

Indonesia

July 2023

Highlights

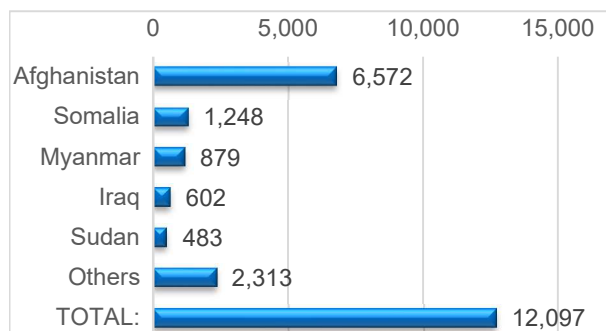
12,097 persons registered with UNHCR including - **73% adult** and **27% children**. Of the total number of adults, 27% are women and 73% are men.

Between January - March 2023, **4 boats** disembarked in several locations in **Aceh**, with a total of **457 Rohingya refugees**. Additionally, **21 Rohingya refugees** arrived in **Dumai**, Riau Province.

Of the **3,268 children** registered with UNHCR, **43 children are unaccompanied** by a parent or other adult relative and **41 children are separated** from their parents.

Monthly subsistence allowance was received by **1,281 of the most vulnerable refugees** in July 2023. Many of them are unaccompanied children, single women with children and people with specific needs.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

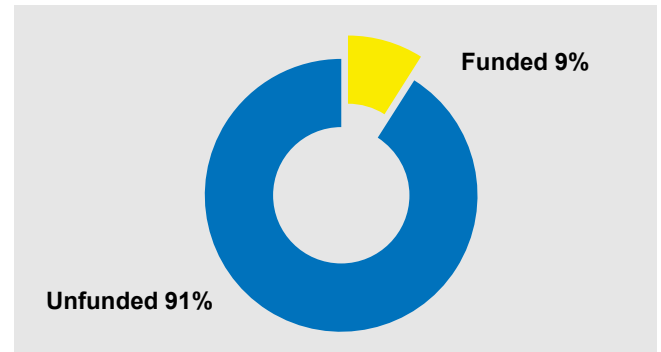


* source: UNHCR statistical report July 2023

2023 FUNDING

USD 13.1M

requested for UNHCR's response in Indonesia



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

35 National Staff
6 International Staff
46 Affiliated Work Force

Offices:

1 Main office [Jakarta]
5 Field locations [Aceh, Medan, Pekanbaru, Tanjung Pinang, Makassar]



Photo: ©UNHCR

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 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. Currently, the 2016 Presidential Regulation is being revised under the leadership of the Coordinating Ministry for the Political, Legal and Security Affairs. At the end of July 2023, UNHCR attended the national coordination meeting to revise the regulation held by the National Refugee Task Force. The office will submit formal to seek to ensure that any revision to the Regulation is aligned with the domestic and international legal instruments and ensures a strong refugee protection framework in Indonesia. In addition to the Presidential Regulation, the 2011 Immigration Law is currently being revised by the Parliament, and UNHCR has provided input and consultation during that process. It appears unlikely that the revision to the law be completed before the election in 2024.
- 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 boats carrying 574 Rohingya refugees in several locations in Indonesia. Boat arrivals continued in 2023, when between five boats carrying 478 Rohingya refugees arrived in the first five months of the year. Onward movements by the refugees continue to be a serious concern due to the smuggling and trafficking activities surrounding the refugees' journeys. Many people who arrive by boat subsequently depart Indonesia irregularly, presumably to Malaysia or Thailand, the number of Rohingya refugees in the transit site in Pidie, Aceh currently stands at some 150 people. UNHCR works together with the authorities, local Refugee Task Force, UN agencies, NGO partners and the local community to provide assistance to the group. Indonesia's humanitarian approach towards the refugees' boat arrivals reflected the commitment made during the High-Level Officials Meetings in Geneva in December 2021, when Indonesia confirmed its focus on rescue at sea for boats in distress. Indonesia also encouraged the international community to demonstrate a shared responsibility to refugees and not to deny entry or to push refugee boats back to sea.
- Indonesia is not a party to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on Reduction of Statelessness. In February 2021, according to the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, 6% of Indonesian children (approximately 5 million children) have not been issued a birth certificate. UNHCR works closely with the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registry to advocates for access to universal birth registration for all children of marginalized groups, including refugee children. 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 obtain 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 birth certificates remains extremely low, largely due to the 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 Tanjug 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.
- There is no clear figure on the number of individuals who are stateless or at risk of statelessness in Indonesia. 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 stateless individuals in North Kalimantan and North Sulawesi. As time and budget for this project were limited, the research only captured statelessness figures in these areas of the country. As such, the actual statelessness population figure in Indonesia is believed to be significantly higher. The research highlights the importance of accession to the 1954 Convention to establish a more effective and comprehensive legal framework to understand and address statelessness situation in Indonesia. The research also suggests that there must be an accelerated process for the acquisition of citizenship. In October 2022, UNHCR, together with Law Faculty of Sam Ratulangi University in Manado, organized a focus group discussion to discuss approaches in addressing statelessness in North Sulawesi as well as to recommend SOPs and further actions to be undertaken by relevant stakeholders. Meanwhile in July 2023, UNHCR organized another FGD with the City Government of Bitung (North Sulawesi) to find ways to expedite the identification of undocumented persons of Filipino descents in the region and to find solutions for them.

- It is critical for UNHCR to receive sustained funding to be able to deliver protection and continue to identify comprehensive solutions for refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Refugees are not able to exercise their right to work in Indonesia. As comprehensive and 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. These programs include vocational trainings and entrepreneurship opportunities 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 empowerment as part of Indonesia's effort to address the global refugee crisis. 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 work to improve the health, education, livelihoods, and birth registration of refugees and stateless people.
- Male and female refugee leaders, representing various nationalities, participate in activities implemented by UNHCR and partners, including 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, and 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.
- 1,281 vulnerable refugees from 435 households continued to receive a monthly subsistence allowance in July 2023. The distribution of allowance is made through post offices in areas where refugees live 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. 752553/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 field locations to teach refugee children Bahasa Indonesia, basic math and literacy, and local customs and culture.

- Following the initial issuance of Circular Letter #752553/A.A4/HK/2019 on the inclusion of refugee children in formal education, the area of coverage of the circular letter included a limited number of areas in which refugees reside. However, the area of coverage was expanded through a revision of the circular on 12 May 2022. Additionally, the revision stipulated 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 July 2023, some 788 refugee children are enrolled in formal accredited national schools, out of some 2,500 school aged children. There are a number of challenges to increasing refugee children’s enrolment rates in national schools, including a limited knowledge of Bahasa Indonesia; limited financial resources of parents to support stationary, transport, etc; reports of limited available places in public schools where refugees reside; and the parents hope that they will soon be resettled to a country
- Aside from formal education, other educational opportunities include enrolment in online and offline, accredited university and other vocational training/educational courses. UNHCR encourages refugees to join these courses including the Coursera for Refugees and EdX free online learning platforms. Refugee communities also have several community-based learning centres (RLOs) for refugee children. As of end of July 2023, some 1,000 children are receiving informal education through programs organised by UNHCR, IOM or in RLOs. UNHCR continues to encourage refugee parents to prepare their children with the necessary skills, including through informal channels, until they are ready to enrol in national schools. Meanwhile some 4,046 refugees are enrolled in these online and offline education, vocational and training platforms.

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 financial support for individuals requiring emergency or secondary medical care to the extent of available and mobilised resources.
- During the pandemic, the Ministry of Health issued detailed instructions on the COVID-19 vaccination for refugees through a decree which allows refugees with UNHCR-issued identity documents to access the private sector vaccination scheme and 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. As of July 2023, 9,380 refugees have received the first dose of the vaccination and 8,163 refugees 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.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR continues to identify the most vulnerable refugees in Indonesia for resettlement consideration. Considering the size of its refugee population, Indonesia has benefited from generous resettlement quotas in recent years, submitting an average of nearly 1,000 individuals for resettlement consideration each year over the past five years (2018-2022). However, resettlement spaces are extremely limited globally (benefitting less than 1% of the refugee population). As such, resettlement will not be a solution for all refugees in Indonesia. Many refugees in Indonesia originate from countries with prolonged instability, preventing voluntary return in the near future. As such, UNHCR is working to expand opportunities for complementary pathways to third countries for the refugee population in Indonesia.
- UNHCR continues to work with partners to expand opportunities for education and labor mobility pathways for refugees. Several refugee students have departed to Lithuania and the United States on university scholarships over the past few years. Since mid-

2021, UNHCR has collaborated with Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) on a pilot project Labour Mobility project which aims to match refugee job candidates in Indonesia with employers in Australia, Canada, and other labor mobility countries to enable skilled refugees to achieve a solution through an employment opportunity. As of July 2023, 1 refugee has departed to Canada for labour mobility, while 6 refugee are in the pipeline to depart for the same opportunity to Canada and 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 2022, 53 refugees repatriated voluntarily to their home countries (0.4% of the total persons of concern). 35 individuals have voluntarily repatriated from January to July 2023. The low number of refugees opting for voluntary return is reflective of continued insecurity and instability in many places of origin.
- UNHCR provides information and guidance to refugees who have family reunification or sponsorship opportunities abroad. 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). As of July 2023, 181 individuals have departed on private sponsorships. Seven refugees were reunited with their families in 2021, while three refugees were reunited in 2022. In 2023 as of July, an additional three refugees departed abroad under the family reunification scheme. UNHCR will build on to expand and diversify the range of solutions from which refugees can benefit.

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. Key government partners include 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 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 (RLOs). UNHCR partners include 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. Through these partnerships, UNHCR seeks to ensure that refugees and stateless persons are protected and provided with assistance. Activities include 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, assistance in accessing education, 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 the 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.

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 July 2023, PSP Indonesia successfully advocated for the global refugee cause and facilitated donation of Rp1,635,942,066 (US\$ 104,040.35) and recruited 1,795 new donors. Overall, in 2023 (January – July 2023) PSP Indonesia raised IDR 10,505,361,459 (US\$ 668,105.27) with a total of 6,790 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 Rp. 375,250,000 (US\$25,000) donations from BP ZIS INDOSAT, which was earmarked to support CBI program 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: UNICEF | IOM | ILO | UNFPA | UNAIDS | Bank Sharia Indonesia | Rumah Zakat Indonesia | BP ZIS Indosat | DT Peduli

CONTACTS

Mitra Suryono, Associate Communications Officer

suryono@unhcr.org

www.unhcr.org/id

Facebook: UNHCR Indonesia | Twitter: UNHCRIndo | Instagram: unhcrindonesia