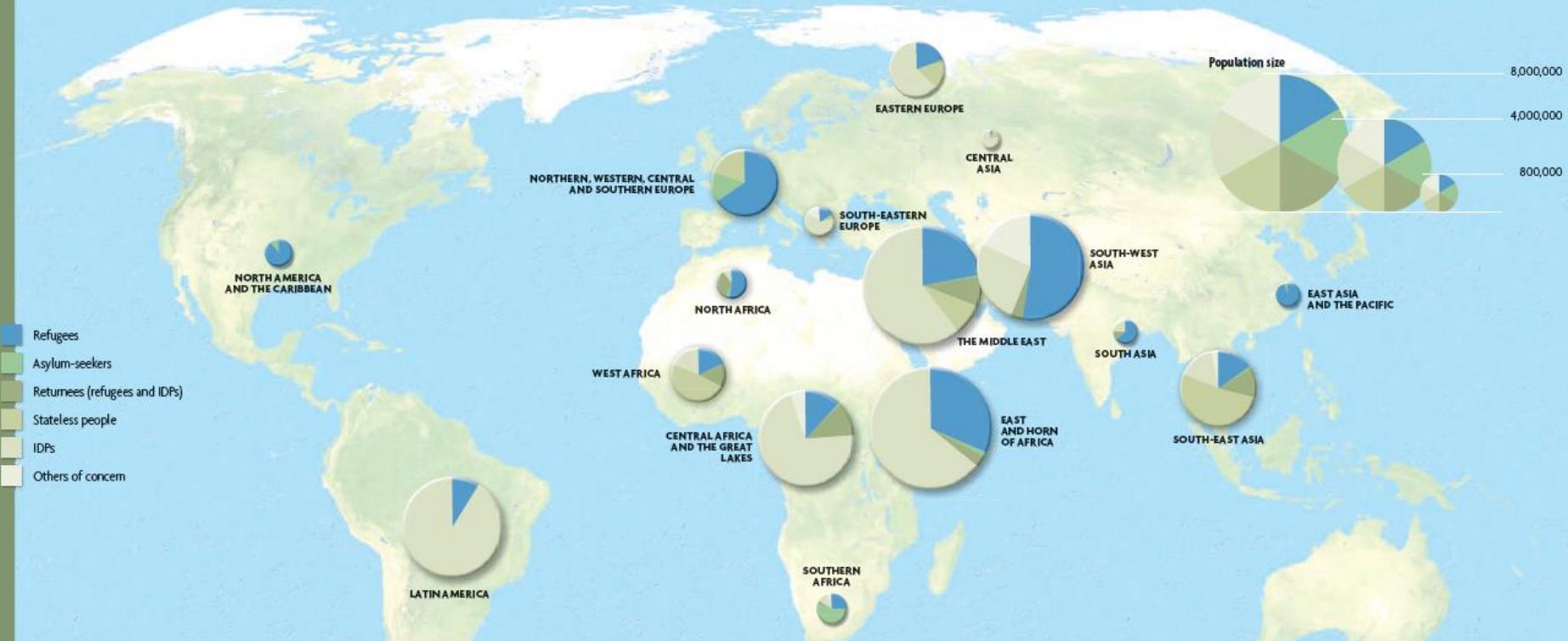
1. General Context: facts and figures



Source: Guy Abel and
Nikola Sander (2004)

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR

[AS OF JANUARY 2013]



Subregion	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total Refugees	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum-seekers	Returned refugees	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR ⁽¹⁾	Returned IDPs	People under UNHCR's stateless mandate	Various ⁽²⁾	Total population of concern
Central Africa and the Great Lakes	479,260	—	479,260	413,520	21,380	12,330	2,799,700	340,030	1,300	235,760	3,998,760
East and Horn of Africa	1,866,700	26,020	1,892,720	1,812,950	90,330	23,560	3,853,990	136,740	20,000	4,990	6,022,270
West Africa	267,750	10	267,760	257,540	8,830	102,440	272,990	96,010	700,000	1,940	1,449,910
Southern Africa	134,740	—	134,740	52,940	272,450	197,50	57,990	—	—	24,020	508,890
North Africa ⁽³⁾	267,810	26,000	293,810	193,610	28,560	7,280	59,430	177,450	60	—	566,590
The Middle East ⁽⁴⁾	1,251,220	48,830	1,300,050	692,470	25,310	150,840	3,533,630	325,670	505,210	—	5,840,710
South-West Asia	2,506,770	16,110	2,522,890	2,522,890	3,350	98,620	1,244,290	75,010	—	879,380	4,823,540
Central Asia	3,470	4,500	7,980	3,470	2,580	0	168,600	3,400	33,660	3,680	219,900
South Asia	242,030	—	242,030	59,870	3,850	1,480	93,480	44,610	—	450	385,900
South-East Asia	206,430	200,980	407,400	227,200	32,420	40	401,560	316,220	1,392,800	80,070	2,680,510
East Asia and the Pacific ⁽⁵⁾	340,640	4,580	345,220	3,730	19,250	—	—	—	1,500	—	365,970
Eastern Europe	278,460	140	278,600	275,490	21,100	10	880,110	—	227,520	14,870	1,422,210
South-Eastern Europe	85,910	360	86,270	29,350	1,340	570	331,270	10,350	20,170	78,820	528,790
Northern, Western, Central and Southern Europe	1,432,730	—	1,432,730	220	323,750	—	—	—	433,530	70	2,790,080
North America and the Caribbean	426,660	10	426,670	360	52,550	—	—	—	—	—	479,220
Latin America	88,680	291,160	379,850	103,420	21,180	10	3,945,510	—	20	5,580	4,350,150
TOTAL	9,879,260	618,700	10,497,980	6,648,970	928,230	525,930	17,670,370	1,545,490	3,335,770	1,329,630	35,893,400

The data are generally provided by Governments, based on their own definitions and methods of data collection. A dash (—) indicates that the value is zero, not available or not applicable.

⁽¹⁾ Includes people who are in an IDP-like situation.

⁽²⁾ People of concern to UNHCR not included in the previous columns but to whom UNHCR extends protection and/or assistance.

⁽³⁾ According to the Government of Algeria, there are an estimated 165,000 Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps.

⁽⁴⁾ Refugee figures for Iraqis in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic are Government estimates. UNHCR had registered and was assisting some 90,000 Iraqis in both countries as of January 2013.

⁽⁵⁾ China: The 300,000 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.

* Refugee and asylum: some recent figures

- * In late 2014, in the world there were:
 - a) 19.5 m refugees;
 - b) 1.8 m asylum-seekers;
 - c) 38.2 m IDPs

... overall 59.5 m people forced to flee their homes
- * In Europe, in early 2014 there were 1.8 m refugees / asylum-seekers, and 3.1 by the end of the year.
- * Approximately 1 million refugees / asylum-seekers are thought to have arrived in Europe in the course of 2015

2. How can culture help?



Cities, Refugees and Culture: Briefing

The Committee on culture of the world association of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is the platform of cities, organizations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development. It uses the Agenda 21 for culture as its founding document. It promotes the exchange of experiences and improves mutual learning. It conveys the messages of cities and local governments on global cultural issues.

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) with a view to providing information and facilitating discussion on a relevant issue regarding culture and sustainable cities. In this respect, the briefing presents data and resources and invites readers to provide their views and other examples so as to pursue the conversation.

The views presented in this document are not necessarily those of UCLG and do not commit the organisation. This article is available on-line at www.agenda21culture.net in English, French and Spanish.



Cities, Refugees and Culture

Briefing published by the
Culture Committee of
United Cities and Local
Governments (UCLG),
November 2015

available at
www.agenda21culture.net

Cities, Refugees and Culture - some examples (1)

- * **Promotion of welcoming programmes and ‘mentor’ schemes** which involve, among others, cultural associations and facilities (Boras, Leipzig)
- * **Role of public cultural facilities (e.g. libraries) as welcoming spaces**, enabling the newly-arrived to come in contact with local context and remain in context with places of origin (Birmingham, Hamburg)
- * **Creative processes** as opportunities to enable collective work between local citizens, migrants and refugees (Aarhus, Lisbon, Zaragoza)

Cities, Refugees and Culture - some examples (2)

- * **Museums and heritage institutions** bringing together different communities, illustrating lesser-known stories and narratives, developing dynamic approaches to memory (Oslo, Malmö)
- * **Setting-up of funding schemes to support cultural activities involving refugees** (Västra Götaland)
- * **Integration of cultural aspects in local strategies** for the promotion of resilience and the strengthening of citizenship (Medellín, Bogotá)
- * **International networks of cities** to exchange knowledge and resources on culture, migration and refuge (ICORN, CoE's Intercultural Cities)

3 main lines for policymaking

- a) Visualising diversity:** providing spaces for diverse expressions, individual stories.
- b) Fostering encounters:**
 - * enabling the development of intercultural skills (the ability to listen, dialogue and wonder) through education and interaction;
 - * rethinking traditional cultural institutions based on single identities;
 - * fostering intermediate and public spaces;
 - * focusing on what is shared, rather than what is different;
 - * promoting mediation, to generate security, overcome fear;
 - * Integrating cultural work in the promotion of inclusive, plural citizenship.
- c) Ensuring participation:** providing spaces for deliberation, transparency and decision-making

3. The need for political, transversal work

Building cross-sectoral platforms

- * In the increasingly difficult context for refugees and diversity in Europe, political engagement becomes more and more necessary
- * Cultural work can make important contributions, but needs to operate in close connection with other areas of work (education, social inclusion, public space, etc.)
- * This is valid both for public and for civil society actors
- * Ref. *Culture 21 Actions*, document adopted in 2015, which promotes links between culture and local sustainable development, including diversity

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