



HIGHLIGHTS

12,132

Newly registered asylum-seekers*

6,116

Refugee Status Determination decisions*

7,257

Persons departed for resettlement*

6,031

Persons released from Immigration Detention Centres*

*Statistical information as of end August 2015

Population of concern

A total of **153,880** people of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Myanmar	143,048
Sri Lanka	3,612
Pakistan	1,229
Somalia	1,095
Other countries	4,896
Total	153,880

Funding

USD 18.7 Million requested

USD 1.8 Million contributions

10% funded

UNHCR Presence

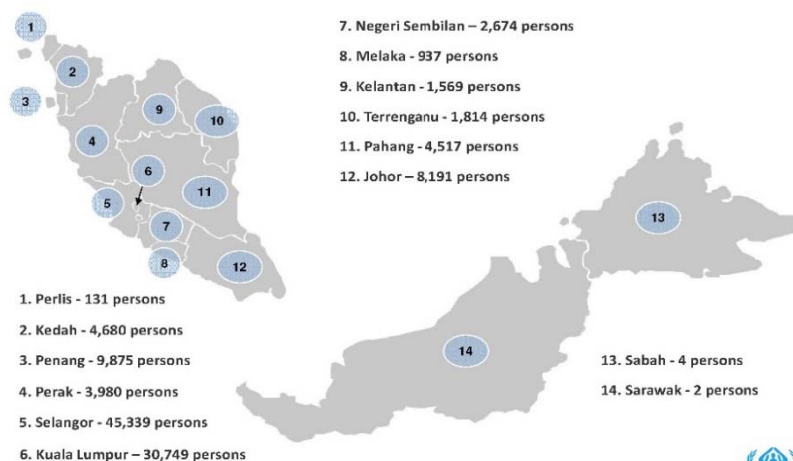
Staff:

- 55 national staff
- 11 international staff
- 2 deployees
- 117 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, the UN agencies, 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, education, livelihoods and shelter. Its implementing partners are: Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, Kumpulan ACTS, Dignity For Children Foundation, Persatuan Jaringan Islam Global Masa Depan, Malaysian Social Research Institute (MSRI), Soroptimist International Club Johor Bahru, Development for Human Resources for Rural Areas (DHRAA), Registered Trustees of Pacos Trust, Persatuan Kebajikan Good Shepherd, Yayasan Kemanusiaan Muslim Aid, and National Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Malaysia (NAWEM).
- 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.
- UNHCR launched a comprehensive review of its entire operations, including an assessment of its current caseloads to ensure that, within the dramatic funding and resource challenges faced, it is able to prioritize protection to those groups and individuals most in need of international protection under its mandate. The new procedures, launched in July 2015, prioritize those persons most at risk and in need of specialized support, including highly vulnerable Persons of Concern in detention. UNHCR's health, education, and livelihoods programmes have also been re-aligned to assist the most vulnerable groups.
- As of end August 2015, 12,132 persons were newly registered, while 6,116 Refugee Status Determination decisions have been rendered.
- As at mid-2015, UNHCR has conducted 230 missions to detention facilities, meeting 6,600 detainees. Through visits in detention, court actions and Hotline interventions, 6,031 persons of concern were released from Immigration Detention Centres this year.
- The Fraud Investigation Team was established in 2014 following the identification of high trends of fraud. Currently the team investigates individual fraud perpetrated by refugees, implements anti-fraud information campaigns within refugee communities, trains staff and partners, and reviews standard operating procedures to minimize the possibilities of fraud. Within a year of its setup, the team conducted over 1,200 investigations, and completed ID fraud cases identified pending departure to resettlement countries.

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 2015, 4,466 persons have been submitted for third country resettlement and 5,911 persons were accepted by resettlement countries. During the same period, 7,257 persons departed for resettlement.

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 82%. There has also been an increase in the overall leadership structures by 27%.
- One rapid participatory assessment exercise was conducted for the population of concern in March-April 2015, while a comprehensive participatory assessment 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

- In 2015, UNHCR revamped its livelihoods programming, focusing on evidence-based interventions in the areas of Cash Based Interventions, skills development and vocational training and community-based livelihoods projects. As of June 2015, UNHCR provided life skills training to 153 Persons of Concern. 79 were registered in job placement services and 72 vulnerable families (or 251 individuals) received financial assistance for their basic needs.
- Two implementing partners were engaged to implement a Micro Grant Programme for 80 households, while three local vocational institutions were engaged to provide certified skills training at reduced tuition fees. Five projects are being directly implemented by the community, mainly to provide skills training.

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 13,167 consultations by refugees and asylum-seekers were recorded this year.
- 12 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 called REMEDI for refugees in collaboration with a commercial insurance company to improve access to second line care. Over 16,280 persons have been enrolled under REMEDI.

Education

- Refugee children are denied access to the formal education system in the country and thus obtain education via an informal parallel system of 126 community-based learning centres. 11 of them are operated by six implementing partners, and 115 are run by the communities themselves with support from NGOs, faith-based organisations and other stakeholders.
- Currently, some 6,100 (29%) registered refugee children aged 3-17 years old are enrolled in early childhood, primary, and secondary level education at these learning centres.
- UNHCR enhances access to, and quality of, education by providing grants to community learning centres, teacher training and compensation, as well as continued coordination of various ad-hoc support to the learning centres.
- UNHCR has also signed memorandum of understanding with three private tertiary institutions, namely the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology and International University Malaya-Wales, all of which have collectively enrolled some 42 refugees in their foundation and undergraduate programmes.

Statelessness

- Since 2014, UNHCR has worked with an NGO partner Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (DHRRA) on a mapping and registration project to identify and reduce statelessness amongst persons who have strong links to Malaysia but who do not have any documentation. UNHCR's support includes the provision of technical assistance. The project is focused on the descendants of Tamil migrant workers from India whose ancestors had migrated during colonial times, and assists individuals in making their applications to the National Registration Department with the objective of resolving statelessness through the granting or confirmation of nationality.
- The situation of statelessness and the risk of statelessness due to lack of proof of nationality overlap especially within the marginalised communities living in Sabah. In close cooperation with other UN agencies and civil society platforms, UNHCR continues to advocate with grassroots civil society organizations and government stakeholders to develop policy options and plans of action to strengthen civil and vital statistics systems in Malaysia in promoting birth registration for UNHCR's persons of concern.

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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Contacts:

Yante Ismail, External Relations Officer, ismaily@unhcr.org, Tel: +603 2118 4812

Alia Surayya, Fundraising & Public Information Associate, wannikah@unhcr.org, Tel: +603 2118 4986

Website: www.unhcr.org.my