



## HIGHLIGHTS

**14,511 \***

refugees as of  
December 2015

**7,586\***

new Refugee Status  
Determination applications  
lodged with the authorities in  
(2015)

**4th**

largest government donor to  
UNHCR in 2015

**23rd**

in global private donor  
contributor to UNHCR  
in 2015

### Population of concern

A total of **14, 511** refugees

By country of origin

Country	Total refugees
Vietnam	8,656
Myanmar	1,954
Cambodia	1,357
Others*	2,544
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,511</b>

**\*UNHCR estimate based on the  
information provided by lawyers and  
NGOs**

### Fundraising in 2016

as of February 2016

Government: **USD 120 Million**

Private: **USD 6.4 Million**

### UNHCR Presence

In Tokyo

**Staff:**

12 national staff (including 4 affiliated workforce)  
5 international staff (including secondees to JICA)

**Offices:**

1 office located in Tokyo

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<sup>1</sup> \* Figures are based on the preliminary statistical report by the Ministry of Justice

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR Tokyo attaches a significant importance to working with partners and enjoys the cooperation and support of a range of governmental and non-governmental partners, including the following (in alphabetical order): Aoyama Gakuin University, ARC Academy, Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), Forum for Refugees Japan (FRJ), Fast Retailing/UNIQLO, Fuji Megane, Hokkaido University Public Policy School, International Christian University, IKEA Japan, International Social Service Japan (ISSJ), Japan Association for Refugees (JAR), Japan Association for UNHCR (J4U), Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA), Japan Forum for UNHCR and NGOs (J-FUN), Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), Japan Platform (JPF), Kwansai Gakuin University, Media, Meiji University, Meisei University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Parliamentary League for UNHCR, Refugee Assistance Headquarters (RHQ), Refugees Coordination Committee Japan (RCCJ), Sophia University, Stateless Network, Tsuda College, Tsurumi University, UN sister agencies, Waseda University.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Protection

- **Priorities:** While Japan's asylum system has further developed and improved over recent years, a number of priority issues remain to be addressed by the Government, UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders, including municipalities. These include: 1) the establishment of a more comprehensive asylum system, including the development of a fair and efficient Refugee Status Determination (RSD) system and adequate reception conditions; 2) a better alignment of the resettlement programme with global resettlement needs and UNHCR's selection criteria, 3) increased involvement of municipalities, as well as host and refugee communities in enhancing the possibilities for refugees' integration, and 4) advancing on statelessness issues, including through the implementation of a mapping study and the accession to the Statelessness Conventions of 1954 and 1961.
- **Asylum system:** In September 2015, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) published "the 5th Immigration Control Basic Plan" which outlines immigration policies and measures for the next five years. The plan refers to some of key recommendations made by the Sub-Committee (an advisory body established in 2013 by the MoJ to review the asylum system in Japan) such as a closer cooperation with UNHCR in capacity building of those engaged in RSD. UNHCR intends to work closely with the Ministry on the issue of enhancing the Japanese asylum system.
- The number of **asylum applications** continued to rise in 2015, and surpassed the number in 2014. The preliminary number released by MoJ in January 2016 stood at 7,586, the highest number since 1982. Similarly to 2014, the largest number of applications was received from asylum-seekers from Turkey and countries in South Asia. Official asylum statistics (the final figure) for 2015 is expected during the first quarter of 2016.
- **Resettlement:** The resettlement process under a new overall framework, which follows five years of piloting resettlement in Japan, started in 2015. At the end of September, the first group of 6 families of 19 refugees from Myanmar arrived in Japan from Malaysia. The Socio-Economic Study on Japan's resettlement pilot project made a number of recommendations, specifically aimed at further improving the integration support framework for resettled refugees in Japan.
- **Humanitarian Admission of Syrians:** UNHCR continues to advocate with, and support the Government of Japan to facilitating the admission process for Syrian individuals, specifically for those who wish to bring their immediate family members to Japan.
- UNHCR's partners provide support and **social counseling** to asylum seekers and refugees. Given that only a certain number of asylum seekers are eligible for government assistance, NGO partners reported the need for increased assistance. **Legal counseling** to asylum seekers is also provided by partners.
- In cooperation with the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), UNHCR facilitated the translation of an information package for refugees from Myanmar, one of the larger groups of UNHCR's persons of concern in Japan, to facilitate easier access to information required in their daily life and it was launched on the web in December 2015.
- Tsuda College, a renowned women's college in Japan, joined the circle of the Universities that are partners in the **Refugee Higher Education Programme**. The programme now offers up to seven refugees the opportunity to undergo a four year university education at one of the four prestigious partner universities. Following the selection interviews for year 2016, five refugee students are scheduled to start their education in April 2016.

## Fundraising Activities

- **Government Fundraising:** Japan's contribution to UNHCR operations worldwide so far in 2016 has reached USD 122 million, responding to needs particularly in Africa, the Middle-East and North Africa region and the Afghan situation. In 2015, the total contribution received from Japan was USD 173 million including core contribution, supplementary contribution and emergency grant aid. UNHCR continues to work closely with the Government and, in particular, on the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit as well as 6<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), to be held in 2016.
- **Private-sector Fundraising Activities:** UNHCR works in close collaboration with the **Japan Association for UNHCR (J4U)**, the national association for UNHCR. Outreach activities such as Face-to-Face campaigns, online fundraising and direct mailing are conducted to further raise awareness on refugee issues in Japan and to seek support from private donors, including Japanese companies and foundations. UNHCR enjoys a strategic global partnership with **UNIQLO**. Through UNIQLO's "All-Product Recycling Initiative" in Japan, which is rolled out in selected countries abroad, more than 1.8 million pieces of clothing have reached displaced persons in 2015. Since October 2015, UNIQLO launched "10 million ways to help" campaign through which UNIQLO aims to collect and distribute 10 million clothing to displaced. Furthermore, UNIQLO and UNHCR signed on Addendum to the Global Partnership in November 2015 which includes USD 10 million cash contribution over a 3 years period and commitment to employ 100 refugees worldwide. **Fuji Megane**, another important partner continues to support refugees, IDPs and UNHCR through its annual Vision Mission for over 30 years. In 2015, Fuji Megane visited Azerbaijan for the 11th time with the assistance of UNHCR. Since June 2013, Fuji Megane has been donating USD 1 million over a 10 year period to UNHCR.

## Advocacy Activities

- **Partnerships:** In line with the Government's policy aimed at enhancing the role of Japanese NGOs, UNHCR continued to strengthen its partnership with key members in particular with the **Japan Forum for UNHCR-NGOs ("J-FUN")**, as well as with **Japan Platform ("JPF"** a consortium of NGO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, coordinating funding and emergency operations), and the **Japan NGO Centre for International Cooperation ("JANIC")**. UNHCR and Japan Platform have organized a joint symposium "Syria Crisis: It could be me, It could be you" in June 2015, involving various Japanese NGOs operating in neighboring countries, MOFA, JICA, UNDP and UNOCHA.
- UNHCR works in close partnership with the **Parliamentary League for UNHCR**, which extends strong support to refugee issues both in and outside Japan.
- **Awareness-raising Activities:** UNHCR attaches a significant importance to promoting awareness related to refugee issues and to soliciting public support for UNHCR's activities around the globe and within Japan. Media outreach, digital print publications, web updates are key tools in this regard. Through **UNHCR Japan's Facebook** and its **Twitter** account, the office is introducing various forms of support schemes as effective communication and out-reach tools. HQ-hosted website for WRD "Stories" was successfully launched compatible to Japanese language (click [here](#)). Both WRD and Global Trends 2014 report achieved considerable media and public attention. The 10th **UNHCR Refugee Film Festival (RFF)** was organized in close cooperation with J4U, JICA and university partners. The main screenings took place in Tokyo, Sendai and Sapporo during October – November period. UNHCR's Regional Goodwill Ambassador covering East and Horn of Africa Ger Duany attended the opening ceremony to celebrate RFF's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The RFF events generated increased media attention enabling more than 5,200 audience participation.
- In addition to regular media briefings, UNHCR Tokyo conducted **press briefings** at the National Press Club on global developments in the field of asylum. In a joint effort with J4U, UNHCR is working on communicating critical emergency operations similar to the Nepal earthquake response and the refugee crisis in Europe. Various lectures and presentations are made by UNHCR Tokyo staff at universities and schools across the country. In addition, UNIQLO's school outreach – carried out in close coordination with UNHCR - engaged some 230 schools, benefitting more than 26,500 students. The **outreach events** were held with the support and participation of students, teachers, parents and the community around schools and aim to raise awareness on refugees and UNHCR. Furthermore, UNHCR worked together with IKEA Japan in promoting "Brighter Lives for Refugees (BLFR)" campaign not only to provide support to refugees, but also as an added avenue to raise awareness on refugee needs. IKEA supported BLFR by installing a UNHCR/F2F booth at some of their innovative stores in Japan.

## Inter-Agency Preparedness for Humanitarian Emergencies

UNHCR's Regional Centre for Emergency Preparedness (or "eCentre") -relocated to Bangkok - forms part of UNHCR's global division for emergency, security and supply management. The eCentre works with a wide network of government, UN and civil society partners in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen emergency preparedness and response in the context of forced displacement. The eCentre, which receives strong support from Japan, also promotes strategic and operational partnerships, drawing from its network of alumni in the region. For more information please see: <http://www.ecentre.info>.