

# Indonesia

July 2021

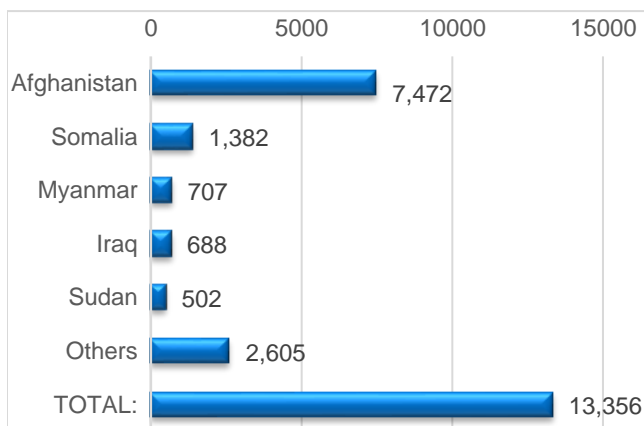
**13,356 persons** registered with UNHCR including - **73% adult** and **27% children**. Of the total number of adult, 26% are women and 74% are men.

As of July 2021, the number of **Rohingya refugees** across Indonesia are 668 people. Of the total number, 253 are male and 415 are female.

Of the **3,601 children** registered with UNHCR, **76 children are unaccompanied** by a parent or other adult relative and **36 children are separated** from their parents.

**1,159 vulnerable refugees** received the monthly subsistence allowance. While a total of 5,107 individuals received **COVID-19 relief assistance** in July 2021.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

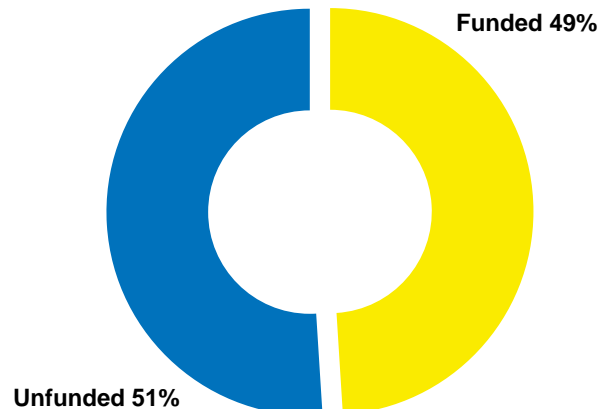


\* source: UNHCR statistical report July 2021

## 2021 FUNDING

**USD 16.8 M**

requested for UNHCR's response in Indonesia



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 27 National Staff
- 8 International Staff
- 34 Affiliated Work Force

### Offices:

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



## 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; the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Manpower.
- UNHCR engages with international and national NGOs as well as civil society partners, UN agencies, and UNHCR-funded partners – Church World Service (CWS), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), as well as other operational partners assisting refugees, including Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), the Indonesian Red Cross, Dompot Dhuafa, Human Initiative 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 under partnership agreement with its 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, education assistance, SGBV prevention and response, among others, are handled by UNHCR's other partner, CRS.
- UNHCR has signed partnership agreement with Universitas Diponegoro, Faculty of Law (UNDIP) to conduct baseline study that aims to understand *in-situ* Statelessness situation in Indonesia's archipelago. The study will also involve field visits to border areas with Malaysia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea.
- With the closure of Concept Note submission deadline to respond to Call for Expression of Interest for 2022 Projects, UNHCR is currently conducting vetting, review and deliberation on the organizations. Selected partner(s) will be notified in the course of September 2021.

## 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 2020, when nearly 400 Rohingya refugees were rescued in Lhoksemauwe, Aceh province, then when another group of 81 Rohingya refugees disembarked in East Aceh on 4 June 2021. UNHCR worked together with the authorities, local Refugee Task Force, UN agencies, NGO partners and the local community to provide assistance to the group.
- 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 conducted in 2019, it was reported that over 11 million children in Indonesia were without birth certificate. UNHCR works to advocate for access to universal birth registration for all children of marginalized groups, including refugee children. For the purpose, 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 UNHCR Indonesia to receive sustained funding to be able to deliver protection and complementary solutions to the persons of concerns as the pandemic continues to pose challenges to the already limited resettlement opportunities.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Refugees are not able to exercise their 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. In December 2019, at the Global Refugee Forum organised by UNHCR in Geneva the Indonesian Government Delegation pledged support to refugee productivity empowerment activity as part of Indonesia's effort to address the global refugee crisis.
- 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, as well as providing interpretation and translation services. In 2020, due to the pandemic-related restrictions, UNHCR started organising Virtual Town Hall meetings with Refugee Representatives (RRs) and the wider refugee communities in Jakarta and other cities where refugees reside. The office continues this good practice in 2021.
- The 1,159 vulnerable refugees from 435 cases continued to receive monthly subsistence allowance in June. As of July 2021, the total of those received COVID-19 allowance is 5,107 individuals consists of 2,850 cases. The distribution is made through Post Offices in areas where refugees living independently, including in out-post locations. Previously, from June – December 2020, as many as 5,823 refugees living independently [3,653 male and 2,170 female] had received the first to fifth 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. In July 2021, some 780 refugee children are enrolled in accredited national schools. Around 1,700 school aged children are not yet attending formal schools, but among them some 1000 are receiving education through refugee learning centres organised by UNHCR, IOM or centres led by the refugee communities. 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 centres 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 July 2021, 1,744 refugees are enrolled in online education platform such as Coursera and EdX.

- 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 supported 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 barriers also limit accessing the distant learning programs 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 in covering life threatening/saving medical situation which can be very expensive. The 10 June 2020 Circular Note issued by the Government of Indonesia has ensured access for registered refugees (UNHCR ID card holders) to COVID-19 related services, of which UNHCR appreciates. However, on 21 May 2021, the Ministry of Health issued a Decree No. HK.01.07/MENKES/4718/2021 stating UNHCR ID card is no longer serve as a basis for COVID-19 related services cost coverage, as of 20 April 2021. UNHCR continues to advocate for UNHCR ID cards re-inclusion in the future regulations of Ministry of Health and for refugees to be included in the country's vaccination program against Covid-19.
- UNHCR collaborates with partners to provide COVID-19 related information, such as public health services and health-protocols awareness for refugees through social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter). The office also provides COVID-19 Hotline for refugees seeking consultation, then they will be advised to contact CWS Health Hotline for further COVID-19 related inquiries.

### 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 December, only 403 refugees have departed to third countries for resettlement. The outlook for resettlement places is such that it cannot be considered the only viable durable solution for the refugees in Indonesia. Unfortunately, refugees are put in a position that they only thing they can do is to wait for resettlement although only a small number will be able to benefit from resettlement. From January to July 2021, only as many as 277 refugees departed to resettlement countries. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to find other durable solutions than resettlement and to consider Indonesia as a country of de facto longer stay for refugees.
- After the successful departure of an Afghan refugee to Lithuania on a complementary pathway through education in March 2021, UNHCR together with Roshan Learning Centre are exploring the possibility of a second departure to take place later this year. In May 2021, UNHCR discussed about a potential collaboration with Talent Beyond Borders (TBB) on Labour Mobility Scheme. In June 2021, after meeting UNHCR Indonesia, TBB has selected Indonesia as one of the countries to take forward the pilot of Labour Mobility Scheme. Following series of bilateral meetings with TBB in July 2021, the pilot project is at the final phase of implementing partner selection. UNHCR discussed with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) on the potential partnership for the project. The CRS confirmed their willingness to take this project forward. The pilot

project aims at referring some refugee candidates to Australia under labour mobility scheme by the end of 2021.

- 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 as of end of December 2020, 139 refugees have opted for voluntary repatriation (1% of the total persons of concern). So far in 2021, the total number of refugees repatriated voluntarily is 78 individuals.
- 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, and in December 2020, the number recorded by UNHCR is 27 people (0.2% of total persons of concern). While in the first half of 2021, only 11 individual who have been departed on private sponsorships.

### Private Sector Partnership

- The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its effect in some of the income streams of PSP programme in Indonesia. As of July 2021, PSP Indonesia successfully recorded an income of **IDR 1,779,208,775 (123,707 USD)**. This income was generated from Digital Fundraising program, Face to Face (F2F) In-House program, and Face to Face Agency program. While PPH/Islamic Philanthropy program raised **IDR 2,980,093,360 (USD 205876.51)** and managed to establish partnerships with several philanthropy organizations and Islamic banks to support the UNHCR refugee protection program. UNHCR Indonesia Private Sector Partnership is currently supported by 3,261 individual donors.
- Due to the alarming surge of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia since June 2021 and the implementation of restrictions in Indonesia (PPKM) by the government since July 2021, the Individual Acquisition program, including the F2F Fundraising recruitment program was performed online. The team raised **IDR 71,266,850 (USD 4,955)** from F2F Digital Channel and Digital Fundraising channel during this period focusing on Rohingya Emergency Campaign.
- UNHCR received the donation from BP ZIS Indosat with amount of \$25,000 (Twenty-five thousand US Dollar) for refugees in Indonesia. The donation is used for the COVID-19 Relief Programme in cash assistance for refugees in Indonesia. PPH programme is also exploring partnership opportunities with BAZNAS and DT Peduli with focus on Cash Based Intervention programme in Indonesia.

### External/ Donor 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, private sector partners and other UN Agencies for their support and donation in recent years:** 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 | IOM | UNICEF | ILO | UNFPA | UNAIDS | Islamic Philanthropy build the partnership with major philanthropy institution, who committed with UNHCR to support the cash based intervention program. The partner profile is Bank syariah Indonesia as the largest Bank syariah in Indonesia, another partnership with Rumah Zakat Indonesia. UNHCR received a total of USD 171.100 in the 2020, comprising in zakat and sadaqah funds.

## **CONTACTS**

**Dwi Anisa Prafitria (Tria)**, Communication Associate  
[prafitri@unhcr.org](mailto:prafitri@unhcr.org).

## **LINKS**

[www.unhcr.org/id](http://www.unhcr.org/id)

Facebook: UNHCR Indonesia

Twitter: UNHCRIndo

Instagram: unhcrindonesia