

Participants at a UNHCR workshop pore over international humanitarian laws in the Mongolian edition of the Parliamentary Handbook on Refugee Protection.



Australia

China

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Japan

Mongolia

New Zealand

Pacific Island Countries

Papua New Guinea

Republic of Korea



East Asia and the Pacific

| Working environment |

The first group of 27 refugees from Myanmar who arrived in Japan in September 2010 as part of a three-year pilot resettlement programme have taken steps towards integration with local communities. A second group is scheduled to arrive in the fall of 2011. Other positive developments in Japan include improvements in refugee status determination (RSD) and changes to the detention policy.

By June 2011, the Japanese authorities had fulfilled one of their commitments—to render first-instance RSD decisions within six months. The number of detained asylum-seekers has decreased, while alternatives to detention are being discussed with the authorities along with the involvement of civil society. UNHCR and the immigration authorities have strengthened cooperation through capacity-building programmes for adjudicators.

With Australia pursuing regional approaches to addressing irregular migration by sea, UNHCR has focused on ensuring that the fundamental protection principles and standards set out in the Refugee Convention are upheld in regional arrangements.

The arrival of asylum-seekers by boat and issues related to detention and RSD continue to arouse strong public sentiments in Australia; at the same time, there is considerable public support for the country's resettlement programme.

New Zealand has well-established and effective RSD procedures to manage asylum claims. The country's annual resettlement quota of 750 refugees is an important example of global burden-sharing in refugee protection.

In Papua New Guinea, which has generously hosted West Papuan refugees for decades, there has been some progress towards improving refugee protection, including ongoing discussions to lift all seven reservations the country made to the 1951 Convention. However, at present, there is no effective national regulatory framework or institutional capacity to conduct RSD.

In 2011, Nauru acceded to the Refugee Convention and Protocol. With few refugees and asylum-seekers on their territory, the focus of most Pacific Island Countries remains on displacement that can be brought on by climate change.

and a burden-sharing mechanism. It will make particular efforts to ensure that this durable solution addresses the needs of women and children at risk.

The engagement of Australia and New Zealand with the Regional Cooperation Framework adopted under the Bali Process will receive strong UNHCR support. In addition, it will promote public awareness of asylum issues and support for refugees and asylum-seekers, including through the provision of timely and accurate public and media information. UNHCR will also seek to optimize support from public and private donors in Australia and New Zealand. It will work closely on public awareness campaigns with its national association in Australia and various other interest groups and corporations.

In the **Pacific Island Countries**, UNHCR will continue to provide practical support tailored to the needs of each country in RSD, training of officials and introduction of protection safeguards in immigration procedures. While accession to the Refugee Convention provides these countries with the best framework within which national laws and regulations can be developed, UNHCR also recognizes that there are other steps that they need to take to develop effective, balanced and credible refugee protection systems.

Under the Pacific region protection cluster, UNHCR, in coordination with OHCHR, will continue to support efforts to integrate protection considerations into natural and man-made disaster response planning and delivery.

In **Papua New Guinea (PNG)**, UNHCR will continue to advocate for – and support through capacity-building – the Government's efforts to develop a comprehensive refugee policy, revise its current Migration Act, and establish RSD procedures. In promoting local integration as the main durable solution for all West Papuan refugees, UNHCR will help refugees to obtain PNG citizenship. In East Awin, interventions will focus on strengthening community management and protection mechanisms as well as improving self-reliance.

With regard to West Papuan refugees living in urban areas, UNHCR will continue to advocate for access to land for the most vulnerable, with interventions mainly focusing on increasing self-reliance and community support. Furthermore, UNHCR will cooperate with the national Government and provincial authorities to address the relocation needs of West Papuans living in border areas.

Where necessary, UNHCR will continue to provide basic material assistance to non-Melanesian refugees in urban areas. Public awareness activities will be undertaken to support ongoing advocacy to lift PNG's reservations to the Refugee Convention.

In **China**, UNHCR will undertake RSD and identify durable solutions for all people of concern, while advocating for the enactment of national refugee legislation and policies in accordance with international refugee law. It will continue to advocate for respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*, and to develop closer cooperation with the authorities and other relevant national actors to improve protection and humanitarian space.

UNHCR will provide material assistance, including accommodation, living allowances and access to basic health care to refugees, pending the implementation of appropriate durable solutions. It will also continue its efforts to raise public awareness of refugee issues.

In **Hong Kong SAR (China)**, UNHCR's focus will be on developing a stronger partnership with the authorities and civil society while helping to build their capacity. UNHCR will continue to undertake RSD and identify durable solutions, and work closely with the Government and civil society to ensure that the basic needs of people of concern in the territory are met.

In **Mongolia**, UNHCR will undertake training and other capacity-building activities to assist relevant government institutions, civil society and academia to promote refugee law and accession to 1951 Convention.

In **Japan**, UNHCR will build on the positive developments in issues related to RSD and detention. It will enhance its cooperation with the immigration authorities, and continue to provide capacity-building support, including internship opportunities in UNHCR offices for immigration officials. In relation to the detention of asylum-seekers, UNHCR will facilitate partnership between the Government and civil society to make alternatives to detention more accessible.

UNHCR will help the Government to implement the pilot resettlement project, and support the setting up of a full-fledged programme. At the same time, it will advocate for the greater involvement of civil society and local communities in helping resettled refugees integrate into local communities.

UNHCR will undertake a wide range of awareness-raising activities in partnership with the national association, including collaborative internship programmes and public events such as the Refugee Film Festival. The strategic partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Japanese NGOs will be strengthened, while the eCentre will continue to provide tailored workshops and promote emergency response mechanisms in the region.

In the **Republic of Korea**, UNHCR will co-host new initiatives and reinforce its existing capacity-building support for the Government and partners to improve the quality and standards of the national asylum system. It will also advocate for the Government to accede to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and to begin a mapping exercise to identify stateless people.

UNHCR will emphasize the need to put formal asylum procedures in place at ports of entry to ensure that the principle of *non-refoulement* is respected. The setting up of a reception centre is expected to be completed in 2012, and UNHCR will advocate for reception services to be put in place as rapidly as possible to respond to the needs of newly arrived asylum-seekers. It will also enhance its legal and social counselling services and work with other service providers in ensuring that the most pressing needs of persons of concern are covered until the establishment of relevant Government programmes. UNHCR will also strengthen its awareness-raising and private fund-raising activities in partnership with media and the cooperate sector.

| Financial information |

UNHCR's 2012 budget reflects the comprehensive needs of the populations of concern in East Asia and the Pacific, while taking account of implementation capacity. Though the overall requirement for the subregion in 2012 is lower than in 2011, the budget will enable UNHCR to maintain its capacity to address the protection and assistance needs of populations of concern, mainly in urban areas, and continue key advocacy activities.

UNHCR's budget in East Asia and the Pacific 2008 – 2013



UNHCR Budget in East Asia and the Pacific (USD)

OPERATION	2011 REVISED BUDGET	2012			2013
		REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL	
Australia Regional Office	1,823,008	2,143,115	0	2,143,115	2,230,115
China Regional Office ¹	5,107,541	5,426,957	143,934	5,570,891	5,698,114
Japan	5,817,578	4,616,961	51,772	4,668,732	4,704,051
Mongolia ¹	208,721	0	0	0	0
Papua New Guinea	2,369,263	1,374,250	0	1,374,250	883,185
Republic of Korea	1,749,066	1,905,442	188,402	2,093,844	2,466,531
Regional activities	200,000	412,769	0	412,769	406,001
Total	17,275,177	15,879,492	384,108	16,263,600	16,387,996

¹ From 2012, Mongolia is reported under the China Regional Office.