



East Asia and Pacific

Australia
Cambodia
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Indonesia
Japan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Mongolia
Myanmar
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Singapore
South Pacific States
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Viet Nam

Working environment

There was evidence of greater tolerance of refugees and awareness of their needs in Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and the South Pacific in 2006. UNHCR also managed to raise funds in the region by presenting its needs to governments, civil society groups and the general public.

A second tripartite technical meeting between Cambodia, Viet Nam and UNHCR in August 2006 reviewed progress arising from the Memorandum of Understanding on the *Montagnards*. At the time of writing, durable solutions had been achieved for almost all the 750 *Montagnards* specifically referred to under the Memorandum. Only 15 of this original group — ten of whom are scheduled for resettlement — remain in Cambodia. UNHCR's monitoring missions have covered more than 70 per cent of the returnees to Viet Nam.

In China, UNHCR continues to seek durable solutions for individual refugees, principally through resettlement. It also advocates the granting of nationality to Indo-Chinese refugees and their children in recognition of their successful integration into Chinese society over the last 25 years.

In Myanmar, thousands of residents of northern and western Kayin State, Toung Oo Township in Bago Division and parts of Kayah State have been forced to flee as a result of intense military activity between the Myanmar Government and the Karen National Union (KNU), despite an informal ceasefire agreement in 2003.

The number of displaced people has continued to rise, with more than 3,000 fleeing to Thailand.

UNHCR has been able to conduct its activities in the Northern Rakhine State without hindrance and in April 2006 signed an agreement with the Ministry of Border Areas and National Races. This provides a legal basis for UNHCR's presence and activities in south-eastern Myanmar.

Strategy

UNHCR's plans for 2006-2008 focus on protection. Region-wide initiatives at the national level aim to widen the humanitarian space for refugees and others of concern; improve the treatment of asylum-seekers and refugees; build national asylum capacity; address statelessness; and protect those displaced within their country by conflict. Efforts are under way to expand the use of resettlement as a durable solution and encourage refugee self-reliance in protracted refugee situations.

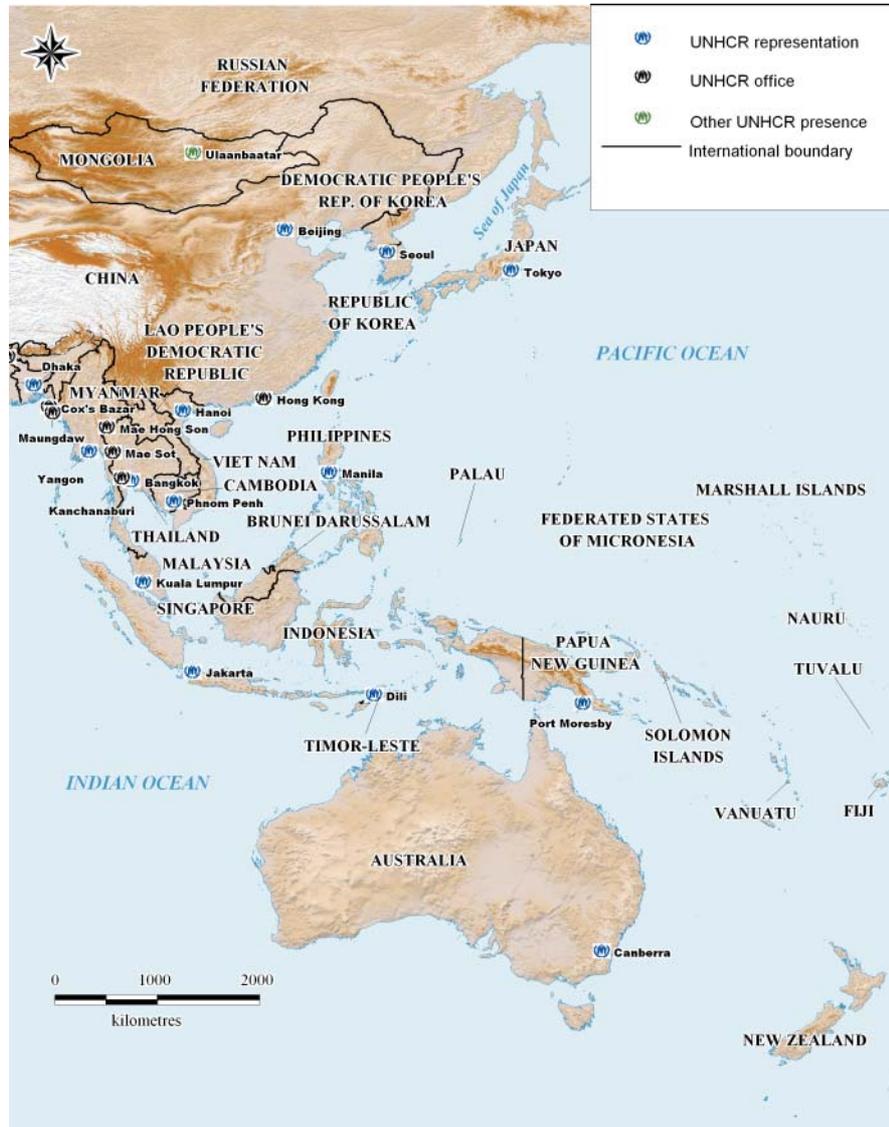
Repatriation is also part of the overall strategy to resolve protracted refugee situations. UNHCR will speak in regional forums on issues related to forced displacement (within a broader migration context) and will work to strengthen partnerships.

Additionally, UNHCR offices in the region, particularly in Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Malaysia, will create more public awareness of refugee issues and UNHCR's work, while seeking financial support.

Constraints

In China, protection concerns include the lack of appropriate national refugee regulations, and the legal status of North Koreans; in particular, the need to prevent forced deportations and to create humanitarian space.

The working environment remains seriously constrained for humanitarian actors in Myanmar. Even though UNHCR now has a legal basis to operate in south-eastern Myanmar, access to areas most affected by recent displacement remains restricted.



Operations

Operations in **Thailand** are presented in a separate chapter.

UNHCR protection activities in **Australia, New Zealand** and the **South Pacific States** will include monitoring of the implementation of the 1951 Refugee Convention. The Office will also encourage the eight States in the South Pacific that have not yet signed the Convention to do so, and promote the enactment of legislation and satisfactory national practice in Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Attitudes to asylum will be improved through dialogue, parliamentary briefings, discussion papers and workshops. The generous resettlement programmes of Australia and New Zealand will be used for protection purposes.

In **Cambodia**, UNHCR will continue to operate under the framework of the above-mentioned Memorandum of Understanding to provide solutions for the *Montagnards*, essentially through resettlement and repatriation. The Office will also assist the Government to establish the necessary framework for refugee protection and asylum.



In Timor-Leste UNHCR provided shelter and non-food relief items and set up a technical mobile team to improve living conditions in makeshift IDP camps. *UNHCR / N. Ng*

In the meantime, UNHCR will continue to conduct refugee status determination (RSD), assist needy refugees and seek solutions for the urban refugees who have been in the country for many years.

UNHCR will urge the Government of the **Hong Kong SAR (China)** to adopt refugee regulations, building on its commitment to human rights and the rule of law. The Office will push for the greater involvement of the local authorities in the assessment of asylum claims. UNHCR will continue RSD, seek durable solutions and provide assistance to refugees in need. In May 2006 the Hong Kong SAR Government began providing basic assistance to the most vulnerable asylum-seekers. For its part, UNHCR will provide basic financial assistance to refugees until the Government agrees to do so.

UNHCR will support **Indonesia's** accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention, which is planned for 2008. The Office will focus on building a constituency of interlocutors and developing the ability of government bodies to deal with refugee issues. It will reach out to national and regional institutions and international agencies involved in general migration and displacement issues. In the absence of national refugee legislation, and pending durable solutions, UNHCR will protect and assist urban refugees and others of concern. Furthermore, UNHCR

will help strengthen ASEAN's Committee on Disaster Management. Public information activities will raise awareness of refugee matters.

In **Japan**, UNHCR will assist the authorities to strengthen asylum procedures envisaged in national legislation. The Office will cooperate with the Ministry of Justice to monitor RSD procedures. It will support legal counselling for *bona fide* refugees to improve their chances of obtaining asylum. The Office will also strengthen its monitoring and capacity-building activities to promote fair asylum procedures, adequate reception arrangements for asylum-seekers, alternatives to detention, complementary forms of protection, and the creation of a resettlement programme.

In the **Republic of Korea**, UNHCR continues to assist the Government to implement the 1951 Refugee Convention and establish a national asylum system. The Office aims to improve the country's asylum regime in close cooperation with concerned ministries. It will press for the country's accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In partnership with national NGOs it will establish a safety network for vulnerable groups.

In the **Macao SAR (China)**, which adopted new asylum legislation in 2004, the Office will continue to support the authorities develop their capacity to address asylum issues.

Protection in the region will be strengthened and rationalized, particularly with regard to RSD, legal advice, the development of coherent strategies and training. These activities will be supported by the Regional Protection Hub based in Kuala Lumpur, **Malaysia**. The achievements of previous years with regard to asylum space will be consolidated. Close cooperation will be sought with national authorities, non-governmental partners and refugee communities.

Resettlement opportunities will be found for those with no prospect of attaining durable solutions in Malaysia. UNHCR will continue RSD activities and promote responsible migration management. Partnerships with local actors will be important in the legal arena and in the provision of shelter, health care, education, employment, vocational training and community services.

In **Mongolia**, UNHCR continues to monitor the well-being and protection of asylum-seekers. Though there was little progress towards a country agreement or accession to the 1951 Convention, UNHCR will continue to help the Government establish asylum mechanisms and domestic legislation in line with the Convention.

In **Myanmar**, UNHCR will work towards the voluntary repatriation of refugees in Bangladesh and assist returnees with their initial re-establishment in Northern Rakhine State. The Office will regularly monitor returnees as well as the entire stateless population in the state to mitigate the likelihood of any renewed outflow. In particular, the Office will promote the refugees' systematic registration and provision of personal documents as a first step towards legal status.

UNHCR will design its assistance to empower beneficiaries and strengthen their coping mechanisms. These efforts will include literacy in the language of Myanmar to facilitate communication and integration. The Office will disseminate information on reproductive health practices and support community centres for women, elderly persons and children. Where possible, UNHCR will provide logistical support to the wider humanitarian community in the area.

UNHCR will establish a roving presence in south-eastern Myanmar, with a field unit in Mawlamyine, to collect and analyse data in order to plan community-based responses. The Office will expand its microprojects with an emphasis on community mobilization. The aim is to improve basic services in communities affected by displacement.

In **Papua New Guinea**, local integration will be sought for refugees from the Indonesian province of Papua. In 2007 this programme will be supported by humanitarian assistance and community development activities such as training in skills, small-scale microcredit initiatives and interventions to ensure access to basic health and education. The national and provincial governments will be helped to prepare to respond to any influx, while local officials will be made more aware of refugee issues.

The Government is expected to make progress in developing and implementing a protection regime, withdrawing seven reservations to the 1951 Refugee Convention. It is also expected to enact the revised Migration Act and establish an effective system to issue residence permits to all West Papuan adults. UNHCR will help the Government to continue issuing birth certificates to all refugee children born in the country to reduce their risk of statelessness.

In the **Philippines**, durable solutions will be achieved for a number of urban refugees, primarily through naturalization, the granting of permanent residence and resettlement. UNHCR will provide legal aid and some financial assistance to ensure the living standards and fulfil the protection needs of the persons of concern.

An operational capacity for timely refugee status determination and resettlement activities will be maintained, as required by the national context in **Singapore**, by an implementing partner overseen by the Regional Representation in Jakarta.

Timor-Leste will be assisted to upgrade its capacity to conduct RSD in accordance with international standards. These activities were suspended for most of 2006 due to the civil and political unrest in the country, which caused massive displacement. In the meantime, the daily needs of refugees will be met by UNHCR. The Office will also contribute to the coordinated inter-agency response to those recently displaced within the country, should this intervention be warranted in 2007.

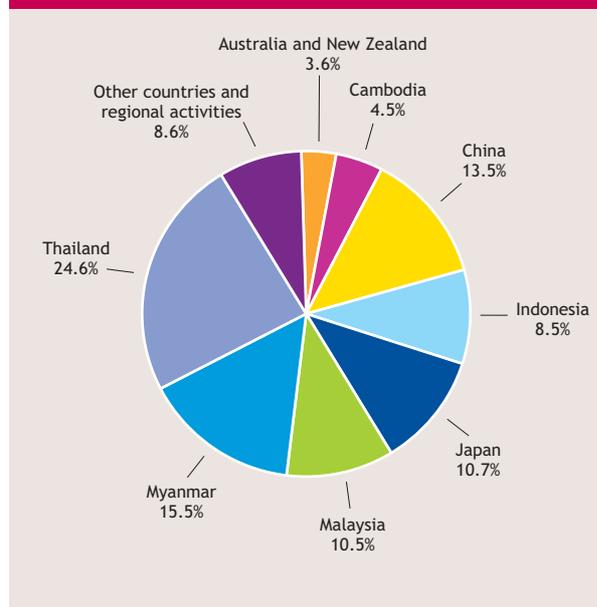
In **Viet Nam**, UNHCR will continue visits to the returnee areas in the Central Highlands, aiming at 100 per cent coverage of the returnees. The Office will fund microprojects to improve the infrastructure in returnee areas. It will also liaise with the host country and major resettlement countries about possibly expanding the resettlement of *Montagnards* directly from Viet Nam. UNHCR will provide training on international refugee law for national and provincial officials. Some 2,360 stateless Cambodian refugees continue to live in camps set up by UNHCR in the late 1970s in southern Viet Nam. As there are no prospects of finding durable solutions through repatriation or resettlement for these people, they remain in a vulnerable situation.

Budget (USD)

Country	Annual Programme Budget	
	2006	2007
Australia and New Zealand	1,121,818	1,096,908
Cambodia	1,391,801	1,054,371
China	4,212,665	3,676,243
Indonesia	2,659,546	2,107,133
Japan	3,352,845	3,188,257
Malaysia	3,268,264	3,931,313
Mongolia	111,846	131,710
Myanmar	4,845,122	4,304,946
Papua New Guinea	465,732	462,600
Philippines	219,395	196,845
Republic of Korea	861,340	920,154
Singapore	46,000	43,800
Thailand	7,665,945	9,785,736
Timor-Leste	308,888	218,656
Viet Nam	443,937	255,722
Regional activities ¹	230,000	359,622
Total	31,205,144	31,734,016

¹ Includes general protection activities, dissemination of refugee law, transport and repatriation activities for Indo-Chinese refugees.

2006 Annual Programme Budget by country



2007 Annual Programme Budget by country

