



## HIGHLIGHTS

**523,592**

Refugees and asylum-seekers

**2,361**

Identified unaccompanied minors

**1,393,736**

Stateless persons

**20,000**

Estimated irregular maritime departures in 2014

### Population of concern

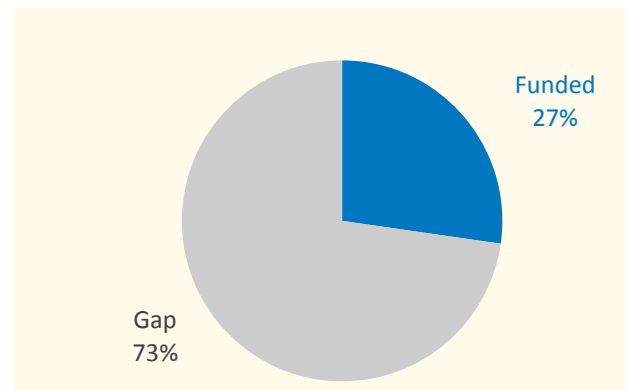
A total of **2.7 million** people of concern including **1.4 million** stateless and over **700,000** internally displaced.

#### By country of origin

Country	Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers
Myanmar	500,364
Sri Lanka	4,786
Afghanistan	4,282
Pakistan	3,077
Others	11,083
<b>Total</b>	<b>523,592</b>

### Funding

**USD 159.1 million** requested



### UNHCR Presence

#### Staff:

301 Regular national staff

115 Regular international staff

#### Geographical coverage:

Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

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- Cooperation with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF), and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process).
- Collaborating with the Bali Process' Regional Support Office (RSO) based in Bangkok, Thailand, to develop and implement projects that address the protection and humanitarian needs of people on the move in the region. The Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) has been welcomed by the Bali Process as an effective tool to address irregular movements.
- Strengthening partnerships with regional institutions such as the ASEAN human rights mechanisms, civil society organizations, and other UN and international agencies.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

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### Protection

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- Promoting and, as possible, providing for sufficient protection space in the region for persons of concern, through development of policies covering registration, refugee status determination, comprehensive solutions, and alternative strategies where appropriate, such as temporary protection. Ensuring that such initiatives are implemented in a harmonized manner by mandate operations and in collaboration with governments across the region, while paying particular attention to children, women and others with specific needs.
- Advising country operations in the development of policies and procedures to ensure the integrity of processes in carrying out UNHCR's mandate in the region to provide international protection to persons of concern.
- Providing capacity building, technical support and expertise to national asylum authorities in countries party to the Refugee Convention.
- Promoting alternatives to immigration detention of persons of concern through engaging with stakeholders to identify and support expansion of good practices and to raise awareness among affected communities. Pursuing particular activities, such as the development of a multi-media campaign, for the elimination of the immigration detention of children. Where immigration detention continues or has been unavoidable, engaging with governments and building networks to ensure access to persons of concern to monitor that the conditions meet international standards.

### Durable Solutions

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- Developing policies that promote a range of comprehensive solutions to maximize the protection of persons of concern while paying particular attention to alternative strategies where appropriate, such as labour options for refugees and effective livelihood opportunities for refugees in urban settings.
- Coordinating and providing support to country operations in pursuing resettlement for refugees where needed, particularly as a protection tool, with 10,899 resettlement submissions and 7,818 resettlement departures from the region between January and July 2014.

### Statelessness

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- Promoting and facilitating the creation of a network of national civil registrars with a focus on ASEAN countries, including a South-East Asia sub-regional group, to exchange and promote good practices in civil registration, including birth registration.
- As an organizing partner of the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, promoting the civil registration of persons of concern, particularly children and women.
- Supporting country offices in the development of programmes that aim to help stateless persons resolve their situation, including through the research of birth registration systems and the nationality laws in key countries.

### Irregular Maritime Movements

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- Promoting protection-sensitive initiatives to respond to irregular mixed movements of people as outlined in the RCF, which provides practical solutions to address issues related to refugees, asylum-seekers and others who are on the move and may be vulnerable or have specific needs.

- Interviewing persons of concern who have travelled irregularly by sea and gathering information on the routes, methods and conditions of irregular maritime movements – the vast majority of which originate from the Bangladesh-Myanmar border area – in order to map out the risks involved and responses by stakeholders to ensure that those in need of protection and humanitarian assistance are helped.

### Health, Food Security and Nutrition

- Providing technical support to country operations by reviewing and explaining guidelines (e.g. medical referrals), advising on specific projects (e.g. health insurance for urban refugees), conducting joint field assessments, and making recommendations to improve the response to medical issues affecting people of concern (e.g. beriberi in southern Thailand and Malaysia).
- Conducting workshops for field staff in the region on specific health issues such as mental health and psycho-social support, which are aimed at improving the quality of health assistance programmes.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- An innovative training method on business and entrepreneurship has been rolled out in the region. Pilot training programmes in Cambodia and Malaysia have empowered refugee entrepreneurs from the Vietnamese, Myanmar, Somali, Afghan, and Syrian communities. The Community-Based Enterprise Development tools (cb-tools.org), developed by ILO Enterprise team for South-East Asia, call on participants to facilitate the training programmes themselves, and to learn and exchange their collective knowledge about entrepreneurship.
- A Livelihood Strategy in support of Myanmar refugees' return to and reintegration in south-eastern Myanmar has been developed. The Strategy focuses on the means of engaging with local communities to strengthen social cohesion in a context of displacement and return, and to rebuild household and community assets and productive activities, and develop livelihood skills. UNHCR Myanmar aims to start implementing activities in November 2014 in Kayin State.
- Discussions with private sector entities are ongoing towards opening access for refugees to innovative services (access to peer-to-peer microfinance through kiva.org) and employment opportunities (working in digital outsourcing with Digital Divide Data).

### Private Sector Fund Raising

- Private-sector fundraising activities in Thailand have been carried out since 2008. Thanks to the generosity of the general public in Thailand, UNHCR has been able to raise more than USD 2,950,000 so far in 2014. Contributions come from approximately 32,000 individuals signed up as regular donors. The income raised goes to programmes run by UNHCR in the country.
- Private-sector fundraising activities were recently started in the Philippines, mainly in Manila. UNHCR's financial target for 2014 is USD 150,000 and this is expected to be the foundation for greater success in the future.
- Efforts are being made to start fundraising activities in Malaysia with the hope of a modest fundraising programme being rolled out in early 2015.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to operation in the region:

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