

Indonesia

May 2023

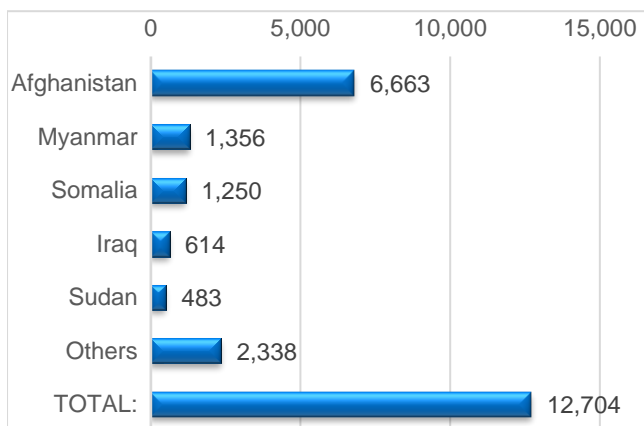
12,704 persons registered with UNHCR including - **73% adult** and **27% children**. Of the total number of adults, 27% are women and 73% are men.

Between January - April 2023, **four boats** disembarked in several locations in **Aceh**, carrying in total **457 Rohingya refugees**, while **21 Rohingya refugees** arrived in Dumai, **Riau** Province.

Of the **3,467 children** registered with UNHCR, **142 children are unaccompanied** by a parent or other adult relative and **59 children are separated** from their parents.

Monthly subsistence allowance was received by **1,263 of the most vulnerable refugees** in May 2023. Many of them are unaccompanied children, single women with children and people with specific needs.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

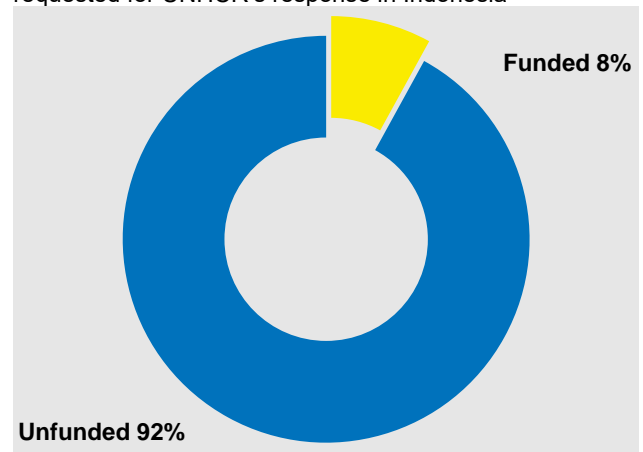


* source: UNHCR statistical report May 2023

2023 FUNDING

USD 13.1M

requested for UNHCR's response in Indonesia



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 29 National Staff
- 7 International Staff
- 44 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), Yayasan Kemanusiaan Madani Indonesia (YKMI), 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 specific 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.
- 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 facilitated vaccination of 9,380 refugees since June 2021. Vaccines were obtained from different sources including government, donation from the private sector as well as unused vaccines that were initially 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 (UNJTHA), 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 support from the private sector. For example, UNHCR's Islamic Philanthropy unit under the Private Sector Partnership (PSP) builds partnership with major philanthropy institutions, who are committed to supporting 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. In a 2021 national meeting, the government discussed the possibility of revising the presidential regulation. In addition, the 2011 Immigration Law is currently being revised by the Parliament, and UNHCR has provided input and consultation during the process.
- The 2016 refugee law includes provisions for the Government to rescue refugees on boats in distress near Indonesia and to help them disembark safely. In 2022, five groups of Rohingya refugees arrived by boat in several locations, carrying 574 Rohingya refugees. Between January - April 2023, four boats disembarked in several locations in Aceh, carrying in total 457 Rohingya refugees, while 21 Rohingya refugees arrived in Dumai, Riau Province on 23 May. Onward movements by the refugees continue to be a serious concern due to the smuggling and trafficking activities surrounding the

refugees' journeys. Many people from the four boats have left, presumably to Malaysia or Thailand, while the remaining Rohingya refugees are mostly relocated to Pekanbaru in April. The number of Rohingya refugees in Aceh stands at some 150 people and they currently live at the site in Pidie. 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, Indonesia confirmed its focus on 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 demonstrate a 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 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, working closely with the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registry. Presidential Regulation No. 96 Year 2018 and the Ministry of Home Affairs Regulation No. 108 Year 2019 serves as the legal basis for refugee children to attain birth certificates, as confirmed by the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registry of the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, 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.
- Birth notification was issued by Kupang Civil Registry Office in April 2022 for two refugee children born in Kupang. UNHCR works with partners to have birth notification issued to 25 refugee children born in Kupang since 2015. Similar efforts are being made to register the birth of refugee children in Tanjung Pinang and Batam. In Batam, documents of 55 refugee children who were born in the city are being prepared and verified, to be submitted to the civil registry office. Additionally, UNHCR is currently identifying refugee children in Jakarta and Bogor, following interest shown by the local civil registry office in these two areas.
- In 2021 UNHCR's partner, University of Diponegoro, conducted a statelessness mapping in several border areas in Indonesia to identify how many individuals may be at risk of statelessness. The research concluded 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. With the time and budget allocated for this cooperation, the project could only be rolled out in limited areas in the country. 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. In October 2022, UNHCR together with Law Faculty of Sam Ratulangi University in Manado, organized an FGD to discuss approaches in addressing statelessness in North Sulawesi as well as to recommend SOPs and further actions to be undertaken by relevant stakeholders.
- Due to the protracted refugee situation in Indonesia it is critical for UNHCR to receive sustained funding to be able to deliver protection and continue to find complementary solutions to the persons of concerns as resettlement opportunities will continue to be extremely limited.

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 first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 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 coordination meetings of the national and local refugee task force. For the upcoming GRF in December 2023, representatives from at least two Refugee-Led Organizations will be involved. UNHCR Indonesia works closely with the UNCT on a common UN pledge which will on health, education, livelihoods, and birth registration.

- Refugee women and men leaders, representing various nationalities, participate in activities implemented by UNHCR and partners, such as assisting refugees with specific needs 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 2023.
- The 1,263 vulnerable refugees from 434 households continued to receive monthly subsistence allowance in May 2023. The distribution of allowance is made through post offices in areas where refugees living independently, including in out-post locations.

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 the issuance of Circular Letter #75253/A.A4/HK/2019 on inclusion of refugee children in formal education. Initially, the area of coverage of this circular letter did not include many locations where refugees reside. However, the area of coverage was improved when the circular letter was revised on 12 May 2022. Additionally, the revision included that a "Graduation Letter" is to be issued upon a student's completion of study at all levels and that this document can be used by students to continue their study at a higher level.
- With our partners, UNHCR works for all refugee children to have access to national schools. In May 2023, some 795 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 2,000 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 May 2023, some 4,968 refugees are enrolled in online education and training platforms such as Coursera and EdX and in educational programs organized 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. UNHCR established a lending system of tablets to refugee children to support their online learning. Furthermore, internet allowance was provided to help overcome the challenges faced by refugee students, such as the limited ownership of devices and internet data required for online distance learning. Language barriers also limit accessing the distance 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 to be re-included 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 May 2023, 9,380 refugees have received the first dose of vaccination, while 8,163 of them have been fully vaccinated (68,2% of the total population of refugees eligible for vaccination) in coordination with the Government and the private sector. Additionally, 68 refugees have received their first booster of COVID-19 vaccination.
- 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 2021, only 457 refugees departed for resettlement. This represents 3.5% of the total refugee population in the country. Meanwhile in 2022 the number of refugees that have departed to resettlement countries slightly increased to 635 people. The outlook for resettlement places is such that it cannot be considered the only viable durable solution for the refugees in Indonesia. Unfortunately, only a small number of refugees will be able to benefit from resettlement. As of May 2023, as many as 533 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. Additionally, in 2022 there were two refugees who got accepted into universities in the United States of America with scholarship, namely University of Minnesota and

Columbia University. Since mid- 2021, UNHCR has collaborated with Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) on a pilot project Labour Mobility Scheme. The pilot project aims to match refugee job candidates in Indonesia with employers in Australia to offer a potential solution and pathway to residency. As of May 2023, 6 refugees were accepted for labour mobility pathways: 1 refugee departed to Canada, and 5 refugees received offer from several companies 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 2021, only 0.7% of the total persons of concern (101 people) have returned voluntarily to their countries of origin. This number decreased in 2022, with only 53 refugees opted for voluntary repatriation (0.4% of the total persons of concern). As of May 2023, the total number of refugees repatriated voluntarily is 21 individuals. The low number of refugees opting for voluntary return shall be seen in light of the situation in the countries of origin, which continues to be characterised in the vast majority by conflict and human rights violations.
- UNHCR provides information and guidance to refugees who may have family members abroad and would like to pursue private sponsorship options. In 2021, 59 people (0.4% of total persons of concern) departed abroad on private sponsorships, and in 2022, as per end of December, the number recorded by UNHCR increased to 301 people (2.3% of total persons of concern). This year, as of May, 144 individuals have been departed on private sponsorships. Although the number is still low, the significant increase is an important achievement, which UNHCR will build on to expand and diversify the range of solutions that refugees can benefit from. Additionally, UNHCR also provide the necessary support to refugees who pursued family reunification programs from other countries. In 2021, seven refugees reunited with their families, while in 2022, three refugees were reunited with their families abroad.

Private Sector Partnership (PSP)

- The Private Sector Partnerships Service (PSP) sits under the Division of External Relations (DER) in HQ and the regional bureau. PSP has been operating since 1999, working globally with different UNHCR regional and country offices and conducting a variety of activities to fulfil one simple primary purpose, which is to facilitate private sector funds for UNHCR, while spreading awareness and advocating for a greater understanding of the refugee story, growing a global community in support of refugees and UNHCR.
- In May 2023, PSP Indonesia successfully advocated for the refugee cause and facilitated donation of Rp1,278,572,252 (US\$ 84,197), while also recruited 1,348 new donors. Overall, in 2023 (January – May 2023) PSP Indonesia raised IDR 7,046,469,332 (US\$ 464,029) with a total of 4,906 new donors that are generated from Digital Fundraising program, Face to Face (F2F), Multichannel and Donor development program. On the Islamic Philanthropy side, UNHCR received some US\$4,500 donation in May from the Waqf Salman Foundation which was earmarked to support Turkiye and Syria Earthquake Emergency Response.

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: UNICEF | IOM | ILO | UNFPA | UNAIDS | Bank Sharia Indonesia | Rumah Zakat Indonesia | BP ZIS Indosat | DT Peduli

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