

Immigration: A Scottish perspective & how Scotland supports refugees

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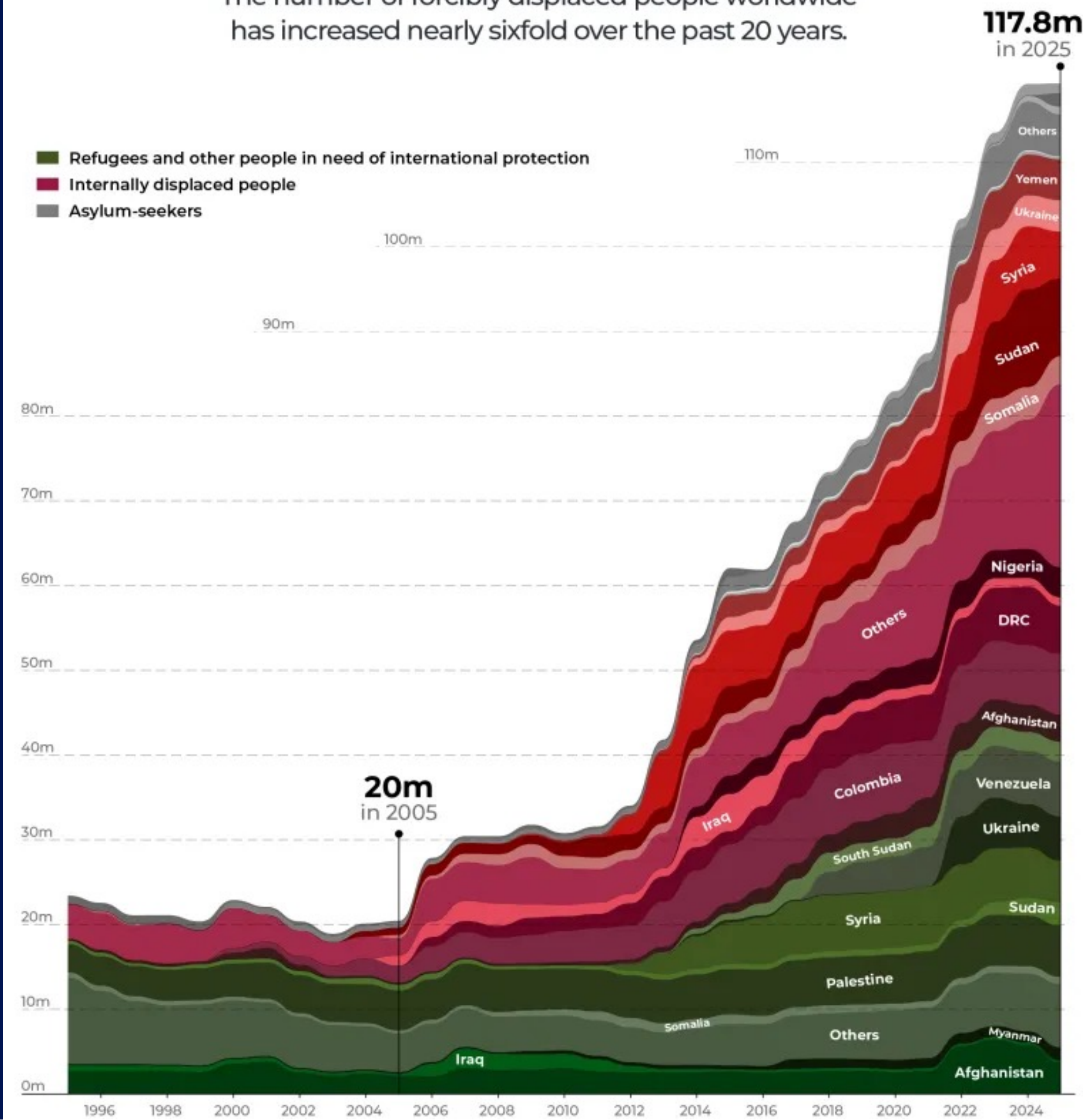


The Global Picture

- 115m+ forcibly displaced today
- Often described as a global “crisis”
- But is this historically unprecedented?

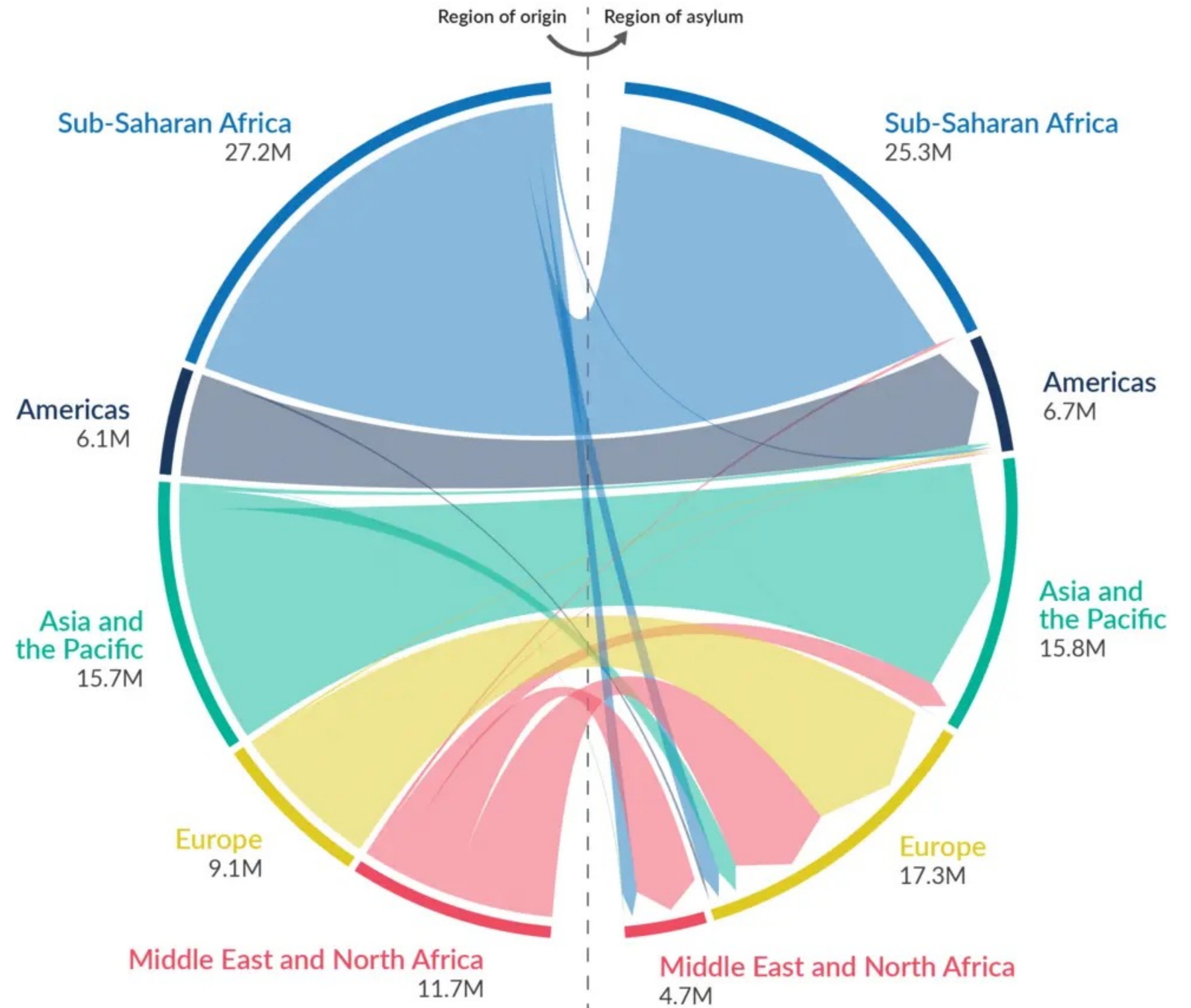
The rise of forcibly displaced people

The number of forcibly displaced people worldwide has increased nearly sixfold over the past 20 years.



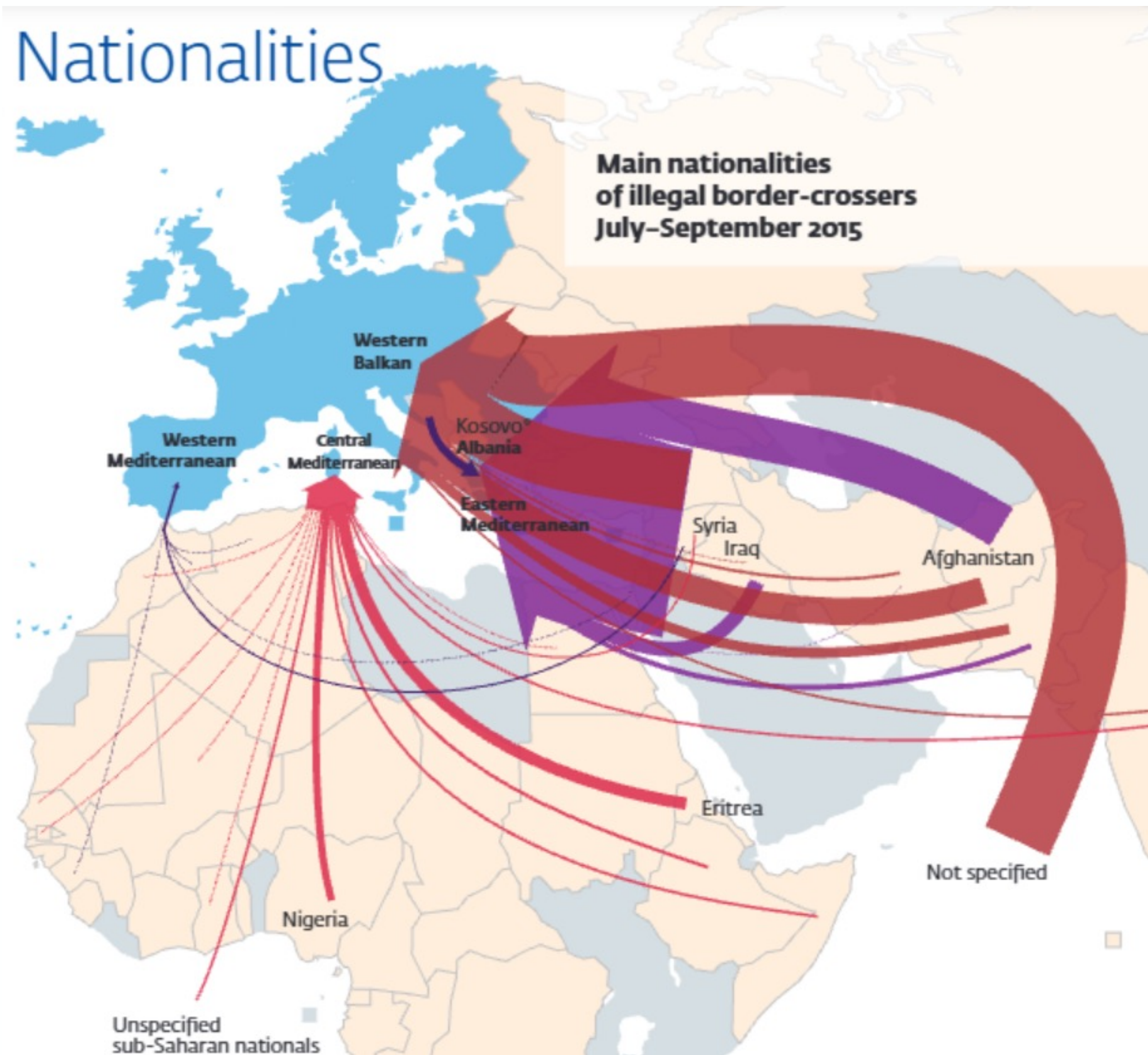
Where are the world's refugees?

- 65% live in **neighbouring countries**
- 68% hosted by **low- and middle-income countries**
- **Europe** also invests in supporting - and containing - **displacement elsewhere**



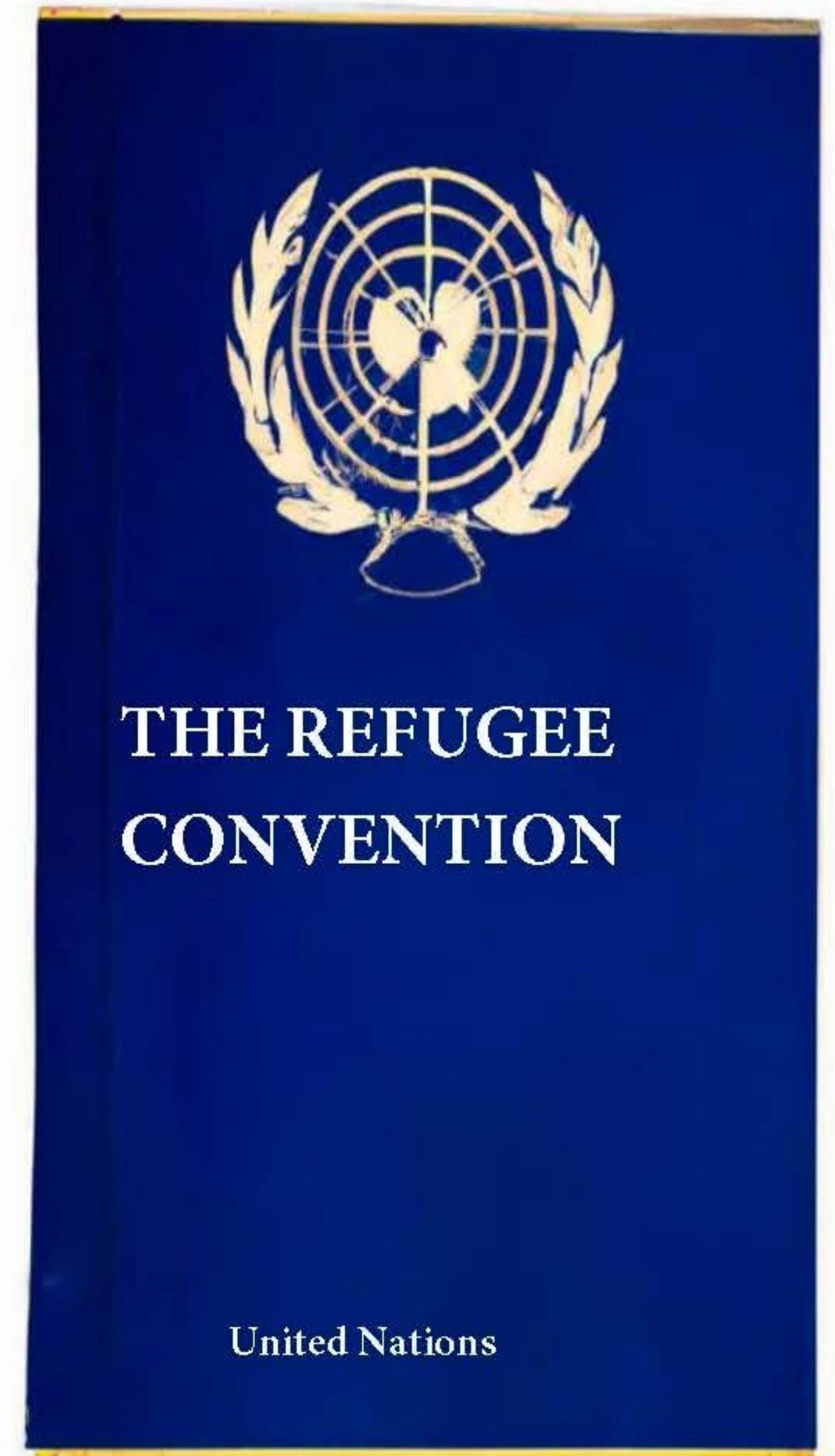
Why do people move onwards?

- “Push” and “pull” can be too simplistic
- Decisions change during the journey
- Insecurity after first displacement can drive onward movement



Can Refugees travel irregularly?

- Irregular travel ≠ not a refugee
- No Convention rule requiring asylum in the first safe country
- Separate questions: need for protection / UK responsibility



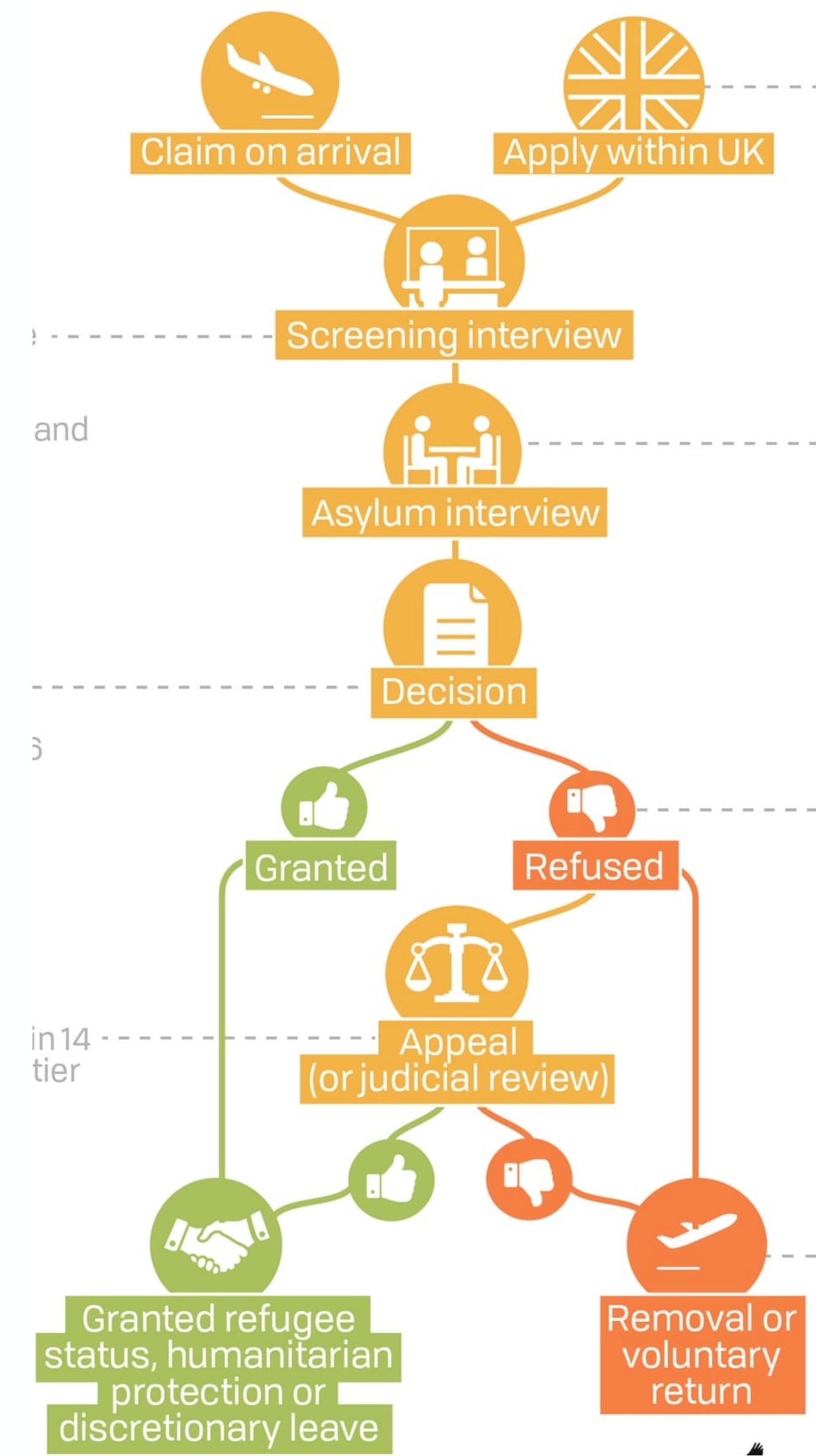
Refugee or Economic migrant?

- “Genuine refugee” vs “economic migrant” is **too neat**
- Political, economic and social motives can **overlap & change**
- Legal distinctions do not always map onto real life



What happens when someone claims asylum?

- **~101,000** people claimed asylum in 2025
- Initial decisions: **~55k granted / ~80k refused**
- Around **4 in 10** substantively decided appeals succeeded



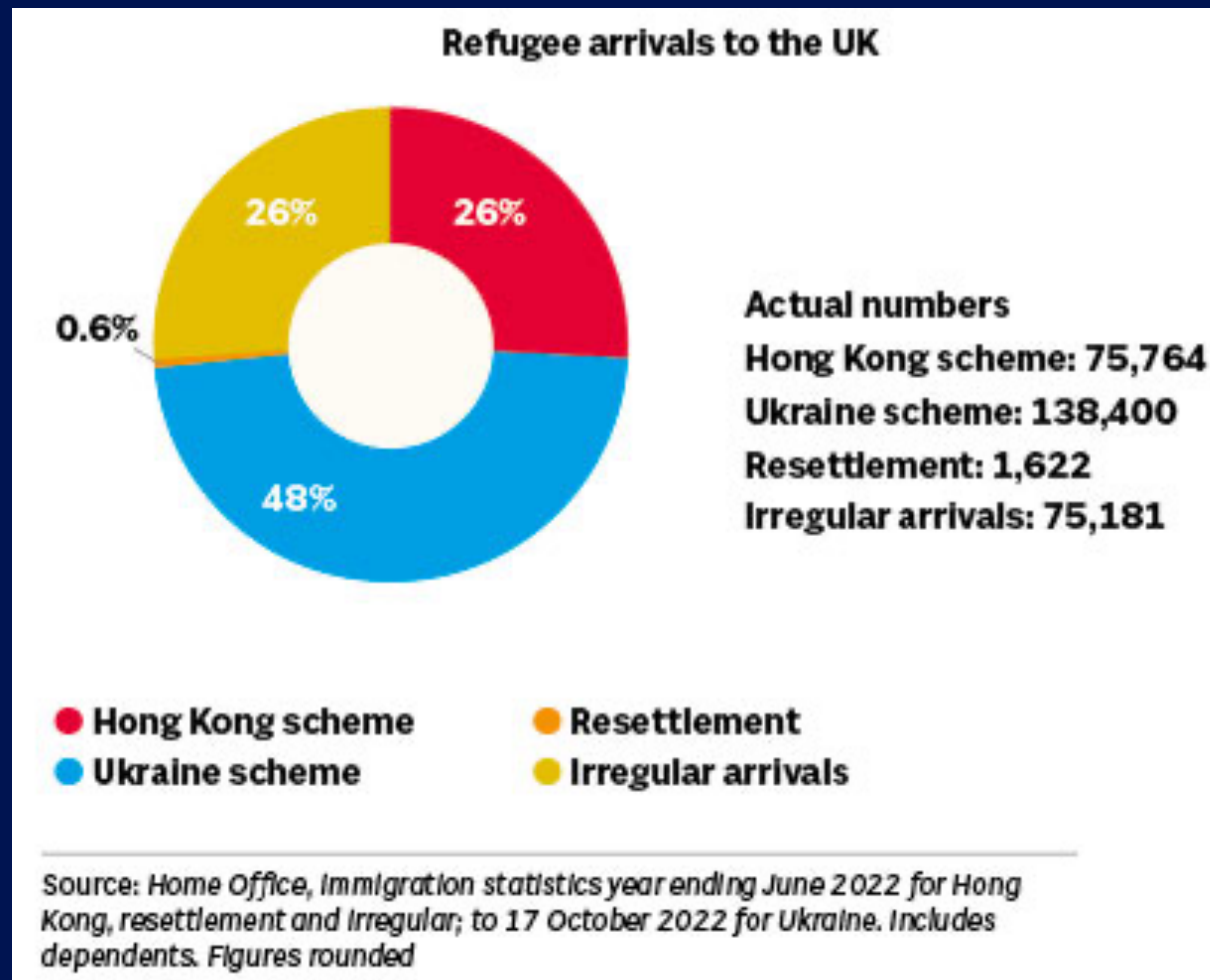
Why Hotels?

- Hotels are **contingency**, not normal accommodation
- Social Distancing
- Backlog of asylum cases
- Use peaked at **56,000 people in 2023**



Other Routes

- **Asylum:** claim protection after arriving
- **Resettlement:** selected overseas and transferred to UK
- **Ukraine:** bespoke visa routes with rights from arrival



What does this look like in Scotland?



- ~3,600 Syrian refugees resettled
- ~30,000 Homes for Ukraine arrivals linked to Scotland
- ~6,850 asylum seekers receiving Home Office support per year

New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy

- Framework supporting what integration should look like
- Integration from day one
- Integration is a two-way process

