

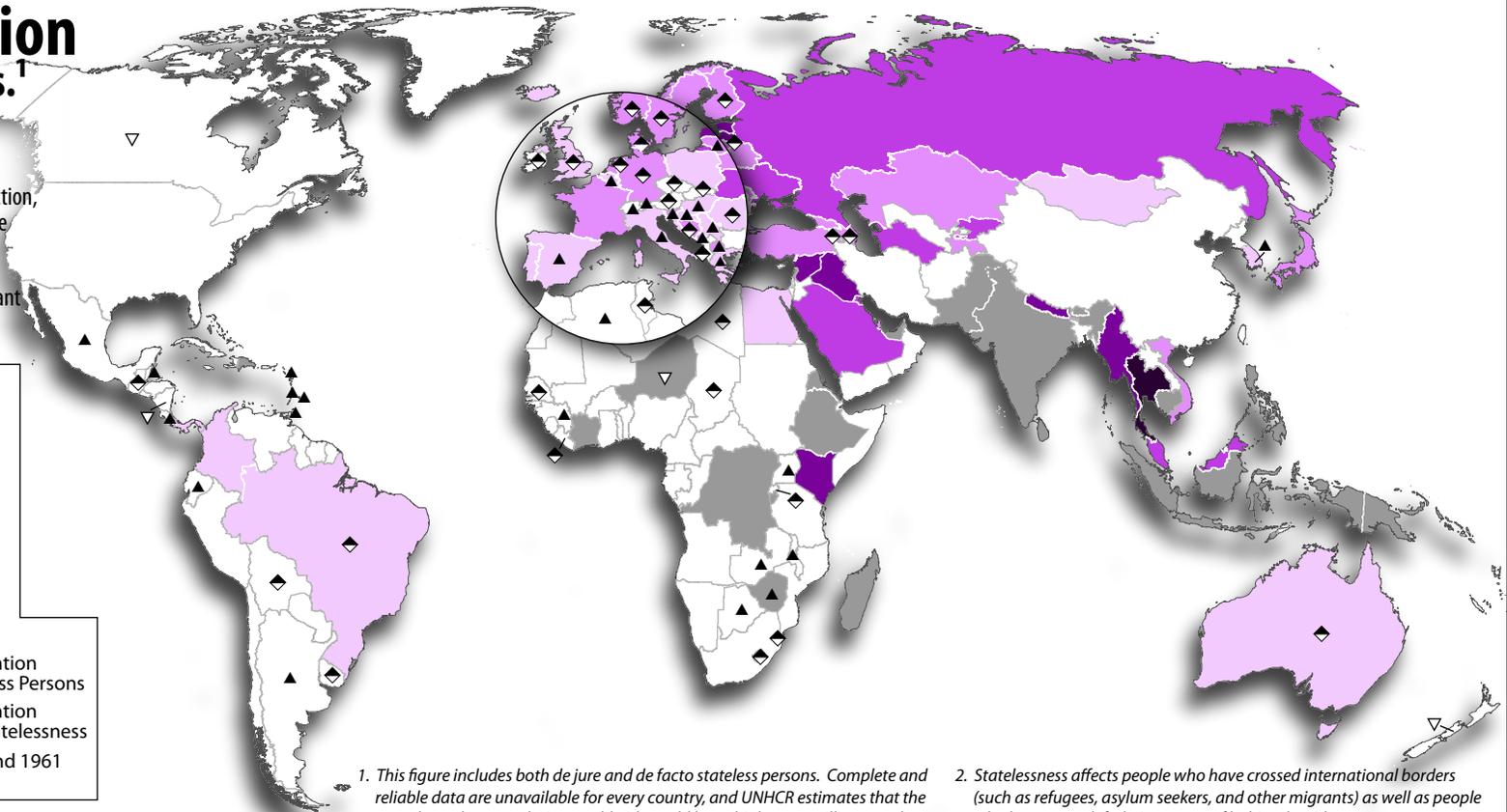
**Over 6.5 million people are stateless.<sup>1</sup>**

A stateless person is not recognized as a citizen of any country, which severely restricts their ability to access the protection, rights, and services comprised within the legal bond between a government and an individual.<sup>2</sup> As of 2009, UNHCR reported that 82 countries have significant stateless populations.

**Stateless Populations**

- No reported population
- Significant population, number undetermined
- Less than 1,000
- 1,001 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 100,000
- 100,001 - 1,000,000
- Over 1,000,000

- ▲ States party to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
- ▼ States party to the 1961 Convention Relating to the Reduction of Statelessness
- ◆ States party to both the 1954 and 1961 Conventions



1. This figure includes both de jure and de facto stateless persons. Complete and reliable data are unavailable for every country, and UNHCR estimates that the actual stateless population worldwide could be as high as 12 million people.

2. Statelessness affects people who have crossed international borders (such as refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants) as well as people who have never left their country of habitual residence.

**The 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons**

Obligates states party to the convention to accord stateless persons certain rights and treatment, including: freedom from discrimination, freedom of religion, the ability to obtain property, and access to court systems, employment, and education. States party to the convention must provide documentation to stateless people.

**The 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness**

Creates a framework for avoiding statelessness and obligates states party to the convention to prevent statelessness through nationality laws and practices. States party to the convention must also prevent statelessness among children and protect people against loss of nationality later in life.

**People may become stateless when:**

- National laws restrict the right of women to pass their nationality on to their children.
- National laws restrict the transfer of citizenship to children born while in transit or out of wedlock.
- Marriage and/or divorce between couples of different nationalities change the individuals' citizenship status.
- National law supports targeted discrimination against minorities or restricts citizenship to certain groups.
- Official records are destroyed or lost.
- Hospitals and other places of birth fail to properly register newborns.
- Political changes and/or transfers of territory alter the nationality status of citizens of the former state(s).
- Administrative oversights, procedural problems, or conflicting national laws hinder the ability of states to grant citizenship.
- Individuals lack the financial means to cover the costs of registration and birth certificates.
- Individuals voluntarily renounce their nationality without first acquiring another.
- Customs and traditional attitudes discourage individuals to register births.