

Indonesia

November 2020

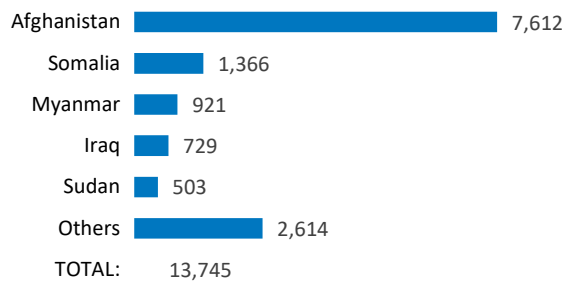
13,745 persons registered with UNHCR including - **72% adult** and **28% children**. Of the total number of adult, 27% are women and 73% are men.

UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to the **354 Rohingya refugees** in **Lhokseumawe, Aceh** in coordination with the local authorities, NGOs and partners.

Of the **3,819 children** registered with UNHCR, 168 are **unaccompanied** by a parent or other adult relative and 60 are **separated** from their parents.

1,136 vulnerable refugees received the monthly subsistence allowance. A total of **4,277 refugees** received the second **COVID-19 relief assistance** in November.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

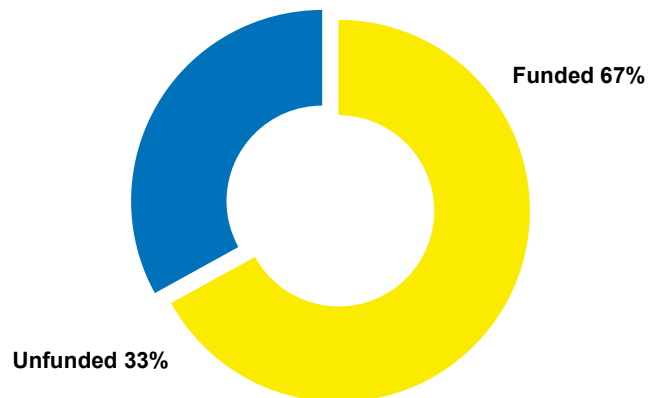


* source: UNHCR proGres October 2020

2020 FUNDING (AS OF NOVEMBER 2020)

USD 9.9M

requested for UNHCR's response in Indonesia



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 26 National Staff
- 7 International Staff
- 37 Affiliated Work Force

Offices:

- 1 Main office [Jakarta]
- 5 Out-posted locations [Aceh, Medan, Pekanbaru, Tanjung Pinang, Makassar]



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Working with Partners

- UNHCR works closely with counterparts of the Republic of Indonesia to provide protection and support, and to identify solutions for persons under UNHCR's mandate, particularly the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs and its department for Refugees and People Smuggling; the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, including the Directorate-General of Immigration; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Social Affairs; and the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- UNHCR engages with international and national NGOs and civil society partners, and UN agencies, UNHCR-funded partners – Church World Service (CWS), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Yayasan Kemanusiaan Madani Indonesia (YKMI) – as well as other operational partners assisting refugees, including Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), the Indonesian Red Cross, Dompot Dhuafa, and the National Human Rights Commission, to assist the Government to ensure that refugees and stateless persons are protected and provided assistance. UNHCR works very closely with its direct partner CWS to provide lifesaving medical assistance to the refugees and to address the special needs of the unaccompanied and other children at risk. Meanwhile distribution of monthly cash allowance to the most vulnerable refugees is handled by UNHCR's other direct partner, CRS.

Main Activities

Protection

- While Indonesia is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, it has a long tradition of allowing access to and hosting refugees. Indonesia has enacted a comprehensive national refugee law, signed as a presidential regulation in December 2016, which provides access and temporary protection to refugees in the country until longer-term solutions can be found for them. Under the law, the Government has authorized UNHCR to help protect and find solutions for them.
- The 2016 refugee law includes provisions for the Government to rescue refugees on boats in distress near Indonesia and to help them disembark. These provisions were once again implemented on 25 June and 7 September, when nearly 400 Rohingya refugees were rescued in Lhoksemauwe, Aceh. UNHCR worked together with the authorities, local Refugee Task Force, UN agencies, NGO partners and the local community to provide assistance to the group, which mainly consist of vulnerable women and children.
- Indonesia is not a party to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on Reduction of Statelessness. In May 2020, based on a study by Unicef, it was reported that over 11 million children in Indonesia are without birth certificate in 2019. UNHCR works to advocate for access to universal birth registration for all children of marginalized groups, including refugee children. The office has been working closely with Directorate General of Population and Civil Registry.
- Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical for UHCR Indonesia to receive sustained funding to be able to deliver protection and complementary solutions to the persons of concerns as the pandemic posed further challenges to the already limited resettlement opportunity.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Refugees do not have the right to work in Indonesia. Recognizing that direct assistance is not sustainable, UNHCR continues to advocate for refugees to be given access to livelihood opportunities and works with partners to create community-empowerment and self-reliance programs that benefit Indonesians and refugees. The programs include vocational trainings and entrepreneurship schemes that promote economic development in Indonesian host communities.

- Refugee women and men leaders representing various nationalities participate in activities implemented by UNHCR and partners, such as assisting vulnerable refugees in accessing services, disseminating information among the refugee community, managing community learning centres, providing skills training and education for children and adolescents, and providing interpretation and translation services.
- 1,136 vulnerable refugees (from 417 cases) continued to receive monthly subsistence allowance in November 2020 with an increase of 20% of their regular allowance as additional COVID-19 allowance. While, a total of 4,277 individuals received the second COVID-19 allowance in November 2020. The distribution is made through Post-Offices, where refugees living independently in out-post locations were also able to receive the assistance. Previously, from June - October 2020, as many as 5,623 refugees living independently [3,518 female and 2,105 male] had received the first batch of Covid-19 allowance.

Education

- Indonesia is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and provides refugee children access to national schools through the Ministry of Education Circular Letter No. 75253/A.A4/HK/2019 issued on 10 July 2019. UNHCR encourages refugee children to enrol into the national school system, particularly at the primary school level. To prepare refugee children for enrolment in national schools, UNHCR is working with partners in Jakarta and the Greater area as well as out-posted locations to teach refugee children Bahasa Indonesia, as well as basic math and literacy, and local customs and culture.
- With our partners, UNHCR works for all refugee children to have access to national schools and as of end of October 2020, some 679 refugee children are enrolled in accredited national schools. UNHCR is conducting verification exercise and will obtain a more accurate number on the enrolment number. Challenges to increase refugee children's enrolment rates include limited knowledge of Bahasa Indonesia, inadequate sources of funding, and reports of limited places in public schools where refugees reside.
- Other educational opportunities include enrolment in online, accredited university courses. UNHCR encourages refugees to complete accredited courses through Coursera for Refugees, a free online learning platform, in addition to non-formal educational, vocational and recreational activities made available for children and youth in children's homes. In Jakarta and the greater area, as well as in the other out-posted locations, refugee communities have several community-based learning centers for refugee children. Through these centres, UNHCR continue to encourage refugee parents to prepare their children with the necessary skills until they are ready to enrol in national schools. As of end of October, 3,956 refugees are enrolled in online university courses and in community – based learning programs.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, refugee children who previously attended public schools continue their studies with arrangements made by their respective school. Working with partners, online distant-learning are made available for refugee children at UNHCR learning centres and some community-based learning centres. Some of the challenges faced by refugee students include the limited ownership of device and internet data that are required for online distant-learning. Language barrier also adds limitation to access the distant learning program provided by the government via television.

Health

- Refugees have access to primary medical care through public health facilities, as well as community maternity and childcare, which provides immunizations. UNHCR works with partners to provide information on public health services and to raise health-prevention awareness and in covering life threatening/saving medical situation which is very expensive. UNHCR is advocating for refugees to be include in the upcoming rollout of the vaccine against covid19.

Durable Solutions

- While the opportunities provided by countries offering resettlement out of Indonesia are reducing, the most vulnerable refugees are identified for submission for the limited number of resettlement places available. In 2019, 663 refugees departed for resettlement to Australia, Canada, and the United States. This represents 4.8 percent of the total refugee population in the country. Meanwhile in 2020, as of the end of October, only 391 refugees have departed to third countries for resettlement. The outlook for resettlement places is a continued decrease, and it can therefore not be considered the only viable durable solution for the refugees in Indonesia. Unfortunately, refugees wait for resettlement although only a small number will be able to benefit for resettlement. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to find other solutions than resettlement and to consider Indonesia as a country of de facto longer term stay for refugees.
- UNHCR facilitates voluntary repatriation for refugees who request return, with arrangements made in close cooperation with IOM through its assisted voluntary return program. In 2019, only 1.8% of the total persons of concern (252 people) have returned voluntarily to their countries of origin. Meanwhile this year, as of end of October, 111 refugees have opted for voluntary repatriation.
- UNHCR provides information and guidance to refugees who may have family members abroad and would like to pursue private sponsorship options. In 2019, 57 people (0.4% of total persons of concern) departed abroad on private sponsorships, while as of October 2020, the number recorded by UNHCR is 27 people.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the support of the following donors for their funding either directly to the operation or via softly earmarked or unearmarked funds: Australia | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Germany | | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Private Donors | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

In addition, UNHCR thanks the following organizations and private sector partners in recent years for their support and donation: Bank Mayapada | Bina Nusantara School | Dato' Tahir | Global Jaya School | Indonesia for Refugees | Metro TV | PT. Eagle Indopharma | PT. Tan Kiang | SPH Lippo Cikarang School | SCTV | Tahir Foundation | Tunas Muda School | Unilever (UK) | Uniqlo | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Wanda House of Jewels | Wardah Cosmetics

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