

SEEKING REFUGE

Where they come from

Percentage of asylum-seekers, where they are from

Where they want to go

Asylum claims lodged in selected destination countries

The number of people applying for asylum in the West fell last year to nearly half the level at the start of the decade. Nearly 359,000 people sought asylum in 44 industrialised countries.

ASIA
45%

AFRICA
25%

EUROPE
19%

THE AMERICAS
8%

UNKNOWN **3%**

Countries of origin



SERBIA	8%
AFGHANISTAN	7%
CHINA	6%
IRAQ	6%
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	5%
IRAN	5%
SOMALIA	5%
OTHERS	59%

Figures do not add up to 100% due to rounding-up

2010 total
358,840

asylum claims, almost halved from a decade ago

FRANCE **47,790**
Biggest number is from Serbia (5,754)

GERMANY **41,330**
Serbia (6,592)

SWEDEN **31,820**
Serbia (7,907)

THE REST OF EUROPE
149,000

(All 38 European countries in this report account for **75% (269,940)** of total claims)

UNITED STATES
55,530
China (12,850)

CANADA **23,160**

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND **8,580**

JAPAN/S. KOREA **1,630**

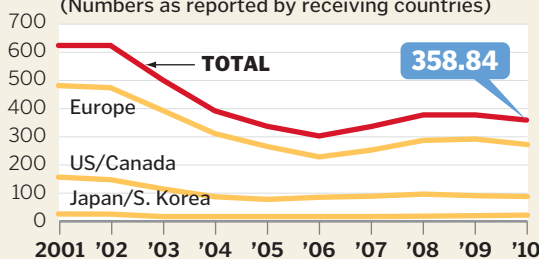


Drought and decades of violence in Somalia have forced these Somali children, and many others, to flee.

What is an asylum-seeker?

An asylum-seeker is an individual who has sought international protection and whose claim for refugee status has not yet been determined. As part of its obligation to protect refugees on its territory, the country of asylum is normally responsible for determining whether an asylum-seeker is a refugee or not.

ASYLUM-SEEKERS 2001-2010 (in '000)
(Numbers as reported by receiving countries)



SOURCE: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The data in this report is based on information available as of March 9, 2011. It covers the 38 European and six non-European states that currently provide monthly asylum statistics to UNHCR.