

Indicator 10.7.4

Indicator Name, Target and Goal

Indicator 10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin

Target 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

Definition and Rationale

○ Definition

This indicator is defined as the sum of “Convention Refugees,” “Other Asylum,” and “Settled Refugees.”

(a) “Convention Refugees” is the number of persons recognized as refugees under the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as the “Immigration Control Act”).

(b) “Other Asylum” is the number of persons not recognized as refugees but permitted to reside in Japan for humanitarian reasons (those who have received special permission to stay in Japan by the Minister of Justice or permission to change their status of residence under the Immigration Control Act).

(c) “Settled Refugees” is the number of (1) Indo-Chinese refugees (those who fled to neighboring areas due to regime changes in Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia, and were permitted to reside in Japan based on the Cabinet Agreement of April 28, 1978, as well as their family members who were permitted to reside in Japan based on paragraph 3 of the Cabinet Agreement of June 17, 1980) and (2) resettled refugees (Myanmar refugees accepted from Thailand or Malaysia based on the Cabinet Agreements of December 16, 2008 and January 24, 2014). Indo-Chinese refugees are counted from 1978 to 2005 and resettled refugees are counted from 2010. Some people were accepted as “Settled Refugees” and then recognized as “Convention Refugees,” and are recorded multiple times in the total column.

○ Concepts

The Immigration Control Act prescribes the definition of “refugee” as “a

refugee who falls under the provisions of Article 1 of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (hereinafter referred to as the “Refugee Convention”) or the provisions of Article 1 of the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (hereinafter referred to as the “Protocol”)” (Article 2, item (iii)-2 of the Immigration Control Act). Refugee under the Refugee Convention and the Protocol (hereinafter referred to as a “Convention Refugees”) is defined as a “person who owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

For those who are not recognized as Convention Refugees but who need to be permitted to reside in Japan owing to a humanitarian perspective, legal systems operate whereby, for instance, special permission to stay in Japan or permission to change their status of residence is granted as an “Other Asylum” after taking into account various circumstances of each individual case. Apart from “recognition as a Convention Refugee,” protection is provided in Japan by means of this “permission to stay on humanitarian grounds.”

Also, “Settled Refugees” (Indo-Chinese refugees from 1978 to 2005, and Resettled refugees from 2010) are accepted based on Cabinet Agreement, etc., and are different from “Convention Refugees.”

○ Rationale and Interpretation

This is the general value that is regarded as the number of “Convention Refugees,” “Other Asylum” and “Settled Refugees” in Japan.

Data Sources and Collection Method

Press release “Number of refugees recognized in 2020 (Reiwa 2)” (March 31, 2021)

Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations

○ Computation Method

The total number of persons granted approval (recognized) as “Convention Refugees,” “Other Asylum” and “Settled Refugees” each year.

○ Comments and limitations

Of those people who were granted residence in Japan as Convention Refugees, etc., the number of people (population) residing in Japan and their countries of origin are not aggregated.

Data Disaggregation

By type of asylum (Convention Refugees, Other Asylum, Settled Refugees)

References

https://www.isa.go.jp/en/publications/press/07_00003.html

Custodian Ministries of Data

Immigration Services Agency of Japan, Ministry of Justice

Custodian Ministries of Related Policies

Immigration Services Agency of Japan, Ministry of Justice

International Organizations

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)