asylum flows, refugee status determination and refugee resettlement in industrialized countries. Where possible, data are broken down by sex and age. Definitions and methodological considerations are also being discussed. One of the main aims of the book is to contribute to informed policy making and public debate in the area of forced migration, asylum and burden sharing.

Recent areas of increased statistical work include establishing credible statistical data at the camp level and measuring the quality of operations through indicators. In 2004, the Office will introduce a global strategy to measure and collect operational indicators. This information will assist UNHCR not only in monitoring and improving its refugee protection and assistance programmes, but also in reporting on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for populations of its concern.

Because the origin of refugees and asylum-seekers is generally well documented, the data are very useful for country or origin analysis and identifying the size and basic characteristics of 'diaspora' who left their country for refugee related reasons.

UNHCR continues to analyze monthly asylum trends in industrialized countries by detailed origin. Currently, the system covers 29 countries.

The Office is actively engaged in implementing the revised *UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*, particularly where it concerns statistics on asylum. At the national level, UNHCR offices work continuously with Governments to obtain reliable and comparable statistics. International activities, such as the activities of the European Union to strengthen asylum and migration statistics, are also supported.

Refugee registration remains a priority of the High Commissioner[5]. In September 2003, the Office issued a handbook for registration with procedures and standards for registration, documentation and data management[6]. In addition, the Office continues to support refugee registration through missions, direct support to operations and the development of new tools. It is expected that major new software systems will be deployed to field operations starting in the second semester of 2004.

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[5] See also document A/AC.96/980, page 5.

[6] UNHCR Handbook for Registration: Procedures and Standards for Registration, Population Data Management and Documentation, UNHCR Geneva, September 2003 (provisional release).