Top 10 Refugee Hot Spots

1. Afghanistan—Some 1.8 million Afghan refugees repatriated following the Taliban’s fall. Inadequate security and assistance forced many returnees into camps for displaced people.

2. Angola—Following the end of a decades-long civil war, some 900,000 Angolans, mostly internally displaced persons, returned almost unnoticed—many to areas where little help was available.

3. Australia—Draconian measures prevented the arrival by boat of all but one asylum seeker in 2002 (about 3,700 asylum seekers arrived by boat in 2001).

4. Burundi—Attacks by government soldiers and opposition rebels uprooted some 1 million Burundians.

5. China—The Chinese authorities forcibly returned tens of thousands of North Koreans—some 1,000 per day in December alone—to possible imprisonment or even death in North Korea.

6. Colombia—Conflict and widespread human rights violations newly displaced more than 400,000 Colombians; the total uprooted Colombian population was more than 2.5 million.

7. Denmark—New laws affecting refugees and immigrants—including barring asylum seekers from marrying while their claims are pending—are among the strictest in the world.

8. United States—In the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, the United States resettled the lowest number of refugees (27,100) since 1980 (the previous low was 68,400 in 2001). The United States also detained hundreds of Haitians, impairing their ability to apply for asylum.

9. West Africa—New and continuing conflicts displaced 500,000 to 700,000 residents of Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, and Nigeria. Throughout Africa, more than 2.9 million people became newly displaced.

10. West Bank—An Israeli army assault on Jenin refugee camp left 6,000 Palestinian refugees homeless.