

# Indonesia

December 2021

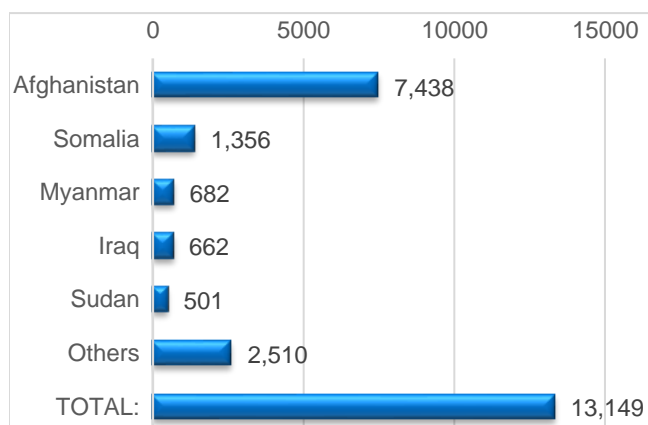
**13,149 persons** registered with UNHCR including - **73% adult** and **27% children**. Of the total number of adults, 26% are women and 74% are men.

On 30 December, a group of **105 Rohingya refugees**, mostly women and children, arrived by boat in North Aceh. The group were allowed to disembark and provided shelter in Lhokesumawe.

Of the **3,518 children** registered with UNHCR, **56 children are unaccompanied** by a parent or other adult relative and **28 children are separated** from their parents.

**1,243 vulnerable refugees** received the monthly subsistence allowance. A total of **4,129 individuals** received **COVID-19 relief assistance** in December 2021.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

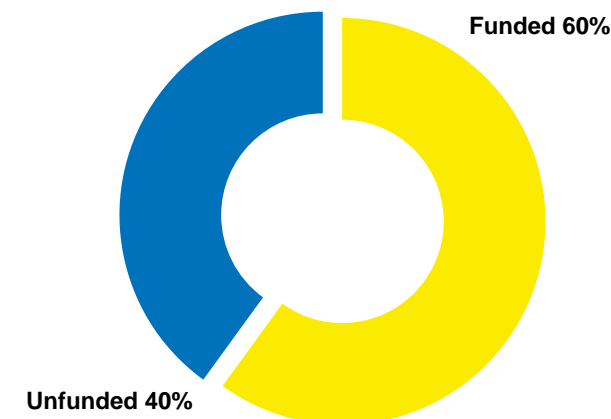


\* source: UNHCR statistical report December 2021

## 2021 FUNDING

**USD 17.9 M**

requested for UNHCR's response in Indonesia



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 29 National Staff
- 8 International Staff
- 33 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; the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Manpower.
- UNHCR works in a close collaboration with the UNRC and other UN agencies including UNICEF, ILO, WHO, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNAIDS, and IOM. UNHCR also engages with international and national NGOs as well as civil society partners, including UNHCR-funded partners and Refugee-led organizations. For example, Church World Service (CWS), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), 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 with assistance, such as in the provision of emergency and lifesaving medical assistance, addressing the special needs of the unaccompanied/separated and other children at risk, distribution of monthly cash allowance to the most vulnerable refugees, education assistance, SGBV prevention and response, among others.
- Recently, UNHCR together with the UNRC, UNICEF, IOM and through the advocacy of the UN Country Team, along with other partners and stakeholders such as CWS, CRS, University of Indonesia Hospital (RSUI), Jakarta Provincial Government Indonesia Chambers of Commerce (KADIN) and Cargill Indonesia managed to vaccinate more than 7,000 refugees, using vaccines from different sources including government, donation from the private sectors as well as unused vaccines that were allocated for UN staff and dependents.
- Different UN joint programs are also being effectively implemented in Indonesia, such as the UN Joint Team on AIDS/HIV (UNJTTHA), the GAP (Global Action Plan) on Child Wasting, the UN Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTF) on livelihood and economic inclusion, and the UNICEF – UNHCR Blueprint for Joint Action.
- Several UNHCR's activities are being implemented with the support from the private sector. For example, our PPH/Islamic Philanthropy unit builds partnership with major philanthropy institutions, who are committed to support UNHCR's Cash-Based Intervention program.

## 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 30 December 2021, when 105 Rohingya refugees were rescued in North Aceh, after being stranded in the open seas for 4 days. UNHCR worked together with the authorities, local Refugee Task Force, UN agencies, NGO partners and the local community to provide assistance to the group.

- In December 2021, during the High-Level Officials Meeting in Geneva, representative from Indonesia reported its focus in rescue at sea for boats in distress and inclusion of refugees in the national COVID-19 vaccination programs. Indonesia also encouraged the international community to take part in this shared responsibility to refugees and not to deny entry or push refugee boats back to sea.
- 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. UNHCR funded partner, University of Diponegoro, is conducting stateless mapping in several border areas in Indonesia to identify who and how many individuals with statelessness issue. This mapping serves as a baseline for statelessness programming needs in 2022.
- Indonesia is not a party to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on Reduction of Statelessness. In February 2021, according to the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesian children living without birth certificates reached 6 percent of the population under 18 years of age, or over 5 million children. 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. The Director of the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registry of the Ministry of Home Affairs has announced that refugee children are able to attain birth certificates issued by Civil Registry Office. Presidential Regulation No. 96 Year 2018 and the Ministry of Home Affairs Regulation No. 108 Year 2019 have been made as the legal basis for refugee children to attain birth certificates. The actual number of refugee children who have received them is still very low due to lack of awareness of the local Civil Registry Office. By December 2021 UNHCR funded partner, University of Diponegoro Faculty of Law, completed stateless mapping in four border areas in Indonesia to identify who and how many individuals with statelessness issue. The research concludes that there are around 1,462 individuals in North Kalimantan and North Sulawesi, recorded as stateless persons in total. The actual statelessness population figure in Indonesia is believed to be significantly higher than what have been captured in the research. This is due to limited official data available, dynamic of demographic changes, and limited coverage area. The research highlights the importance of accession to the 1954 Convention to establish more effective and comprehensive legal framework in addressing statelessness situation in Indonesia. The research also suggests that there must be an acceleration process for current naturalization or acquisition of citizenship to resolve current statelessness issues.
- 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. UNHCR continue to follow up on the pledges made by the Government in the 2019 Global Refugee Forum through different opportunities including during the June 2021 coordination meeting of the National Refugee Task Force.

- 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 2022.
- The 1,243 vulnerable refugees from 472 households continued to receive monthly subsistence allowance in December. While the total of those received COVID-19 allowance in December 2021 is 4,129 individuals (2,505 households). The distribution of allowance 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. 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.
- UNHCR appreciates the Ministry of Education for a circular note to include refugee children in formal education. The circular note, however, does not cover all areas in which refugees live like Bogor, Depok, Bekasi, Bali and Aceh. UNHCR continues to advocate for the expansion of the circular note to overcome some obstacles including the access to formal certification upon completion of studies.
- With our partners, UNHCR works for all refugee children to have access to national schools. In December 2021, some 862 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. Around 1,600 school aged children are not yet attending formal schools, but among them some 1,000 children are receiving education through refugee learning centres organised by UNHCR, IOM or centres led by the refugee communities.
- 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 December 2021, some 3,666 refugees are enrolled in online education platforms such as Coursera and EdX and in educational programs organised by the refugee communities.
- 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 to the extent of available and mobilised resources.

### COVID-19

- 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. This regulation in practice has also excluded refugees from government-covered COVID-19 treatment, and UNHCR and its partner have been receiving various request for payment from the hospitals. UNHCR continues to advocate for UNHCR ID cards re-inclusion in the future regulations of Ministry of Health.
- The Ministry of Health issued more detailed instructions on COVID-19 vaccination for refugees through a decree which allows refugees with UNHCR issued identity documents to access the private sector vaccination scheme and also the national COVID-19 vaccination scheme provided that at least 70 per cent of the population in the area where refugees reside have received a first vaccination dose. The updated instructions were officially announced on 27 September 2021. As of December 2021, more than 7,000 refugees have received, at least, first dose of vaccination in coordination with the Government and the private sector.
- UNHCR collaborates with partners to provide COVID-19 related information, such as public health services and health-protocols awareness for refugees through refugee representatives and during regular town-hall meeting with refugee communities. 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 will not be able to live a meaningful life until they are resettled, although only a small number will be able to benefit from resettlement. From January to December 2021, only as many as 457 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.
- With joint efforts from UNHCR and Roshan Learning Centre, two Afghan refugees successfully departed to Lithuania on a complementary pathway through education. The first refugee departed in March 2021 and the second in December 2021. Back in May 2021, UNHCR discussed about a potential collaboration with Talent Beyond Borders (TBB) on Labour Mobility Scheme, then 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 and 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. In August 2021, CRS has been officially selected as an implementing partner for this pilot project. The TBB has organized series of trainings for CRS staff as part of capacity building. In December 2021, one Afghan refugee had full-take interview for possible recruitment for a job of butcher in Australia.

- 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). As at the end of 2021, the total number of refugees repatriated voluntarily is 98 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 only 27 people (0.2% of total persons of concern). While as of December 2021, 59 individuals have been departed on private sponsorships.

#### **Private Sector Partnership (PSP)**

- Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its effect in some of the income streams of PSP programme in Indonesia, as of December 2021, PSP Indonesia successfully recorded an income of **IDR 3,824,397,123 (USD 267,527)**. This is an accumulative income up to December 2021 and supported by a total of **5,715** active donors as per end of December 2021, which was generated from Digital Fundraising program, Face to Face (F2F) In-House program, and Face to Face Agency program. Additionally, the PPH/Islamic Philanthropy program raised **IDR4,486,234,488 (USD313,942)** and managed to establish partnerships with several philanthropy organizations and foundations to support the UNHCR refugee protection program. Two of the partners are Badan Amil Zakat Nasional (BAZNAS), which is the State-owned Zakat Body in Indonesia and BP ZIS INDOSAT.

## **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 | Bank Sharia Indonesia | Rumah Zakat Indonesia | BP ZIS Indosat | DT Peduli

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## **LINKS**

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