



HIGHLIGHTS

17,776

Newly registered asylum-seekers*

9,670

Refugee Status Determination decisions*

7,527

Persons departed for resettlement*

3,723

Persons released from Immigration Detention Centres by mid-2014

*Statistical information as of end August 2014

Population of concern

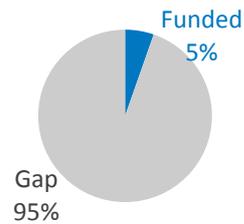
A total of **149,027** people of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Myanmar	137,788
Sri Lanka	4,438
Somalia	1,139
Pakistan	1,077
Other countries	4,585
Total	149,027

Funding

USD 20,161,428 million requested



UNHCR Presence

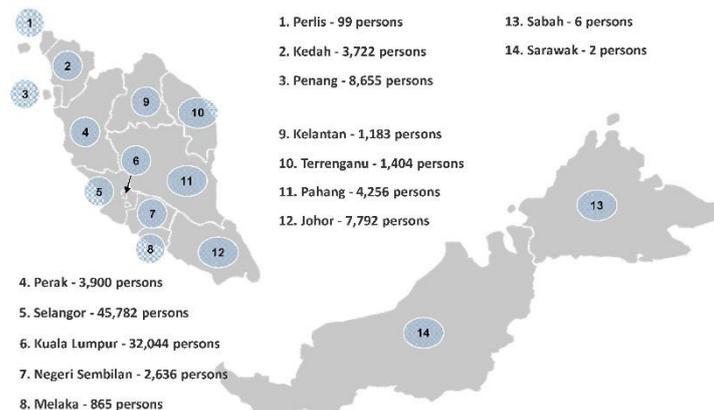
Staff:

50 national staff
18 international staff
94 staff under UNOPS workforce arrangements

Offices:

1 office located in Kuala Lumpur

Geographical Map of UNHCR Persons of Concern in Malaysia



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works closely with partners at all levels, including: the Malaysian Government through relevant Ministries and law enforcement agencies; UN organizations, NGOs, civil society, and the refugee communities themselves.
- UNHCR carries out multi-faceted advocacy with the Malaysian Government to safeguard the physical security of refugees, for instance through prevention of deportation, detention interventions and legal representation, and improving the living conditions for refugees *inter alia* through advocating for access to legal work.
- UNHCR works with NGO implementing partners, primarily in the area of health and education. Its implementing partners are: Dignity For Children Foundation, Future Global Network, Kumpulan ACTS Sdn Bhd, Malaysian Social Research Institute, Soroptomist International Johor Baru, and Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation. UNHCR also works with a wide array of operational partners, primarily in the provision of reproductive health services for refugees, shelter, counseling, self-help projects, livelihoods, and training, capacity-building for refugees, and other welfare needs.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Malaysia has not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and lacks a formal legislative and administrative framework to address refugee matters. UNHCR conducts all activities related to the reception, registration, documentation and status determination (RSD) of asylum-seekers and refugees.
- As of end August 2014, 17,776 persons were newly registered, while 9,670 Refugee Status Determination decisions have been rendered.
- UNHCR has embarked on a “Recalibration Exercise” in order to enhance the protection status of Persons of Concern in the country and address the growing number of unregistered asylum-seekers. This involves a comprehensive review of the operation to ensure resources are focused on achievable protection support in registration and RSD, and case management of certain groups and individuals, particularly vulnerable cases. It also involves measures to reduce fraud and ensure the integrity of its processes.
- As at mid-2014, UNHCR has conducted 119 missions to detention facilities, meeting 3,472 detainees. Through visits in detention, court actions and Hotline interventions, 3,723 persons of concern were released from Immigration Detention Centres this year.

Durable solutions

- UNHCR explored durable solutions for refugees, including resettlement to countries comprising, among others, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, and the United States.
- As of end August 2014, 8,197 persons have been submitted for third country resettlement and 5,666 persons were accepted by resettlement countries. During the same period, 7,527 persons departed for resettlement.
- Following enhanced anti-fraud mechanisms implemented earlier this year, high trends of individuals suspected of identity fraud were detected in various stages of resettlement processing. In accordance with UNHCR’s zero-tolerance policy on fraud, departures under the resettlement programme for those refugees suspected of fraud are immediately suspended pending investigation, and regular updates are provided to relevant resettlement countries. A Fraud Investigation Team was established to conduct fraud investigations, and carry out anti-fraud information campaigns with refugee communities. A wider and systematic review of all rules and procedures was undertaken to minimize the possibility of fraud, particularly around registration and interpreters.

Community Participation and Self-Management

- UNHCR continues to monitor and work closely with refugee community leaders to promote ethical leadership while advocating for active participation of women in community leadership and management. As a result, there has been an increase in the overall women leadership by 2.3% and in particular, an increase in the participation of Rohingya women.
- A total of 72 Participatory Assessments for the population of concern were conducted from January – June 2014, while a comprehensive Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming exercise is in the pipeline for the second half of the year.
- UNHCR promotes a community-based approach enhancing and supporting the capacity of community leaders and community-based organizations to scale up impact and reach –out of their services.

Self-Reliance and Livelihoods

- As of mid-2014, through UNHCR's Social Protection Fund, 55 project proposals from refugee communities in areas such as livelihoods, community services and development, and skills training were granted funding of over USD30,000 for direct implementation by these communities. Total direct beneficiaries from these projects are 1,516, while an additional 1,265 are indirect beneficiaries. About 1,990 male and 692 female persons of concerns are supported by these projects with 27% aged 0-18 years, 42% aged 19-35 years, and 11% aged 36-60 years.

Health

- Access to public health care is available to UNHCR document-holders at a reduced rate, but the high cost of treatment is still prohibitive for most persons of concern. UNHCR supports two NGOs running primary healthcare clinics that allow access at an affordable price to healthcare for refugees. Some 13,700 consultations by refugees and asylum-seekers were recorded this year.
- 16 trained Refugee Health Workers reached out to thousands of refugees on healthcare-related information for health promotion and disease prevention.
- UNHCR has rolled out a health insurance programme for refugees in collaboration with a commercial insurance company to improve access to second line care. Over 1600 persons have benefitted from short term financial assistance.

Education

- Refugee children are unable to attend formal education in Malaysia, and thus they obtain access education through informal, community-based learning centres. In these community learning centres, UNHCR has worked to increase the enrolment of refugee children in primary and secondary education, to 49% and 14% respectively. Currently, over 5,400 refugee children are enrolled in primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary education, at over 130 NGO- and community-run learning centres.
- Access to, and standards of education were improved through teacher's trainings, a stipend scheme for trained teachers, and continued coordination of and support to the learning centres.

Statelessness

- Since April 2014, working with NGO partner Development Of Human Resources in Rural Areas (DHARRA), UNHCR implemented a mapping and registration project to identify and reduce statelessness amongst persons who have strong links to Malaysia but do not have any documentation, namely descendants of predominantly Tamil migrant workers from India. The project is also designed to assist individuals in submitting their application to the National Registration Department with the objective of resolving statelessness through the grant or confirmation of Malaysian nationality.
- In terms of advocacy with the Malaysian Government, UNHCR co-hosted a "Conference on Birth Registration" for key Government stakeholders. The conference focused on good practices in birth registration and targeted key ministries in order to obtain their support to increase levels of birth registration for children born in Malaysia.
- UNHCR continues to monitor the situation of the Filipino refugees in Sabah. The Royal Commission (RCI) on illegal immigrants in Sabah has presented its findings to the King on May 21 but the government has yet to make the recommendations public. UNHCR hopes to be involved or consulted on the results of the inquiry.

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

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