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<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2012/06/18/afghanistan-biggest-refugee-producer-unhcr>

Afghanistan biggest refugee producer: UNHCR

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A global humanitarian agency said 800,000 people were displaced due to turmoil in their homeland, making it one of the worst years this century.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in a recent report -- “Global Trends 2011” -- said that Afghanistan remained the biggest producer of refugees, with 2.7 million.

In total, 4.3 million people were newly displaced, with 800,000 fleeing their countries and becoming refugees, said the report.

“2011 saw suffering on an epic scale. For so many lives to have been thrown into turmoil over so short a space of time means enormous personal cost for all who were affected,” said UN’s High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres.

“We can be grateful only that the international system for protecting such people held firm for the most part and that borders stayed open. These are testing times,” added Guterres.

Around four-fifths of the world’s refugees fled to neighbouring countries, reflected in the large refugee populations seen, for example, in Pakistan (1.7 million people), Iran (886,500), Kenya (566,500) and Chad (366,500).

Among industrialised countries, Germany ranked as the largest hosting country with 571,700 refugees. South Africa was the largest recipient of individual asylum applications (107,000), a status it has held for the past four years.