



East Asia and the 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
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Viet Nam

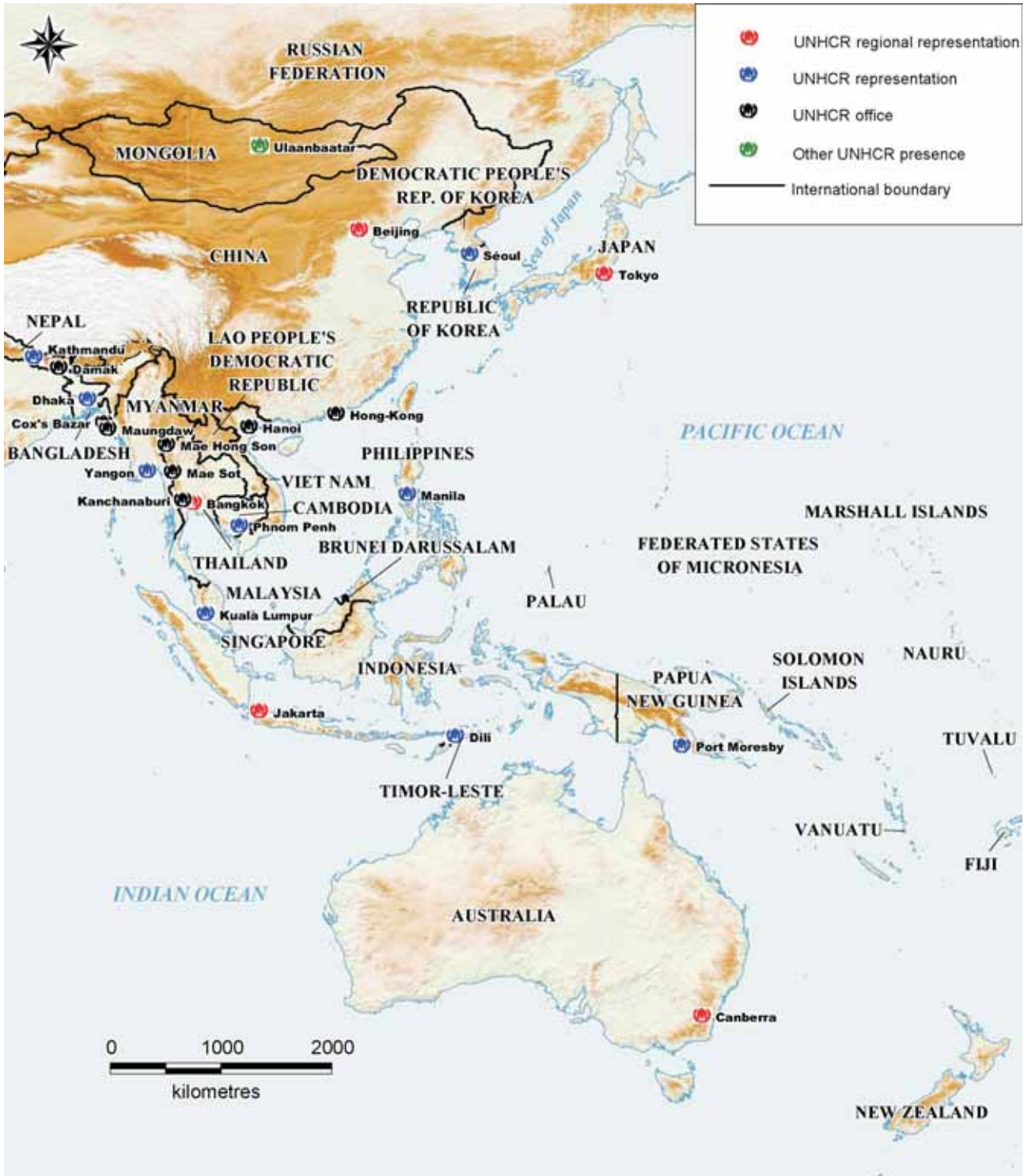
Working environment

The 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections in Timor-Leste raised hopes for a return to political stability from the unsettled conditions that preceded the poll. The new Government put the search for durable solutions for the approximately 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) high on its agenda. UNHCR phased out its involvement with IDPs in Timor-Leste, but continues to assist the Government to build its capacity to deal with refugee matters.

In Indonesia, the authorities are cooperating with UNHCR in preparation for the country's accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. A series of measures are being undertaken in order to build national capacity as well as to supplement UNHCR's resources with the aim of reaching this objective by 2009.

In China, the *de facto* local integration of some 300,000 Indo-Chinese refugees appears to be complete. Most of these refugees, who began arriving in the country in the early 1980s, settled in six southern provinces. Today they enjoy living standards that are on par with the local population and benefit from similar access to health care, education and employment.

UNHCR signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2005 with Viet Nam and Cambodia on the Montagnards. Both Cambodia and Viet Nam are implementing the MOU in a flexible and



constructive manner. In Viet Nam, UNHCR continues to conduct regular monitoring missions to returnee areas in the Central Highlands.

In Myanmar, UNHCR is expanding its activities, focusing mainly on the stateless population in Northern Rakhine State. The Office is also helping people and communities affected by displacement in Myanmar's south-eastern region.

With illegal immigration a major concern for Thailand, UNHCR and the Thai authorities are exploring ways to

conduct refugee status determination (RSD) in the context of mixed migratory movements. Meanwhile, the authorities have relocated some 8,000 Lao Hmong, to whom UNHCR does not have access, to a temporary camp. Thai officials will screen the group before deciding on their future. In the absence of prospects for voluntary repatriation, resettlement remains a viable durable solution for refugees from Myanmar. There has been considerable progress in the camps in registration, distribution of identity cards and the administration of justice.

Strategy

UNHCR's regional protection hub in Kuala Lumpur will continue to advise and support offices in the region. It will engage in regional advocacy, capacity building, training and promotional activities. Its protection strategies will pay particular attention to age and gender equity, mixed flows, RSD, documentation and standards of treatment. The Hub will also try to persuade those countries that have not yet acceded to the Refugee Convention and its Protocol to do so.

On statelessness, UNHCR's efforts are geared towards prevention and mitigation. On the one hand, it will seek to address the causes of the phenomenon, as in Cambodia and Viet Nam; on the other, it will promote the rights and well-being of the stateless populations, as in Myanmar. UNHCR offices in Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Hong Kong SAR, China, will promote public understanding of refugee issues and the asylum/migration nexus. The offices will also seek to raise funds from both the public and private sectors.

Constraints

The Thai authorities' growing concern over mixed migratory movements has led to the implementation of restrictive policies that have reduced asylum space.

The work of UNHCR and its partners in Myanmar is affected by the inadequacy of services in key sectors such as health and education.

China, although a signatory to the 1951 Convention, has yet to adopt national legislation or mechanisms to deal with asylum claims. Refugees are allowed to stay in the country until they are resettled to a third country through the Office, as local integration is not permitted.

Operations

UNHCR's programmes in **Myanmar** and **Thailand** are described in separate chapters.

UNHCR will continue monitoring the implementation of the 1951 Refugee Convention in **Australia** and **New Zealand**. In the **South Pacific**, the Office will encourage States that have not acceded to the Refugee Convention to do so. The Office will also promote the enactment of refugee-friendly laws and practices in the countries that are already parties to the Convention: Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

Awareness-raising activities targeting governments, the media and the general public should improve attitudes towards refugees and asylum-seekers in the region.

In **China**, UNHCR will continue to advocate for refugees' self-reliance. The Office will try to ensure that refugees are offered adequate services in accommodation, education, health care and social counselling. UNHCR will help China to prepare and implement national refugee legislation that fully complies with international refugee law.

In the Hong Kong SAR (China), UNHCR will advocate for the adoption of refugee regulations in line with the Government's commitment to human rights and the rule of law. Though the authorities respect the principle of *non-refoulement*, asylum-seekers are still subject to arrest and detention. UNHCR, while undertaking RSD and helping refugees in need, will work closely with the Government and civil society in the search for durable solutions.

With the end of its involvement in the inter-agency tsunami response, UNHCR will focus on building **Indonesia's** capacity to manage refugee and asylum issues to prepare for its accession to the international refugee instruments by 2009. In the absence of national refugee legislation and procedures, UNHCR will be the primary provider of protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in Indonesia, and the Office will seek humanitarian solutions for Iraqis and Afghans stranded in the country. The Office's protection capacity will be expanded to deal with asylum-seekers in Singapore and Brunei Darussalam.

In **Japan**, UNHCR will assist the authorities to improve the asylum system, as envisaged in the revision of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act. The Office will continue to monitor RSD procedures and see that asylum-seekers receive legal counselling. It will promote fair asylum procedures in terms of reception arrangements, alternatives to detention and complementary forms of protection. The Office will also aim to further engage the Government in the development of a resettlement programme.

In **Malaysia**, UNHCR's activities will include registration, outreach to persons of concern, RSD, protection (with special attention given to women and children at risk), advocacy and public information. The Office will cultivate the network of refugee support groups in Malaysia, including trade unions, the Bar Council, the Chamber of Commerce, academia and NGOs. It will work to build a strong partnership with the Migration and Refugee Working Group, which will lobby for change in the migration and refugee policies of the



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Malaysia was the first Asian country to launch UNHCR's new biometric registration system which integrates fingerprint identification with UNHCR's database system, *proGres*.

country. Most vulnerable refugees will continue to receive material, health and education assistance. Preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence will remain central to UNHCR's operations in Malaysia.

As the scope for long-term solutions in Malaysia is limited, UNHCR will promote group-based temporary local solutions with the Government, mainly for the Rohingyas from Myanmar. UNHCR will also seek resettlement solutions for the remaining refugees who have no links to Malaysia.

In **Papua New Guinea**, UNHCR will strive to protect and assist refugees from Indonesia, in addition to a small group of urban refugees. Helping the Government to issue birth certificates to all refugee children will reduce the risk of statelessness and ensure access to health care and education. In coordination with other stakeholders, UNHCR will focus on fine-tuning and implementing a strategy to resolve protracted refugee situations. The Office will improve the infrastructure in the East Awin settlements, reduce vulnerability among people of concern, facilitate economic opportunities and promote self-reliance. Other agencies will be encouraged to implement projects to address the needs of refugees under the common UN programme for 2008-2012.

In the **Philippines**, UNHCR will pursue naturalization and permanent residence as durable solutions for a number of urban refugees. It will provide legal advice and some financial assistance to ensure the protection and living standards of the people of concern.

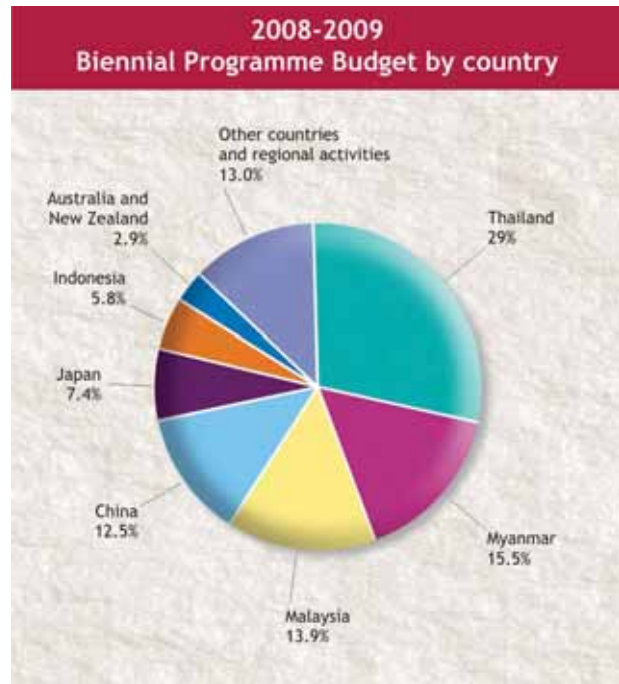
In the **Republic of Korea**, UNHCR helps the Government to implement the 1951 Refugee Convention and strengthen its national asylum system. The Office works closely with concerned ministries and the National Human Rights Commission. In partnership with national NGOs, UNHCR supports a coordinated local safety network for vulnerable groups. The Office will press for the country's accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and will continue its advocacy efforts to raise public support for refugee rights.

With the end of its involvement in the IDP situation in **Timor-Leste**, UNHCR will focus on enhancing the capacity of the Government to conduct RSD and deal with refugees and asylum-seekers in accordance with international standards.

In **Cambodia**, UNHCR will implement the Memorandum of Understanding on the Montagnards. Despite being a signatory to the 1951 Convention,

Cambodia has yet to adopt national legislation pertaining to refugees. In the absence of appropriate structures or procedures in the country, UNHCR will undertake RSD for all asylum-seekers. It will also strengthen its partnerships with the legal community and civil society, and join multilateral efforts to find solutions to statelessness, birth registration and documentation.

In **Viet Nam**, UNHCR will continue its monitoring activities in the Central Highlands. It will also work to fulfil its mandate to reduce statelessness and seek revisions in Viet Nam's nationality law. In this context, the Office will implement micro-projects to facilitate returnee reintegration and support local communities. It will pursue the naturalization of Cambodian refugees by providing technical support to government authorities. Furthermore, through its capacity-building activities, it will promote a better understanding of refugee law and rights among national authorities.



Budget (USD)			
Country	Annual Programme Budget		
	2007	2008	2009
Australia and New Zealand	1,096,908	1,177,900	1,181,900
Cambodia	1,054,371	968,563	1,080,267
China	3,676,243	4,771,097	5,424,918
Indonesia	2,107,133	2,203,963	2,481,808
Japan	3,188,257	2,958,835	3,068,457
Malaysia	3,931,313	5,820,082	5,506,941
Mongolia	131,710	115,948	215,948
Myanmar	4,304,946	6,175,264	6,463,400
Papua New Guinea	462,600	1,008,398	986,898
Philippines	196,845	201,261	198,345
Republic of Korea	920,154	1,001,976	1,174,158
Singapore	43,800	0	0
Thailand	9,785,736	11,580,394	12,010,847
Timor-Leste	218,656	275,978	275,978
Viet Nam	255,722	343,062	493,062
Regional activities ¹	359,622	1,089,841	1,171,965
Total	31,734,016	39,692,562	41,734,892

¹ Includes protection activities, dissemination of refugee law, transport and repatriation activities for Indochinese refugees.