As the Myanmar government cracked down on protesters in September, UNHCR field staff in neighboring Thailand and Bangladesh were on full alert, preparing for a possible influx of refugees.

For two decades, the UN Refugee Agency has been assisting large populations of Myanmar refugees. Along the Thai-Myanmar border, 141,000 people live in nine closed camps run by the Thai Ministry of Interior. Living in cramped, bamboo shelters, they remain dependent on UNHCR and other aid organizations for their protection, food, schooling and health care.

In early October, UNHCR’s Regional Representative in Bangkok, Hasim Ullah, warned that these camps were full. “Because of the overcrowded conditions, any new influx of refugees could put pressure on the fragile existing infrastructure,” he said.

Meanwhile, in Bangladesh, UNHCR continues to shelter 27,000 Rohingya refugees. These people are the last of a large group of mostly Muslim Rohingyas who have voluntarily returned to Myanmar in recent years with UNHCR’s assistance.

By the end of October, the political upsurge in Myanmar had subsided. UNHCR’s focus has now returned to supporting and resettling Myanmar’s long-term exiles in the Thai and Bangladeshi camps.

**Massive Resettlement Underway**

Prior to the recent unrest, the Thai camps were the subject of one of UNHCR’s largest ever refugee resettlement programs. Since 2005, the agency has helped more than 20,000 Myanmar refugees to resettle in a third country.

Over on the Myanmar/Bangladesh border, most of the Rohingya refugees have returned to Myanmar’s Northern Rakhine State where UNHCR continues to assist and protect them.

---

**Snapshot: Myanmar**

Refugees in border camps: 168,000 (Thailand: 141,000, Bangladesh: 27,000)

Returnees receiving UNHCR support: 230,000 (Northern Rakhine State)

Third country resettlements since 2005: more than 20,000

**Inside**

- UNHCR’s Emergency Response Team
- Safe Mother and Baby Program
- Child Malnutrition: a race against time
- Border Watch: Myanmar

---

**Border Watch: Myanmar**

UNHCR Hong Kong
Rm 911, Yau Ma Tei Carpark Building, 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Donation Hotline: 2388 3278 Email: info@unhcr.hk Website: www.unhcr.hk

---

**UNHCR's Emergency Response Team**

**Safe Mother and Baby Program**

**Child Malnutrition: a race against time**

**Border Watch: Myanmar**

---

**Without us, refugees can experience dangerous gaps in vital aid.**

**With us, they can get the all-round, practical assistance and protection they so desperately need.**
A Message from our Regional Representative

Since its foundation in 1950, UNHCR has helped an estimated 50 million people to rebuild their lives. This year alone, the agency will work with 32.9 million displaced people – across one in every 200 people on earth.

This is extraordinary given that UNHCR is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions: principally from governments but also from intergovernmental organizations, corporations and individuals.

As Regional Representative for the People’s Republic of China (including Hong Kong and Macao SAR) and Mongolia, I have seen our impact strengthen and grow. Before coming to Beijing, I worked in countries like Romania, the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, Nepal and Indonesia. In all my postings, my key motivation has been engaging with the public, donors and of course those in government - to raise awareness of persons in need of international protection.

Refugees are not just victims. They are potential assets to our communities and many former refugees have become influential academics, artists and politicians in their adopted countries.

Protecting refugees and looking for lasting solutions to refugee problems remains a key challenge for everyone in the 21st century. Every contribution is therefore important, and I want to personally thank all our donors in Hong Kong for their important and generous support.

Veerapong Vongvarotai
UNHCR Regional Representative for the People’s Republic of China (including Hong Kong and Macao SAR) and Mongolia

The UN Refugee Agency has twice been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work with refugees.

Clean Water Saves Lives

Not long ago in the Kebei Beyah refugee camp in Ethiopia, 100 children were dying every month of water borne diseases. Their mothers walked miles every day to fetch the water that would ultimately claim their children’s lives. Drawn from pools where animals bathed and drank, it teemed with parasites, intestinal worms and diseases like cholera and dysentery.

The UN Refugee Agency then established the Kebei Beyah Water Project, sinking bores and installing pumps, filters and reservoirs. Today, clean water runs from 24 durable water points around the settlement. Cholera has disappeared, diarrhoea has been reduced and infant deaths have dropped dramatically.

Providing refugees in Africa with safe drinking water remains one of UNHCR’s biggest challenges. In Chad right now, we are struggling to transport water to 12 hugue refugee camps on the Sudanese border.

"An average person requires 20 litres of water a day for basic health and sanitation. In some areas of Africa, refugees survive on less than 9 litres, near the absolute limit for human survival."

Child Malnutrition – a race against time

治療營養不良兒童 – 與時間競賽

Malnutrition can cause permanent damage in young children. By the time an under-nourished child turns two, many conditions affecting their health and development cannot be reversed.

In most refugee camps, the World Food Programme (WFP) is responsible for the general food supply. UNHCR’s role is more specialised, focusing on the “window of opportunity” in children - especially in their mother’s pregnancy until the age of two - where we can prevent lifelong damage and disfigurement.

Your donations are helping to provide:

- extra nutrition and support for pregnant and nursing mothers.
- high energy milk formulae for severely malnourished infants in hospitals and feeding centres.
- supplies of therapeutic foods like Plumpy’nut, an enriched peanut paste that produces market weight gain in children. Requiring no cooking or mixing with water, Plumpy’nut can be administered safely at home, sparing children the trauma and health risks of hospitalisation.

The UN Refugee Agency is currently treating chronically malnourished children in refugee camps in Kenya and Durban, South Africa.

半個月前，在埃塞俄比亞Kebei Beyah的難民營,每個月都有100名兒童死於飲水污染所引發的疾病。孩子的母親每天兩次跋涉取水，可能就是飲用的水，這些原是淡水的水沉積上數十長的細菌、病毒等有害微生物。

“為了達到基本的健康及營養標準，每人平均每天要用20升的水，然而，在非洲四分之三地區，難民每天只會用1公升半的水,僅夠人用。”

營養不良可以對幼兒造成永久損傷，一個營養不良的兒童，在年長後，其智力及發展所帶來的負面影響，已非補救所能挽回。

目前，大部分難民營的糧食供應，都是由聯合國糧食署（WFP）負責供應，聯合國難民署則負責營養特別部門的角色；營養項目主要集中在幼兒的“窗戶”時期(從自出生時至兩歲為止)，預防兒童因營養不良所導致的永久性損傷。

聯合國難民署目前正在尼日及蘇丹達爾富爾的難民營內,為長期營養不良的兒童提供援助。
Refugee Children
Get the Chance
to Learn

Of the nine million refugee children in the world, only one in three attends school. As the UN Refugee Agency launches a global campaign to improve school facilities and boost refugee enrolments, Marcel van Maastrikt shows us around a primary school for Darfur refugees in Chad.

These camps in Eastern Chad are enormous. How many schools are there here?
We have primary schools in all twelve camps – 75 schools with 537 classrooms.

Is this a typical school building?
Most are constructed of mud although we are still using tents in two camps. There’s no furniture in the classrooms apart from a blackboard and a teacher’s table. The students sit on plastic mats on the floor.

What percentage of the children attend?
Literacy primary attendance is very good – between 75-90%. Unfortunately, in the last four years of primary, numbers drop significantly, to zero in the case of girls.

Why isn’t education important in the middle of a refugee emergency like this?
Going to school gives children a sense of routine and stability. It prevents boredom. It protects them from child labour and military recruitment. It also allows us to monitor the health and well-being of children in the camps.

How can UNHCR donors help to provide for these schools?
We urgently need more teachers and resources for teacher training. We need classroom furniture, text books, uniforms, programs to encourage girl education. And we need more secondary schools. We are piloting a second year program in ten camps right now and also a self-study program supported by radio classes.

Marcel Van Maastrikt is a Senior Community Officer with UNHCR in Eastern Chad where 200,000 people from war-torn Darfur are sheltering in twelve large UNHCR camps.

In An Emergency
a few hours make all the difference.

When wars and disasters leave large numbers of people without food or shelter, UNHCR’s Emergency Response Team springs into action to provide immediate relief.

Three hungry, maybe sick or injured – people who have fled their homes need urgent assistance. Our Emergency Response Team is on stand-by around the clock, ready to respond to a developing refugee crisis anywhere in the world. Within hours, planes are loaded with experienced staff and vital supplies. We are often first on the scene – as in the case of the Asian tsunami and the Pakistani earthquake – but it takes a lot of preparation to be ready for the unforeseen.

Preparation is Vital
Emergency Response Team members have to be able to operate in stressful and chaotic situations. While they often have extensive field experience, all must undergo nine days of intensive, specialised training.

The training takes place in Europe three times a year. By the time the trainers have completed the course, they are ‘ready for the roster’: physically and mentally prepared to face some of the most challenging situations on earth. When they get the call they must be ready, at a few hours notice, to drop the gear and get deployed for up to three months.

I’ve seen for myself the difference the Emergency Response Team can make to the lives of refugees. By supporting them, we can make sure that help gets to the people who need it most, wherever and whenever disaster strikes. Please join me in an Emergency Response Team Supporter.”
UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, Angelina Jolie

緊急救援事故
彈指間帶來重大改變

當戰爭和災害令大批平民於驚喪失去食物或住所，聯合國難民署的緊急應變小組即時採取行動，提供即時救援。

缺乏、飢餓、生病或受傷...逃離家園的人極需緊急援助。我們的緊急應變小組隨時準備就緒，面對任何地方出現的危機作出即時反應。只須幾小時，我們訓練豐富的工作人員，帶同救援物資，便能趕赴災難現場。正如亞洲海嘯和巴基斯坦地震的救援工作，我們往往是最先抵達災區的。面對突如其來的災情及天災，我們都不能過早作出回應，全賴於我們備妥所必需的大量準備工作。

準備工作至為關鍵

緊急應變小組成員必須在巨大壓力及混亂的環境中工作，儘管他們大多擁有豐富的實地經驗，但必須接受為期九天的密集式訓練，為救援工作做好準備。

訓練在歐洲進行，一年三次。小組成員在完成培訓後可「隨機應變」，無懼地穿上全套裝備，面對地球任何地方的重大挑戰。小組成員一旦接獲通知，必須即刻放下身邊一切，在數個小時內動身，並可能在災區長達三月。”

While many girls attend primary school in Chad, few continue on to secondary school. In Chad, a young girl might enter an elementary and junior secondary school, even if she lives in a small village.

While many girls attend primary school in Chad, few continue on to secondary school. In Chad, a young girl might enter an elementary and junior secondary school, even if she lives in a small village.

3
6
The UN Refugee Agency – a full cycle of assistance for refugees
聯合國難民署 - 為難民提供全面的援助

For more than 50 years, the United Nations Refugee Agency - UNHCR – has been the world’s displaced people, providing support and protection at every stage of their ordeal.

In Emergencies
Every year, UNHCR helps thousands of people fleeing from danger, including conflict and persecution, providing transport out of war and disaster zones. The agency coordinates international relief campaigns, registers exhausted people on arrival and helps to provide the basics of human survival: clean water, food, shelter, blankets, cooking sets and health care.

In the Camps
People can spend months or even years living in refugee camps. While UNHCR seeks long-term solutions to their plight, our field teams work to ensure their safety and quality of life. With our partner organisations, UNHCR provides infrastructure, schools, income generating projects, health and care services and social services in refugee settlements.

Returning Home
UNHCR provides ongoing assistance to refugees returning home. We work with governments so that they can return home safely. We provide registration papers, building kits, ‘start up’ assistance and transport for vulnerable families. As returnees struggle to reintegrate, UNHCR helps to repair and rebuild facilities in their homelands, supporting local education, training and income generating projects.

Building a New Life
In protracted refugee situations, UNHCR may work with both the hosting and third country governments to allow refugees to start a new life in another country. UNHCR works with the receiving country to ensure that refugees receive legal assistance, resettlement packages and support for the journey.

Making childbirth safer for refugee women and children

For many refugee women, childbirth is fraught with risk. Thousands of mothers and newborns die needlessly each year for want of a few simple health care and family planning services.

Many refugee women and girls live in isolated settlements with limited access to antenatal or emergency obstetric care. They are more likely to be poorly nourished or suffer from diseases like malaria. Even those with a tradition of homebirth may, in an emergency setting, lack the simple means to make their birth environment clean, exposing themselves and their infants to deadly post-natal infections.

Keeping it simple
UNHCR’s Safe Mother and Baby Program aims to address these issues in the simplest way possible.

Central to the program is the Clean Delivery Kit, containing a sterile blade, plastic sheets, swaddling, soap and string. The kit is essentially a clean birth environment in a bag. In the dirtiest camp, women can scrub up for delivery, lie on a hygienic surface, and cut and tie the umbilical cord safely. The kit also includes information on symptoms of foetal distress and baby resuscitation techniques.

This year, the UN Refugee Agency hopes to distribute 35,000 Clean Delivery Kits to women in refugee camps such as in Chad and Myanmar where deaths during pregnancy and childbirth remain tragically high.

In established refugee camps, the UNHCR program also includes maternal nutrition, midwife training, case management of complicated pregnancies, emergency transport and family planning services.

In places where the Safe Mother and Baby Program is well established, we are seeing some extraordinary results. In the refugee camps of Eastern Nepal where maternal deaths were once common, not a single woman has died in childbirth in the past two years and infant mortality is stable at less than 1.5/1000 live births.

Making childbirth safer for refugee women and children

Let's help UNHCR continue to provide life-saving assistance. Your donation today will make a difference.

Donate now

For more information, visit UNHCR.org