People in Crisis: Key Issues and Trends

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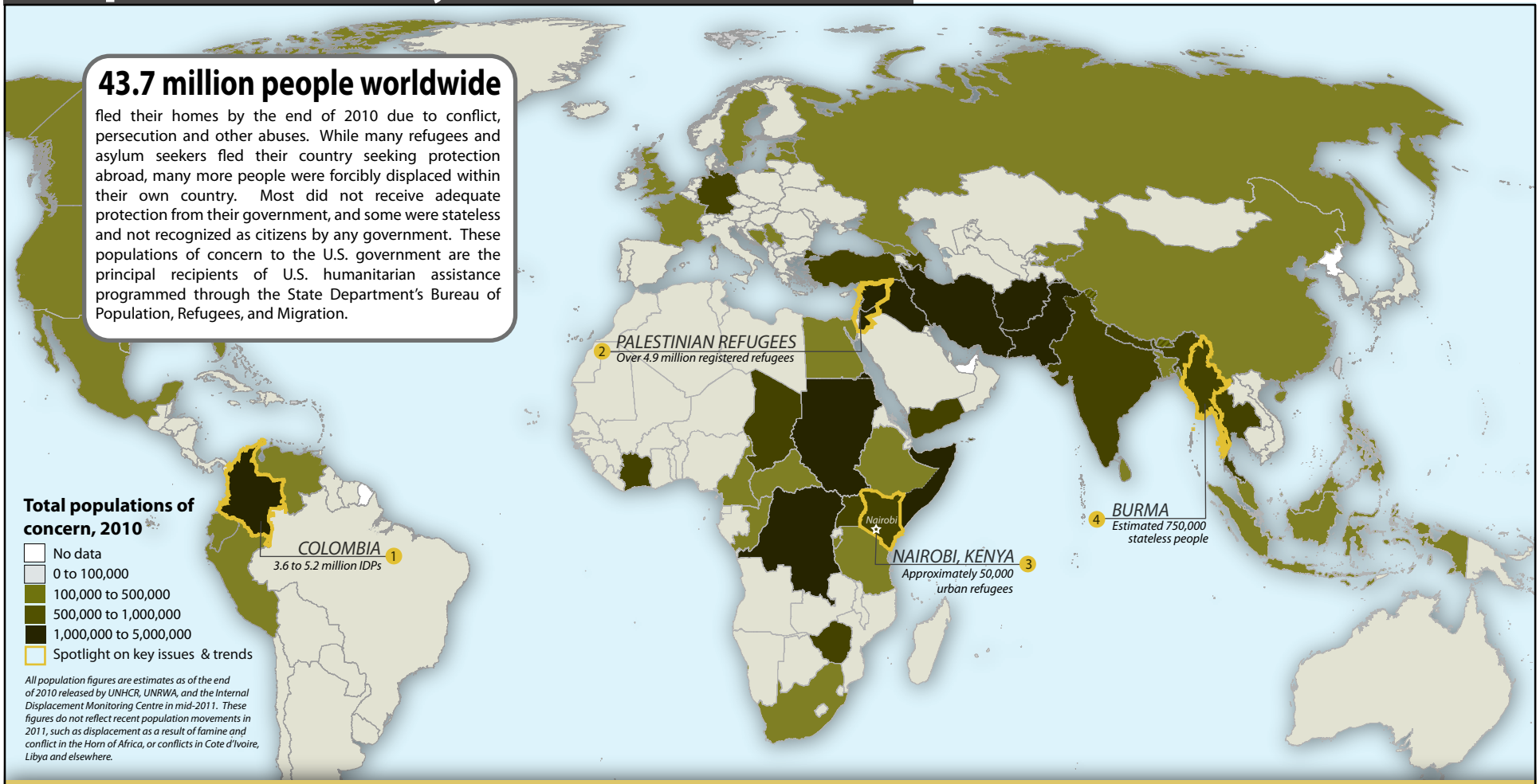

SPOTLIGHT ON POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

1 COLOMBIA: INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

Among the world's 27 million people internally displaced by conflict, Colombia had one of the largest IDP populations at the end of 2010, with approximately 3.6 million registered by the government or a total of 5.2 million, if unregistered IDP estimates are included. Long-lasting conflict between the government and guerilla organizations, and the proliferation of illegal armed groups and organized crime, have resulted in displacement, including significant refugee populations in Ecuador and Venezuela.

2 MIDDLE EAST: PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Approximately 4.9 million registered Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank received education, health, relief and social services from the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in 2010. The United States is the largest bilateral donor in support of UNRWA's humanitarian programs.

3 NAIROBI, KENYA: URBAN REFUGEES

More than half of the world's 15.4 million refugees live in urban areas. In Kenya, which hosted over 400,000 refugees in 2010, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Nairobi registered close to 50,000 urban refugees from Somalia and other countries. Many refugees seek safety and livelihoods in cities, but instead are confronted by xenophobia and limited access to assistance.

4 BURMA: STATELESS PERSONS

UNHCR estimates there are as many as 12 million people worldwide who are not recognized as citizens by any government. The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority group from northwest Burma who have suffered persecution and human rights abuses for decades. Denied basic citizenship rights, there are now approximately 750,000 stateless Rohingya living in Burma, as well as thousands of Rohingya refugees and asylum seekers who have fled to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand and other countries in the region.