

Annual Results Report

2024

Thailand MCO

Acknowledgements

UNHCR would like to thank all the stakeholders that contributed data and evidence to this report and reviewed their progress against the joint results of the strategy, including forcibly displaced and stateless people, host communities and host governments, United Nations agencies, and international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector. Their contributions enable us to create positive changes in the lives of the people we serve.

Contact us

www.unhcr.org

Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

Downloaded date: 28/05/2025

Table of Contents

Section 1: Context and Overview

- 1.1 - Changes to the Operational Context
- 1.2 - Progress Against the Desired Impact
- 1.3 - Challenges to Achieving Impacts
- 1.4 - Collaboration and Partnerships

Section 2: Results

- 2.1 - Outcomes and Achievements
- 2.2 - Age, Gender and Diversity

Section 3: Resources

- 3.1 - Financial Data
- 3.2 - Resources Overview

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2024, conflict in Myanmar escalated, triggering widespread violence and displacement. By year-end, 1 million internally displaced people (IDPs) were living in southeastern Myanmar states bordering Thailand – a 44% increase from 693,000 the previous year.

In response, UNHCR worked with the Royal Thai Government to bolster preparedness efforts for a possible influx of up to 40,000 of those refugees. This included support for the 2024 Inter-Agency Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan. While the Royal Thai Government declared its readiness to receive up to 100,000 refugees from Myanmar, far fewer (some 4,000) ended up crossing the border through official processes. These refugees were briefly accommodated in Government-assigned ‘temporary safety areas’ before returning to Myanmar. However, thousands more people were presumed to have fled into Thailand through other means. While some were legally residing in the country, others lacked proper documentation and were considered “illegal migrants” under the Immigration Act, leaving them vulnerable to arrest, detention and deportation. UNHCR had limited access to this group in 2024.

Despite these challenges, efforts to advance refugees’ legal protection in Thailand progressed in 2024. Two Thai Parliament reports submitted to the Cabinet for consideration offered valuable recommendations for legalizing the stay of asylum-seekers and refugees, upholding their basic rights and advancing their inclusion in host communities and wider society. This was particularly important for the estimated 83,000 people who have been living in camps in Thailand for decades. With UNHCR’s technical input, various Government actors, including the Royal Thai Army and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supported seminars on local solutions, the future for the protracted refugee population, lending further momentum to UNHCR calls for the camps to be closed and for refugees’ right to work. The seminars included government officials, military, UN and civil society organizations.

UNHCR continued building the capacity of the National Screen Mechanism, which recognized the first seven “Protected Persons”. Such status could offer a form of protection to some 6,100 urban refugees and asylum-seekers – currently designated ‘illegal migrants’ – who are at risk of deportation. However, despite Thailand’s election to the UN Human Rights Council and review by the Committee Against Torture, deportation risks persisted.

Significant strides were also made in addressing statelessness. In October, following its membership in the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, Thailand’s Cabinet approved measures to accelerate pathways to nationality for over 480,000 of the 599,000 registered stateless people. Meanwhile, Cambodia, introduced a new law on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics, and Identification in July to streamline legal identity processes and ensure universal civil registration. Viet Nam reported a reduction in its stateless population and committed to acceding to the 1954 Convention relating the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to territory, are protected from refoulement, can seek asylum and enjoy their full range of rights through strengthened national protection frameworks

Statelessness is identified, prevented and reduced through the effective implementation of improved law and policy frameworks, including those related to civil registration and vital statistics, legal identity and nationality procedures

Indicator			
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Actual (2024)
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence			
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.21%	0.00%
Thailand	Stateless Persons	0.00%	0.00%

To improve the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in Thailand, UNHCR recommended policy and legislative changes through oral presentations at parliament hearings, parliamentary reports and participation in seminars organized by other government actors. UNHCR’s recommendations have also been advanced through numerous bilateral meetings and capacity development training.

Since 2021, the Royal Thai Government reported that 56,000 people who had fled Myanmar to Thailand had voluntarily returned. In line with Thailand’s standard operating procedures, new arrivals were hosted in ‘temporary safety areas’ (TSAs) controlled by the Royal Thai Army rather than in existing camps managed by the Ministry of Interior. The largest influx in 2024 occurred in April with the fall of Myawaddy. More than 4,000 people fleeing Myanmar were received in seven TSAs. Access to Thai territory remained restricted. Nevertheless, new arrivals continued to enter Thailand using unofficial paths, keeping a low profile. Unofficial new arrivals were estimated to exceed 20,000, including high-profile and sensitive cases.

However, with little access to new arrivals, UNHCR was unable to assess their international protection needs or verify the voluntary nature of their returns. While Thailand declared its capacity to receive 100,000 refugees, no means to seek asylum, however, left tens of thousands with no legal status in the country. By year-end, the Royal Thai Government revised its internal standard operating procedures. UNHCR continued to advocate for access to territory, adherence to the principle of non-refoulement and improved humanitarian access.

Forcibly displaced people living in Thailand’s urban areas faced protection risks, including restrictions when registering with UNHCR. As they were considered “illegal migrants” by the State, they were subject to arrest, detention and deportation. UNHCR maintained its strong relationships with refugee communities, civil society and authorities to monitor protection needs and ensure the State met their international and domestic obligations. Despite efforts through meetings, written correspondence and calls with frontline officials, the overnight deportation of seven Cambodian nationals registered with UNHCR highlighted the fragile protection environment.

Thailand’s National Screening Mechanism (NSM) became operational in 2024 and recognized seven people as ‘protected persons.’ UNHCR provided extensive training on various aspects of the NSM, including interviewing, interpretation and protection needs assessments.

In October 2024, the Thai Cabinet approved an accelerated pathway to permanent residency and nationality for nearly half a million stateless people who have lived and contributed to Thailand for generations. This resolution reflected growing political will to empower stateless communities to contribute to the Thai economy and society, following years of advocacy by UNHCR and other stakeholders.

UNHCR also partnered with the Local Community Network (LCN) – Thailand’s first stateless-led

organization and the second of its kind in Southeast Asia. Throughout the year, LCN provided legal assistance to 432 stateless people, reinforced efforts to empower stateless communities, and ensured the sustainability of advocacy and support mechanisms.

In partnership with the Employers' Confederation of Thailand, UNHCR worked to enhance livelihood opportunities. Through this initiative, 52 stateless people and 73 employers were trained on employment access, labour rights and social security. Thailand also continued its efforts to reduce statelessness. In 2024, 5,651 people obtained Thai nationality, 787 received permanent residency and 6,289 stateless people were identified and registered.

To improve access to legal identity in remote areas, the Royal Thai Government adopted a mobile registration approach, supported by UNHCR in several locations, including Kaeng Krachan in Phetchaburi, where 80 people gained Thai nationality, and Phayam Island in Ranong, where statelessness was resolved for 106 Moken people.

UNHCR also supported three assessment missions with the Internal Security Affairs Bureau, enhancing the expertise of 75 local officials in Chiang Rai, Kanchanaburi and Sakaeo to process applications for permanent residence, while expediting 743 applications. Through a partnership with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Chiang Rai, UNHCR provided legal assistance to 8,197 stateless people, of whom 488 secured nationality or permanent residency.

Meanwhile, in Cambodia, UNHCR training for 680 Government officials enhanced their understanding and effective implementation of the country's law on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management, strengthening legal identity and registration processes.

In Viet Nam, UNHCR worked with the Ministry of Justice to provide 1,221 people with certificates of Vietnamese nationality, identity cards and birth certificates, further advancing efforts to reduce statelessness in the region.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, and stateless people enjoy improved access to basic rights and essential services through strengthened laws and policies, enhanced understanding and capacity among service providers, and increased recognition of their status as rights holders

Efforts to improve the protection environment for people fleeing Myanmar through the Thai border continued throughout 2024. Having strengthened its advocacy and relationships with key national and provincial Government officials, as well as with the Royal Thai Army, UNHCR was in a better position to offer technical guidance. These efforts led to greater access to the camps, improved information exchange and communication, more accessible referral pathways for refugees to public services, as well as more flexible registration practices for the most vulnerable. These changes also prompted some reflection among officials on the benefits of including refugees in host communities, challenging the decades-long, strict encampment policy.

UNHCR also facilitated access to the Thai justice system for survivors of gender-based violence in the refugee camps and secured state compensation for them. Protection counseling was offered to survivors to address any concerns they had.

In 2024, there was a 29% increase in unaccompanied and separated children arriving in the camps, where they stayed with extended family or acquaintances, according to UNHCR's child protection partner, the Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees Foundation. To relieve the strain this placed on existing services for children, UNHCR led efforts to enhance links to the State's child protection mechanism, though limited resources meant only a fraction of the needs could be addressed.

In urban areas, refugees and asylum-seekers, including Rohingya refugees in Thai custody, faced limited access to basic rights and essential services, despite concerted advocacy by UNHCR, UN sister agencies and NGO partners. The lack of access to national services resulted in significant gaps in child protection

and responses to gender-based violence. Notable gaps included a lack of emergency relocation options, mental health and psychological and social support, and legal assistance. In 2024, UNHCR’s weekly protection counselling sessions saw an 18% increase in people discussing mental health concerns and seeking support. This trend may reflect the growing awareness of mental healthcare, and the ongoing challenges faced by those in prolonged displacement, which are exacerbated by financial hardship.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people can become self-reliant and benefit from access to inclusive and equitable quality education, meaningful livelihood opportunities and increased community empowerment and engagement in a safe and discrimination-free environment, including on gender-related grounds

Indicator			
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Actual (2024)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work			
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
Thailand	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education			
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63.70%	97.70%
Thailand	Stateless Persons	87.32%	105.46%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education			
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	87.56%	168.44%
Thailand	Stateless Persons	19.93%	17.90%

In both border and urban areas, UNHCR strengthened its communication with refugees to better engage with, empower, and seek feedback from all facets of their community, including refugees with disabilities, older refugees and young people. In the refugee camps, in-person protection counselling sessions proved popular, with around 3,000 people attending across the year. Other communication channels such as phone hotlines and complaint boxes were also utilized to ensure broad access.

UNHCR and partner organizations encouraged refugee volunteers to participate in community outreach activities, including focus group discussions and home visits to the most vulnerable refugees. The main aim of this outreach was to ensure people knew their rights, particularly in accessing civil documentation, legal services, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. These visits also provided valuable insight into the needs of some of the most vulnerable such as older people experiencing loneliness.

In response to community requests for support with child protection risks in the camps, UNHCR organized a series of film screenings and discussions with the Sermpanya Foundation on positive parenting. These sessions were designed to strengthen child protection at home and prevent children from resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as substance abuse. Around 8,000 refugees attended these screenings, with 98% reporting a better understanding of parenting after watching the film.

To address the needs of the urban refugee and asylum-seeker population, UNHCR responded through 14,000 emails and 4,000 phone calls, and more than 500 emergency calls to the UNHCR hotline. For urban refugees and asylum-seekers who needed to raise protection concerns in person, UNHCR ran approximately 800 protection counselling sessions and introduced mobile protection counselling sessions in community spaces for people who were unable to afford to travel. While many queries and concerns were related to available services or case processing, in-person counseling and hotline calls often raised more urgent protection needs, resulting in immediate interventions and referrals.

Refugees in Thailand remained prohibited from legal work opportunities. UNHCR continued with advocacy actions targeting a range of local and national stakeholders, amidst growing calls from civil society and parliamentarians for encamped refugees to be granted the right to work and contribute to the Thai economy.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Refugees have improved access to a range of durable solutions, including local integration, third-country solutions, and facilitated voluntary return and can acquire nationality, while stateless people have enhanced pathways to acquire nationality and achieve legal recognition

Indicator			
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Actual (2024)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin			
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8	17
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement			
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,717	1,655
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways			
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	963	607
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed			
Thailand	Stateless Persons	7,708	5,651
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed			
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

In 2024, UNHCR Thailand strategically used resettlement as a tool to support broader protection objectives and durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers. Following the United States' 2023 announcement of a new, large-scale resettlement programme, a data verification exercise was launched and completed in the nine camps jointly by UNHCR and the Thai Ministry of Interior to determine accurate population figures and their eligibility for the programme. UNHCR then successfully registered expressions of interest and began preparing and submitting applications from the verified and eligible population. Close to 13,500 people from Ban Don Yang, Tham Hin and Nupo expressed interest in resettlement to the United States, representing approximately 86% of the combined population of these three temporary shelters. Among them, 10, 727 and 120 people were subsequently submitted to the United States from those places respectively, with more than 520 departing within the year. Concurrently, discussions with the Royal Thai Government began regarding the future of the camps, with positive indications that it may explore the possibility of integrating the remaining refugee population into host communities.

A key component of the resettlement process was conducting best interest assessments and best interest determinations for children. UNHCR set up child protection desks to quickly address any child protection concerns. These desks, staffed by child protection experts helped identify and prioritize the most vulnerable cases for resettlement consideration. They also identified some unregistered vulnerable people and UNHCR was able to advocate for their registration and verification by the Ministry of Interior.

In 2024, 1,655 refugees from both camps and urban areas departed for resettlement to Australia, Canada, Finland, New Zealand and the United States.

UNHCR also advocated for expanded access to complementary pathways for refugees in Thailand. In 2024, its role focused on processing exit visas for refugees accepted through private sponsorships and liaising with relevant embassies and Thai Authorities. During the year, 589 people departed through complementary pathways, mainly through private sponsorship and family reunification, with destinations including Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

For stateless people, Thailand made notable progress in 2024. During the year, 5,651 people acquired Thai

nationality, 787 were granted legal immigration status (permanent residency) and 6,289 people were officially registered as stateless. Thailand further demonstrated its commitment to reducing statelessness by joining the Global Alliance to End Statelessness and later issuing a Cabinet resolution to expedite permanent residency and nationality for more than 480,000 stateless people. If successfully implemented, this resolution will dramatically reduce statelessness in Thailand.

In Viet Nam, efforts to resolve cases of statelessness and undetermined nationality continued. The Government took significant steps toward acceding to the 1954 Convention relating the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, including a review of current civil registration legislation and procedures to identify areas for improvement.

In Cambodia, the new Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identification law allowed anyone, including stateless people, to register births and obtain official documentation.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Improving the refugee protection space in Thailand requires legal reform that effectively integrates a rights-based approach into laws, policies, and practices. Despite being a party to 7 out of 9 Core Human Rights Treaties, Thailand has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention. Domestic laws, heavily reliant on the Immigration Act, are inadequate for addressing the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. Mechanisms like the National Screening Mechanism (NSM), Alternatives to Detention (ATD), Bail, and Victims of Trafficking (VOT) have opened discussions on refugee protection but have not yet formed into a solid framework. Consequently, refugees and asylum seekers are seen as “illegal migrants,” and their basic rights are not respected, leading to precarious living conditions. Key concerns include lack of freedom of movement, arrest and long-term detention, and no rights to work, and the risk of refoulement, as evidenced by the forced return in November of seven Cambodian nationals registered with UNHCR.

The Royal Thai Government (RTG) views Thailand largely as a transit country, relying on resettlement (RST) as a solution. This perspective complicates the protection landscape, as seen in a high number of arrest and detentions for urban refugees. For the Rohingya, detention is the only possibility, with the vast majority confined in Immigration Detention Centers (IDC) and shelters and many exposed to risks of exploitation and abuse. The RTG has expressed some openings for the camp population regarding the right to work and greater freedom of movement, but these are often linked to resettlement opportunities.

Refugees are viewed through political and security lenses, hindering a rights-based approach. However, there is hope that through the NSM, some urban refugees can access health schemes and might gain legal status, documents, and possibly the right to work. Despite these prospects, significant progress is needed, particularly with ATD and Bail, where detention remains the default response and the VOT mechanism is rarely applied.

The situation for people fleeing from Myanmar remained unclear. Revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and public statements to receive 100,000 belied the lack of policies for their reception. The urgency of the matter has been underscored by the approximately 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) on the Myanmar side of the Thai-Myanmar border. UNHCR's access to new arrivals along the Thai-Myanmar border, as well as to Rohingya refugees in Thai custody, remained limited, making it difficult to assess and meet humanitarian needs.

For the protracted refugee population, a strict encampment policy has prevented refugees from accessing national systems and services. After decades of encampment, the level of aid dependence has grown and translated into common drug abuse.

Public understanding of the refugee situation is limited. This lack of awareness hinders broader support for protection measures and complicates advocacy efforts.

While significant, progress to address these challenges has been made and will continue in 2025.

Foremost has been the Parliament Reports advancing needed legal reform alongside the governments' own seminars. UNHCR's investments in capacity building and sensitization on refugee law – access to territory, non-refoulement have strengthened relations with government partners. In turn there is more dialogue on

solutions. One key highlight from 2024 was the Provincial Protection Sector Working Group workshop on Humanitarian Response Coordination for displaced persons from Myanmar in Tak Province. This workshop, the first of its kind for the Thailand-Myanmar border, involved government, military, and humanitarian organizations to discuss refugee protection and share lessons learned from past influxes. More will continue into 2025.

Despite the Royal Thai Government's (RTG) continued commitment made at various international forums, challenges persist in implementing laws and policies, as well as resource allocation and mobilization. Political dynamics also influence government decisions and progress concerning the non-Thai population. While the Cabinet Resolution was announced, public misunderstandings about the targeted population led to protests, highlighting the need for clearer communication and awareness efforts.

In Viet Nam, the government's large-scale public administrative reform and structural reorganization at both central and local levels have caused delays in policy implementation, particularly affecting advocacy efforts for accession to the Statelessness Conventions.

In Cambodia, progress remained slow in issuing subsidiary laws and strengthening coordination between government agencies, impacting the effective implementation of legal frameworks

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR's partnerships with national, local and international stakeholders have played a crucial role in advancing the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless people. Collaborations with the Royal Thai Government, UN and humanitarian agencies, civil society and community-based organizations have facilitated greater coordination and resource mobilization, ultimately improving UNHCR's reach and effectiveness.

In 2024, key funded partners included Thailand's Ministry of Interior, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees Foundation, Humanity and Inclusion, HOST International, the Local Community Network (LCN), Viet Nam's Ministry of Justice, UNDP Viet Nam and UNOPS. These partnerships, along with strategic alliances with international and national NGOs, civil society, faith-based organizations, private sector partners, media and academia, addressed various issues, including alternatives to detention, improved access to domestic legal and social services, as well as alternative forms of temporary protection pending solutions. UNHCR also worked closely with UN country teams across Thailand, Viet Nam and Laos on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and with the UN country team in Cambodia to develop an inclusive UNSDCF.

In the nine camps, UNHCR coordinated protection interventions through the Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT), a consortium of NGOs providing essential services. Within the tightly controlled camp setting, where the focus is on basic care and maintenance under the leadership of the Ministry of Interior, CCSDPT ensured each organization could effectively perform its role while working collaboratively.

In 2024, UNHCR established its first partnership with the stateless-led organization Local Community Network (LCN) in Thailand, which has deep insight into the challenges faced by stateless people in the country. This transformative collaboration enabled more than 430 stateless people to apply for nationality or permanent residency in 2024 and provided training to 19 community-based volunteers. To ensure sustainable support, UNHCR strengthened LCN's capacity by offering coaching, training and funding. This partnership marks the beginning of a new approach and lays the foundation for further collaboration in 2025, focusing on empowering stateless people and refugees to implement their own solutions more efficiently and cost-effectively.

UNHCR also strengthened its whole-of-government approach in 2024, engaging various ministries, Parliament, the Office of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, and security actors, to

influence policy and legislation. This approach aims to shift the perspective towards viewing refugees through a humanitarian and rights-based lens. Going forward, UNHCR will deepen its engagement and advocacy with the Royal Thai Government and regional actors, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to promote inclusion and durable solutions for refugees and other displaced groups.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Refugees and asylum seekers have access to the territory and are profiled and registered.

Stateless people have access to civil registration and civil status documentation.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	98.07%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	28.88%
Thailand	Stateless Persons	99.88%	99.88%	99.89%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	93.26%	93.05%
Thailand	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,447
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation		
Thailand	Stateless Persons	10,028

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Policy and legislative gaps in Thailand meant UNHCR's protection monitoring, registration and capacity-building activities played a critical role in advocating for the rights and safety of people fleeing persecution and conflict.

In 2024, in line with standard operating procedures, the provincial Thai-Myanmar Border Command recorded the arrival of people fleeing conflict, hosting them in 'temporary safety areas' until the situation in their home country improved. These statistics were recorded by Border Command, but this registration did not grant legal status for long-term stay.

There was no way to submit an asylum claim for those fleeing persecution from Myanmar and seeking asylum, including the Rohingya. UNHCR advocated against their detention or deportation, but they remained in a precarious situation vulnerable to exploitation with their status categorized as “illegal migrants”. Rohingya, who typically transit through Thailand, faced heightened risks of indefinite detention in immigration detention centres. In 2024, UNHCR was aware of more than 600 Rohingya detained in Thailand but could only access 18% of them. In 2024, 1,612 birth certificates were issued.

In Thailand’s urban areas, approximately 2,200 people from 44 nationalities sought to register with UNHCR in 2024, with approximately 1,600 successful registrations – an 11% increase from 2023. By year-end, 6,060 asylum-seekers and refugees were registered in urban areas. While the identity documents issued as part of this registration process were not legally recognized in Thailand, they served as proof to authorities that the person was known to UNHCR and provided some degree of protection in the event of arrest or deportation.

Thailand’s immigration authorities began screening people applying for protected person status under the National Screening Mechanism (NSM) in late 2023. UNHCR worked with the Royal Thai Government, civil society and UN agencies to ensure the registration process and protection assessments adhered to national and international protection standards. Seven people were granted protected status via the NSM in 2024. In Cambodia, asylum-seekers in the State-run asylum system could register their applications in the capital, provided they were not detained, with more than 40 Cambodian asylum officials receiving training on international refugee law through UNHCR.

In 2024, Thailand registered 598,765 stateless people, an increase of 5,792 from 2023, reflecting efforts to identify and register newly-recognized stateless people, particularly students. The Government continued to prioritize nationality registration, with 5,651 people obtaining Thai nationality (compared to 7,708 in 2023) and 787 acquiring permanent residency.

Over 7,220 people received legal assistance through a UNHCR-Adventist Development and Relief Agency project, which resulted in the preparation of 3,990 applications and the submission of more than 3,130. UNHCR also supported the first stateless-led organization, the Local Community Network, which assisted over 430 people, helped nearly 100 apply for nationality and permanent residency, and trained 19 community-based volunteers. UNHCR also collaborated with the Bureau of Registration Administration, the Internal Security Affairs Bureau and the Department of Special Investigation to support over 1,150 people in preparing applications for civil status, identity or legal status documentation.

In Cambodia, UNHCR supported digital civil registration under the new Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identifications law and trained 680 officials. In Viet Nam, UNHCR supported the capacity building of 880 Government officials involved in issuing civil registration documents and helped more than 1,220 people obtain Vietnamese nationality.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Asylum seekers have access to quality status determination procedures.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	298.45	321.00	321.16
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Although Thailand does not have a national refugee status determination procedure, it has established two separate screening mechanisms: the Provincial Admission Board (PAB) for Myanmar refugees residing in nine temporary shelters and the National Screening Mechanism (NSM) for urban refugees in the Bangkok area.

Prior to 2024, unregistered Myanmar refugees in temporary shelters with serious protection or medical issues could apply to the PAB for “registered” status, which would then allow for resettlement processing. Following sustained advocacy by UNHCR, the Royal Thai Government agreed to process exit permit requests for all camp residents who were part of a population verification exercise completed in the nine camps in December 2023. This agreement significantly expanded eligibility for resettlement and complementary pathways to the entire verified camp population. As a result, UNHCR did not submit any cases to the PAB for Fast Track PAB consideration from the four refugee-hosting provinces during the year.

In 2024, Thailand’s NSM confirmed protected person status for the first seven applicants in urban areas. UNHCR has been engaged with the Royal Thai Government on the NSM’s development since 2016, when the Government first pledged to establish this mechanism. In 2024, UNHCR built on its previous efforts to enhance the authorities’ capacity to identify and respond to international protection needs by conducting six training courses for relevant officials. These courses covered interviewing techniques, working with interpreters, conducting country of origin research and drafting assessments, all of which improved their ability to apply international standards. On-the-job coaching was also provided to further strengthen these skills.

Alongside its capacity building initiatives, UNHCR also advocated for the development of systems and procedures that would offer better protection for refugees and asylum-seekers. This included supporting inter-government exchanges on national asylum systems, including with the Republic of Korea, the global Asylum Capacity Support Group, and the International Association of Refugee and Migration Law Judges. To address remaining gaps in the mechanism, particularly regarding legal status and the establishment of a protection framework, UNHCR continued to urge the Royal Thai Government to align its regulations with international standards.

The number of urban asylum-seekers in Thailand increased significantly in 2024, with the largest groups originating from Pakistan, Viet Nam, and Cambodia. UNHCR successfully processed urgent priority cases, facilitating accelerated access to protection and solutions, including emergency resettlement for those at imminent risk of refoulement.

In Cambodia, no decisions were issued, and UNHCR focused its advocacy efforts on promoting the establishment of a national asylum framework that would align with international standards.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Law and policy strengthened, and Administrative institutions and practice developed/strengthened.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol				
Thailand	None	Not yet aligned	Not yet aligned	Not yet aligned
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness				
Thailand	None	Not yet aligned	Not yet aligned	Not yet aligned

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes
Thailand	Stateless Persons	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, domestic law and policy on refugee status remained insufficient, though there were growing calls for Thailand to adopt a legal framework for refugees. Positive shifts in policy positions emerged, including reports from two parliamentary committees that recommend legal and policy reforms, as well consideration of ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. In line with a Royal Thai Government pledge at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, and following joint advocacy by UNICEF, UNHCR and civil society, Thailand withdrew its reservation to Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which relates to the rights of refugee children – reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding the rights of refugee children.

Public discourse surrounding the extradition trial of a UNHCR-registered refugee and the deportation of seven UNHCR-registered people, sparked significant public debate over Thailand's non-refoulement obligations under its Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act. This Act reflects Thailand's obligations as a signatory to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and it also aligns with Thailand's obligations as a new signatory to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which was ratified in June 2024.

In response, UNHCR, in collaboration with OHCHR and civil society, advocated for upholding the principle of non-refoulement through meetings, workshops and formal communications with a range of Government partners. UNHCR also contributed to a report on Thailand by the Committee for the CAT and participated in a mock CAT review session for the Royal Thai Government.

Building on sustained advocacy, UNHCR noted an emerging willingness to enhance inclusion from both national and provincial authorities. In November, following collaborative advocacy by UNHCR and children's rights NGOs, the Ministry of Interior announced that Thai language education could take place in the camps. This policy shift would help refugees gain essential language skills, facilitating their inclusion in Thai institutions and expanding work opportunities. Furthermore, during Government-sponsored seminars, calls

for the right to work were also made by UNHCR and NGOs, and the aforementioned parliament reports recommended granting rights to work, freedom of movement and access to public services.

UNHCR also supported the Royal Thai Government in revising its standard operating procedures related to the Myanmar emergency response. While these updates were not made public by year-end, they are expected to lead to more systematic and better access to humanitarian support for refugees.

On statelessness, Thailand continued its efforts to eradicate statelessness, marking a significant step forward with a Thai Cabinet resolution that set a target to grant nationality or permanent residency to more than 480,000 stateless people in 2025. Legal immigration and permanent residency approvals also rose from 330 in 2022 to 663 in 2023 and reached 787 in 2024. In a further positive development, Thailand joined the Global Alliance to End Statelessness with UNHCR, reinforcing its commitment to resolving the issue. Public awareness efforts included collaboration with the Employers' Confederation of Thailand and academic institutions to conduct studies and propose policy recommendations on education, social policy and the protection of stateless children.

To foster cross-border cooperation in civil registration and statelessness resolution, UNHCR facilitated a study visit for the Cambodian General Department of Identification (GDI) to Thailand. It also supported training for 608 GDI officials on implementing the new Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identification law, which will enhance legal identity processes for all.

In Viet Nam, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to acceding to the 1954 Convention relating the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, furthering regional efforts to address statelessness.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Risk of gender-based violence is reduced and the quality of response improved, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse is mainstreamed in all areas.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.50%	93.33%	92.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10,153

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In refugee camps across Thailand, UNHCR managed gender-based violence cases for 80 survivors, providing psychological and social support, legal counseling, and referrals to the Thai justice system and relevant stakeholders. Additional services included interpretation assistance and, in exceptional cases, food support in safe houses. Coordination with authorities and partners ensured more effective case processing, implementation of safety measures, prosecution of perpetrators, access to compensation and the identification of durable solutions. This holistic approach strengthened survivors' protection, recovery and

well-being.

To bolster prevention and response efforts, 10,030 people participated in awareness raising activities on various forms of gender-based violence, guiding principles and available services. These activities helped participants better recognize risks and access support. Specific sessions on school-related gender-based violence addressed the risks children face in educational settings, offering strategies for prevention and response. Nearly 700 refugees participated in gender-based violence prevention, risk reduction and response activities, further enhancing their capacity to recognize and manage such incidents.

In the camps, 22 sessions on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse were conducted, reaching 6,890 people, including refugee volunteers, camp leaders, Thai authorities and partners. These sessions reinforced prevention measures and response mechanisms, supported by information materials to ensure a broad understanding of protection standards.

In urban areas, UNHCR provided specialized services to over 40 survivors, including mental health and psychological and social support. Many survivors were under case management, which included referrals for emergency medical care, relocation support, cash assistance for protection and access to mental health services. UNHCR also informed survivors about criminal complaint processes, accompanied those willing to lodge formal complaints to the police station, and coordinated pro bono legal support for survivors through investigation and court procedures.

Responding to feedback from young urban refugees about gender-based violence, particularly regarding online sexual exploitation and abuse, UNHCR organized a series of sessions for 80 young people from four different refugee communities. These sessions used discussion and art therapy to address topics such as online and offline safety, navigating relationships and setting boundaries, and reporting gender-based violence. In addition, 10 awareness raising sessions on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse were held for newly-arrived asylum-seekers as part of general community outreach visits, with a focus on young people and gender-based violence. UNHCR and partner staff also participated in training and refresher sessions to enhance their capacity to address these critical issues.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

The protection of children has been strengthened through effective structures and response services.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	26.89%	100.00%	96.04%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73.51%	90.88%	30.02%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.60%	100.00%	99.11%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,505

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees Foundation (COERR), UNHCR's partner in border camps, identified and monitored 6,651 unaccompanied and separated children (3,742 separated children and 2,909 unaccompanied children), including those living in foster care and boarding houses. COERR also provided ongoing case management support for 1,174 children in medium, high and emergency-risk situations, comprising 643 unaccompanied and separated children, and 531 non-unaccompanied and separated children across nine refugee camps. In collaboration with COERR, UNHCR conducted best interest procedures for 1,646 children, including 1,428 best interests assessments and 218 best interests determinations, primarily for durable solutions.

Alongside these efforts, COERR supported the establishment of youth clubs across the camps, which served as representative bodies for young people. These clubs organized 44 events and engaged 5,205 children and young people in positive activities that responded to the challenges posed by the Myanmar situation. Young people's involvement in child protection activities highlighted the importance of creating a safe, protective environment, while equipping them with the knowledge and skills to reduce the risk of abuse.

The Government's engagement in child protection activities increased following sustained advocacy by UNHCR and COERR. The Tak Provincial Office of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) co-organized and co-facilitated a child protection referral system (CPRS) workshop attended by 52 Government and humanitarian stakeholders. Similar workshops were held in Mae Hong Son and Kanchanaburi, bringing together community, NGO and Government stakeholders. A border-wide CPRS workshop was also organized, involving representatives from the Tak MSDHS, the Tak Child and Family Shelter, and the national Department of Children and Youth. This collaboration marked a significant achievement in establishing a framework for cooperation between the UN, the Royal Thai Government, NGOs and community-based organizations to update the CPRS and develop referral pathways to the national child protection mechanism.

In partnership with the Sermpanya Foundation and the Global Parenting Initiative, UNHCR helped develop and roll-out the "Being Family" film in the three Tak refugee camps. This film, which sought to promote positive parenting and reduce violence against children in displaced communities, was shown via 113 mobile cinema screenings, reaching 2,918 children and 5,129 adults. Post-screening discussions and key messages reinforced positive parenting. Pre- and post-screening surveys showed a significant increase in the number of people who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statements that "shouting or hitting were good ways to teach children how to behave".

In urban areas, 208 refugee children at risk of protection issues were identified, including 97 who were unaccompanied and separated. With the addition of HOST International as a new partner and the national Department of Children and Youth's efforts to assess the needs of children in detention, the number of children identified in these settings increased significantly. Access to best interest procedures also rose from 61 in 2023 to 160 in 2024. Completed best interest determination processes increased from five in 2023 to 23 in 2024. Most of these cases were linked to resettlement efforts for children with serious protection issues. Over 600 psychological and social consultations for children at risk and their caregivers were also carried out.

To address these growing needs, UNHCR and HOST International organized community events, including inclusive play workshops for children with neurodiversity and several training sessions on mental health issues for children and their caregivers.

In collaboration with IOM and other organizations, UNHCR worked to strengthen the implementation of alternatives to detention for children and their mothers. As a result, 90 children and their caregivers were transferred from detention facilities to shelters. UNHCR also coordinated with organizations supporting bail to prioritize the release of children and their families.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Refugees and asylum seekers have access to legal assistance and legal remedies.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,503

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR provided legal services to 1,503 camp refugees, ensuring they had access to the Thai Justice System. Cases included gender-based violence, child protection, legal documentation, legal guidance, access to State compensation, immigration detention and prison visits.

In the nine refugee camps, UNHCR provided protection counseling to 3,012 refugees in 2024, including 2,845 for protection concerns and 167 for legal matters. This support covered a wide range of issues such as registration, resettlement, and other protection-related matters, and helped ensure refugees received timely and appropriate guidance and support.

During the reporting period, UNHCR organized targeted training sessions, including Thai Volunteers Defense Corps training in partnership with the International Rescue Committee, which provides legal assistance in select camps. This training aimed to raise awareness of and improve responses to abuse and legal issues within the camps. In addition, UNHCR established regular coordination meetings with Thai justice authorities and key partners and actively participated in case conferences and protection forums to foster greater collaboration.

The lack of an alternative legal status to “illegal migrant” continued to place most mandate refugees and asylum-seekers at risk of arrest and detention. In 2024, UNHCR recorded more than 1,300 arrests and detentions of refugees, asylum-seekers and other people seeking international protection, including at least 132 children.

In response, UNHCR conducted 431 days of detention monitoring nationwide. It also provided more than 650 protection counselling sessions for people in immigration detention and made 232 advocacy interventions with authorities to prevent arbitrary detention and promote alternatives to detention. Coordination efforts with IOM, UNICEF, and International Detention focused on advocating for alternatives to detention and supporting their implementation by the Royal Thai Government.

UNHCR also provided 1,132 counselling sessions for refugees and asylum-seekers on legal rights and protection issues and responded to over 500 emergency hotline calls. Many of these calls led to successful, high-level UNHCR interventions with authorities. As a result, UNHCR documented a 40% decrease in the number of urban refugee arrests leading to immigration detention and a 60% increase in successful bail releases.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Community mobilization has been strengthened and expanded.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.85%	41.56%	32.47%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,323
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9,182
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services		
Thailand	Others of Concern	511
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	53,875
Thailand	Stateless Persons	10,028

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, nearly 5,800 camp-based refugees accessed UNHCR-supported feedback and response mechanisms, including regular protection counseling, helplines and confidential email accounts. An additional 4,000 refugees engaged with UNHCR through outreach activities such as focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and home visits, ensuring that their concerns and needs were heard. These efforts incorporated diversity considerations, with 26% of participants under 18 years old and 58% female.

In Mae Hong Son, UNHCR coordinated focus group discussions with 387 children, which informed a school latrine improvement project to reduce gender-based violence risks in camp schools. In Tak, UNHCR conducted 2,007 home visits to people with specific needs, including people with physical disabilities. These discussions informed advocacy efforts for greater inclusion in education, health, WASH, and livelihoods activities. 2,898 core relief items were also distributed to address immediate needs.

Through its partner Humanity & Inclusion, UNHCR supported 1,562 people with disabilities and 796 caregivers and family members. This assistance included physical rehabilitation, disability and social inclusion support, mental health and psychological and social support, as well as capacity building for camp-based staff and self-help group members to ensure people with disabilities could access their rights. Humanity & Inclusion also organized events in all nine refugee camps to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities during which the importance of social inclusion was highlighted.

UNHCR provided urban refugees with multiple channels to share feedback and receive information. In 2024, 3,415 urban refugees and asylum-seekers contacted UNHCR, generating approximately 14,000 emails, more than 4,000 phone calls, and at least 500 emergency, out-of-hours calls. Nearly 700 feedback forms were also received and processed. UNHCR's Line messaging application, which had over 6,000 subscribers, kept refugees informed about procedural changes and opportunities such as complementary pathways and new education courses.

UNHCR's 'Help' website, which received more than 44,000 visits in 2024, was regularly updated, with relevant information for refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people. Over 900 tailored UNHCR protection counseling sessions were conducted for refugees at a UNHCR partner office and within communities as part of a new mobile counseling initiative.

UNHCR also coordinated 32 community outreach events, reaching more than 350 people. Partner organizations developed initiatives led by refugee community facilitators focused on physical and mental health, child protection, and strengthening awareness and resilience at the community level. UNHCR's partner HOST International engaged a team of 10 community-based assistants from four refugee communities to conduct outreach and workshops as well as identify children at risk. UNHCR also led the urban protection Working Group, bringing together more than 10 funded and operational partners to share information on services, security issues and emerging trends, ensuring that critical updates were communicated to refugees and asylum-seekers.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

All refugees can sufficiently cover their basic needs.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items				
Thailand	Host Community		50.00%	48.11%
Thailand	Others of Concern		51.17%	48.43%
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58.32%	99.40%	26.86%
Thailand	Stateless Persons		50.00%	11.62%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance		
Thailand	Host Community	1,460
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,870
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items		
Thailand	Host Community	388
Thailand	Others of Concern	262
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24,202
Thailand	Stateless Persons	612

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR provided core relief items (CRIs) to 25,464 refugees, stateless people, host community members and Rohingya in Thailand.

Along the Thai-Myanmar border, 6,837 refugees, including those affected by natural disasters, received CRIs to address their immediate needs and improve their well-being. These included tarpaulins, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, plastic buckets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, carrying bags and face masks. UNHCR also coordinated clothing distributions from Uniqlo, reaching 8,717 refugees with specific needs across four Mae Hong Son camps.

UNHCR strengthened its relationship with the Thai Red Cross, which managed CRI distributions in these areas, by including its staff in a humanitarian response coordination workshop in September 2024. At the request of the authorities, UNHCR provided CRIs to 8,883 new arrivals. Tarpaulins and mosquito nets provided essential protection from harsh weather and vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue and elephantiasis. Mats and blankets created more secure and comfortable sleeping spaces, while kitchen sets enabled families to prepare their own meals, fostering a sense of normalcy. Washing liquid and rubbish bags helped maintain basic hygiene and reduce health risks. Solar lamps improved nighttime safety, particularly for people with specific needs and buckets supported water collection. These basic but essential items contributed to a greater sense of self-sufficiency and resilience in an uncertain environment.

UNHCR also provided CRIs to 262 Rohingya refugees in detention and shelter care facilities. These included educational materials, clothing, recreational supplies such as embroidery kits and greenhouse gardening equipment.

In Chiang Rai province, severe flooding affected both stateless people and local communities. With partner support, UNHCR distributed care packages to 612 stateless people and 388 vulnerable host community members. These packages contained essential items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, laundry detergent, towels and blankets.

For the urban caseload, UNHCR provided different types of cash assistance to 1,869 refugees and asylum-seekers, including multi-purpose cash grants, education and health support. Following vulnerability assessments conducted with Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees Foundation, 697 urban refugee households (2,064 people) were evaluated. Among them, 986 people (48%) received cash assistance. Monthly amounts ranged from USD 90 to 272, depending on family size, with an average of USD 118 per household per month. While this support reached around 28% of urban refugees, compared to 47% in 2023, the decline reflected increased employment opportunities and a focus on assisting the most vulnerable. In addition, one refugee in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos) received emergency cash assistance, bringing the total number of refugees supported in Thailand and Laos to 1,870 in 2024.

To support host communities, UNHCR provided emergency cash assistance to 260 households, including 1,460 local Vietnamese nationals, who were affected by Typhoon Yagi in Viet Nam. Food assistance was also provided to refugees and six other forcibly displaced and stateless people from Sri Lanka in Vung Tau.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

The population has sufficient access to clean energy.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,988

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Solar energy has proven to be a cost-effective mean of energy sources in the border camps, providing refugees with reliable, affordable and sustainable energy, while enhancing security, safety, education, and livelihood opportunities. In 2024, solar streetlights in Thailand's Mae La, Umpium and Nu Po camps – along with new lighting in public bathing facilities in Ban Mai Nai Soi camp in Mae Hong province – improved security, particularly for women and children. Solar-powered lighting in two gender-based violence committee offices in Nu Po and Umpiem camps created safer, more welcoming spaces for survivors to access confidential consultations, support services and report incidents. Meanwhile, UNHCR upgraded the solar energy system at its workstation in Tham Hin camp, replacing it with a higher capacity system for greater reliability.

The need for shelter and housing assistance remained high in 2024. In Tak Province, 1,422 people, including survivors of gender-based violence and people with disabilities, received tarpaulins for shelter repair or improvement after a fire and heavy storms affected Mae La camp. In Mae Hong Son province, 95 people received tarpaulins for household improvements after a fire and strong winds in Mae La Oon temporary shelter. An additional 120 people with disabilities from Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon received the same support from Humanity & Inclusion.

In May 2024, following an influx of new arrivals from Myanmar into Thailand's Tham Hin camp, local authorities designated a holding area with 70 bamboo shelters. To support 351 people in the settlement, UNHCR provided 70 tarpaulins and solar lanterns ahead of the rainy season, improving both personal security and privacy. With limited access to electricity, families relied on solar lanterns after dark to continue their daily activities, which also left vulnerable people feeling safer at night.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

The health status of the refugees has improved.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	45.15%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	100.00%	97.12%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,796
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,078

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR's efforts along the Thai-Myanmar border primarily focused on protecting and finding solutions for forcibly displaced and stateless people, while NGOs covered other sectoral areas, including health.

In 2024, the International Rescue Committee and Malteser International provided inpatient and outpatient services, such as mental health and psychological and social support, antenatal care for pregnant women, and treatment for acute malnutrition. Malteser International also shared health data for camp refugees in UNHCR's integrated refugee health information system. Using this data, reports were drafted advocating for greater access to healthcare and refugees' overall protection.

In urban areas, UNHCR's partner Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR), through the Bangkok Refugee Centre, served as the main entry point for medical referrals to secondary and tertiary care. In addition to making referrals, COERR provided refugees and asylum-seekers with information on available health services, including the Tzu Chi Foundation Clinic, which offered free primary healthcare. By enabling refugees to directly approach appropriate service providers closer to their residence, reliance on COERR's medical desk decreased, with the number of services provided dropping from 2,371 in 2023 to 1,796 in 2024. However, referrals for secondary and tertiary care rose slightly from 348 in 2023 to 355 in 2024. Due to limited resources, most cases received only partial support. Complex or high-cost cases were reviewed by a medical panel comprising UNHCR, COERR and a Thai medical doctor. Of the 29 cases submitted in 2024, 16 were approved.

Mental health services continued to remain essential. In 2024, UNHCR referred refugees and asylum-seekers to funded partners, including the Bangkok Refugee Centre and HOST International, leading to 1,526 mental health consultations. Most cases involved major depressive disorders and anxiety disorders, which required therapy to process grief and trauma and develop coping techniques. In more severe cases, psychiatrists provided support and medication, as the number of refugees requiring psychiatric hospitalization for acute care increased. Other non-funded partners, including the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and IOM, offered additional psychological and social support, while the Tzu Chi Foundation facilitated referrals and covered psychiatric medication costs.

In Viet Nam, UNHCR supported 43 medical referrals for 19 people, including 16 refugees, ensuring access to primary healthcare while they awaited durable solutions.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Displaced and stateless people have optimal access to inclusive and equitable education and learning opportunities within the national education system.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers		3.39%	3.32%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	49.29%	74.70%	57.06%
Thailand	Stateless Persons	60.37%	67.49%	63.52%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	954

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Education remained a vital source of structure, socialization and opportunity for urban refugee children. While Thailand’s “education for all” policy grants access to schooling, UNHCR and its partners played a critical role in ensuring refugee children could enrol in formal education. This included an intensive 10-month Thai language preparation course and direct advocacy with schools to facilitate admissions. In 2024, more than half of the urban refugee children (725) aged 6 to 17 were enrolled in Thailand’s formal primary and secondary education system. UNHCR also supported 39 urban refugees over the age of 17 in continuing their education, while 163 children attended Thai language classes. The intensive Thai language course, which was introduced in 2023, produced positive outcomes. Student participation increased by 16% and successful school enrolments rose by 62% compared to the previous year, underscoring the programme’s effectiveness in helping refugee children integrate into the education system.

In Government-run shelters, UNHCR supported 21 Rohingya children by providing language classes and education materials to help them develop their skills in Thai, English, mathematics, and social studies.

Higher education offered refugees and asylum-seekers a pathway to a more stable future. In 2024, 12 students received scholarships to attend university in Thailand, including six funded by DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative), and six by UNHCR Thailand.

A study on access to education for stateless children conducted under the UNHCR-UNICEF Joint Strategy for Addressing Childhood Statelessness was successfully completed. Findings were shared with key stakeholders, including high-level Government officials, NGOs and civil society organizations, and academia, at a UNHCR event assessing Thailand’s progress in eradicating statelessness. Researchers shared the results with a broader audience, helping to raise awareness of the barriers stateless children face in accessing education.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Stateless people are self-reliant through access to means of livelihoods.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.17%	0.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions		
Thailand	Stateless Persons	125

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To promote economic inclusion and livelihood opportunities for stateless people, UNHCR strengthened its collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Employers' Confederation of Thailand and the Ministry of Labour. These partnerships focused on raising awareness of social security and work rights, ensuring that stateless people can participate in the workforce with legal protections and benefits.

A key component of this effort was a series of training sessions that provided 73 employers and 52 stateless people with critical information on labour rights, legal protections and social security benefits. By bridging the information gap, these sessions helped both employers and employees better understand their rights and obligations within the Thai labour market.

Building on these efforts, UNHCR supported mobile registration initiatives with the Provincial Social Security Office, enabling 14 stateless people to enrol in Thailand's voluntary social security system. This registration granted them access to essential protections such as healthcare and financial security, marking an important step toward economic empowerment. By securing formal employment opportunities, stateless workers could integrate more effectively into Thai society and contribute to the economy.

At the policy level, UNHCR continued advocating for inclusive labour policies that protect stateless people from exploitation and promote their long-term economic stability and legal security. Strengthening these protections remained essential to ensuring that stateless people could fully exercise their rights within the workforce.

As part of broader efforts to address statelessness, UNHCR collaborated with UNICEF on a study examining social protection and social security for stateless children. The findings revealed that while some protections exist, limited awareness among parents and guardians remains a significant barrier to fully realizing these benefits. These insights were shared with high-level Government officials, civil society, and academia at a UNHCR event assessing Thailand's progress towards eradicating statelessness.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

The potential for voluntary return has been realized.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Ongoing insecurity in Myanmar continued to limit prospects for the voluntary return of refugees. While UNHCR did not promote or facilitate voluntary repatriation for refugees residing in the camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, it closely monitored the situation. Regular dialogue with refugees was maintained through voluntary repatriation centres and community-based protection outreach volunteer teams established in all nine camps. UNHCR also participated in the 2024 border-wide stakeholder meetings, held annually in March, July, and November, to better understand the needs and concerns of the verified refugee population.

Resettlement remained a key protection tool for refugees facing heightened protection risks, but it was not a viable solution for most urban refugees in Thailand. In 2024, UNHCR continued to monitor developments in countries of origin to identify suitable solutions and expand opportunities for refugees and asylum-seekers interested in returning home.

Assisted voluntary return and reintegration for urban refugees remained an integral component of UNHCR's broader solutions framework. This programme supported refugees and asylum-seekers, who lacked prospects for local integration and wished to return voluntarily to their country of origin. In this context, those considering return – whether due to asylum claims being denied or personal circumstances – were provided with up-to-date information on conditions in their country of origin and voluntary return counseling to help them make informed decisions about their future.

In collaboration with IOM, UNHCR referred urban cases for assistance with return. In 2024, UNHCR provided voluntary repatriation counselling to 24 refugees and asylum-seekers and facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 17 refugees through the assisted voluntary return and reintegration programme.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

The potential for resettlement and complementary pathways has been realized.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement				
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5,165	10,900	10,746

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continued to implement a multi-solutions strategy for both camp and urban refugees in Thailand. However, ongoing civil unrest, particularly in Myanmar, left resettlement and complementary pathways as the only viable durable solutions for Myanmar refugees residing in the nine temporary shelters along the Thai-Myanmar border in 2024.

For urban refugees, UNHCR prioritized the resettlement of people facing serious protection risks, including those with political profiles from neighbouring countries, women and children at risk as well as those with urgent medical needs. A particular focus was placed on resettling people in detention, especially those from the Rohingya population. Urban refugees identified for resettlement were primarily submitted for resettlement to Australia, Canada and the United States.

In 2024, UNHCR received resettlement quotas from multiple countries, including the United States, Australia, Canada and the Republic of Korea. These quotas increased significantly to 10,730 from 3,600 in 2023, with the United States alone allocating 10,000 places. As part of this process, UNHCR began group resettlement submissions to the United States for Myanmar refugees living in camps while continuing regular resettlement submissions for both urban and camp refugees. Various selection missions were held throughout the year in Bangkok and the camps.

By year-end, UNHCR met its target, successfully submitting 10,757 people for resettlement to the United States, Australia, Canada, and the Republic of Korea. In addition, 1,657 people left Thailand, with most resettling in the United States, followed by Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

In Viet Nam, UNHCR submitted 19 Sri Lankan refugees in Vung Tau for resettlement. Among them, 15 were accepted by the United States. Their pre-departure medical examinations were completed in June, and by year-end, they were awaiting confirmation of their departure date from the United States.

Alongside resettlement, UNHCR encouraged refugees in both camps and urban settings to explore complementary pathways to third countries. To support these efforts, UNHCR provided interpreter assistance, pre-departure counselling and help with exit procedures for refugees departing to countries like Australia and Canada through private sponsorship and family reunification schemes.

The expansion of complementary pathways gave refugees greater autonomy in accessing third country solutions, easing pressure on host countries and fostering self-reliance. In 2024, 607 refugees and asylum-seekers successfully left Thailand via complementary pathways, contributing to a broader network of durable solutions.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

The potential for integration has been realized.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator				
Country	Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems				
Thailand	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%	96.87%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		
Country	Population Type	Actual (2024)
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people		
Thailand	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Partially
Thailand	Stateless Persons	Partially
16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures		
Thailand	Stateless Persons	7,430

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Thailand continues to host one of the world's largest stateless populations, with 598,765 registered stateless people. However, progress in reducing statelessness stalled in 2024, with the total population decreasing by only 1,933 people compared to 2023.

Despite this slowdown, a significant breakthrough came with the October 2024 Cabinet Resolution, which aimed to resolve statelessness for 480,000 people. The resolution introduced measures to streamline and accelerate processing times, reducing nationality applications from 180 days to just five days and legal immigration status (permanent residency) applications from 270 days to five days as well. Implementation of these measures is set to begin in the second quarter of 2025.

To support stateless people in completing civil registration applications, UNHCR funded several key partners, including the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Local Community Network (LCN) and the Department of Special Investigation within the Ministry of Justice. These efforts focused on bolstering community volunteer capacity and supporting mobile registration initiatives. As a result, 6,209 people in Chaing Mai, Chiang Rai and Petchburi provinces received support in submitting applications – 2,705 for nationality and 3,504 for long-term residency status.

In addition, UNHCR supported LCN in training 19 community-based volunteers and organizing joint mobile registration units with NGO and Government agencies. This initiative improved access to legal identity for stateless people in remote areas by overcoming administrative and geographic barriers. The multi-stakeholder collaboration, involving Government agencies, UNHCR, and local partners, significantly improved efficiency and coordination, enabling faster nationality registration and documentation issuance. This streamlined approach reinforced Thailand's commitment to resolving statelessness through proactive and sustainable solutions.

Beyond Thailand, UNHCR also supported efforts to improve civil registration systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam. In Cambodia, following the enactment of the new Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identification law, UNHCR provided IT equipment to facilitate its implementation. This support focused on ensuring universal registration through digitalization, improving efficiency, enhancing data management and expanding access to civil registration services.

In Viet Nam, UNHCR worked with the Ministry of Justice to bolster local capacity in addressing statelessness. 880 people were trained on statelessness issues, improving the ability of local officials to assist affected communities. With UNHCR's support, 1,221 people acquired Vietnamese nationality through birth certificates confirming nationality (401 people), certificates of Vietnamese nationality (473 people) and identity cards (347 people).

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR designed programmes and activities to respond to the needs of diverse population groups, including women, men, girls and boys, young people, people living with disabilities, and older people. These initiatives were specifically tailored to address feedback received from the community. For example, in response to community concerns about children engaging in negative coping mechanisms such as substance abuse, UNHCR organized film screenings and discussions on positive parenting to strengthen child protection. Household visits to people with disabilities were carried out across camps to assess their needs and provide tailored responses.

During a visit to Nupo refugee camp in late 2024, UNHCR set up child protection desks staffed with experts to identify and address any child protection needs. In line with the new UNHCR global child protection policy, procedures were updated to ensure informed consent from children regarding decisions that affect them. This approach was well-received by both children and adults.

UNHCR worked with Thai civil and military authorities along the border to improve the collection of disaggregated data during refugee influxes. This included a workshop on humanitarian coordination in Tak province. Regular protection counselling sessions were conducted to gather feedback on individual concerns, provide responses and strengthen community-based communication networks through camp-based refugee volunteers.

UNHCR continued to increase its efforts to reach underrepresented groups and ensure their voices informed programming. In urban areas, mobile protection counselling was introduced to reach refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly women, who faced barriers to attending weekly protection counselling sessions. This ensured that underrepresented groups had the opportunity to share their concerns.

A participatory assessment was conducted with urban refugees and asylum-seekers, involving 21 focus group discussions and individual calls for sensitive groups. 219 people from 19 nationalities provided valuable feedback. Groups consulted included young people, parents, students, people with medical or neurodevelopmental conditions, detainees, long-stayers, survivors of gender-based violence, unaccompanied children, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer people. The assessment led to the implementation of key recommendations such as improved contact methods for UNHCR, the introduction of community health volunteer programmes, more university scholarships, clearer information on the National Screening Mechanism process, and more in-community protection counselling.

One major challenge faced during community outreach efforts was ensuring participants' safety due to the risk of immigration arrests for refugees without legal status.

For stateless populations, UNHCR advocated with authorities in Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam to ensure the universality of civil registration processes. This included promoting birth registration, nationality applications and censuses, ensuring that all age, gender and diversity groups were included, regardless of documentation or status.

Section 3: Resources

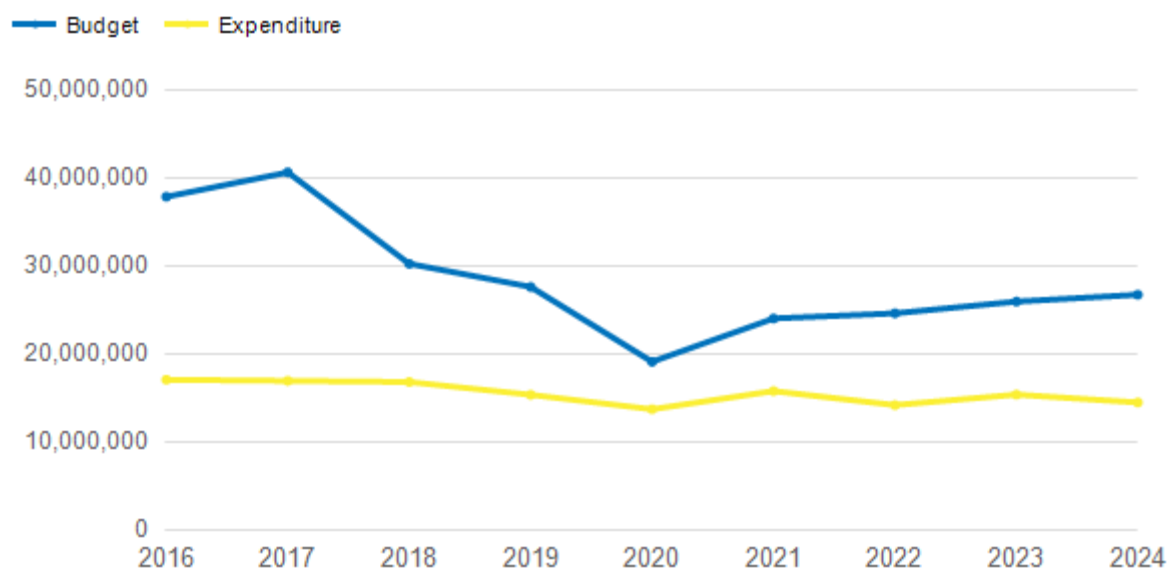
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

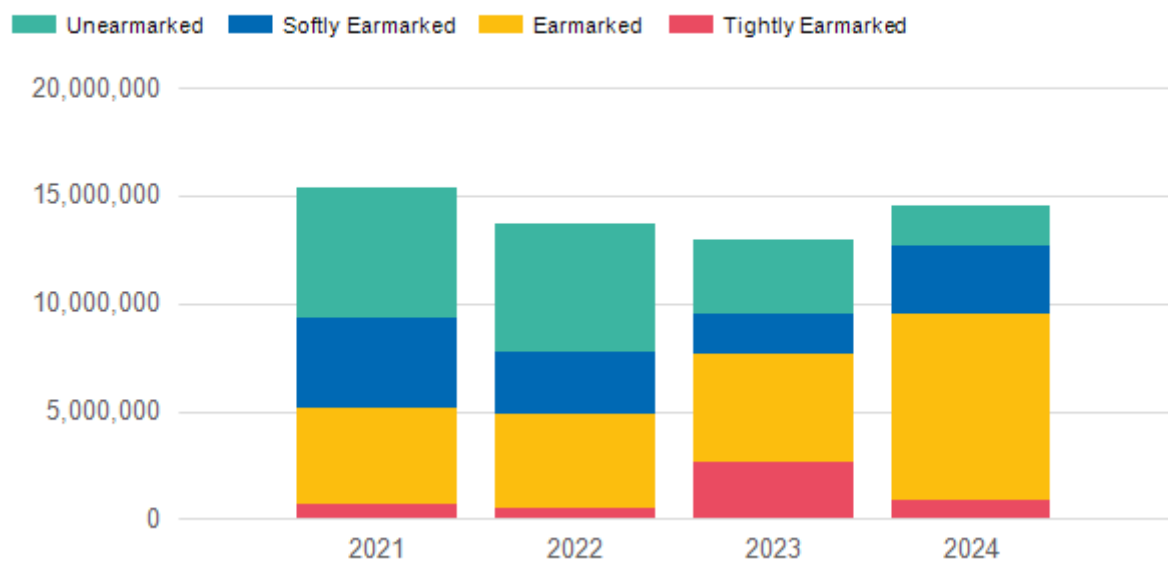
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	9,781,014	4,743,386	48.50%	4,743,386	100.00%
IA2: Assist	9,087,654	5,595,337	61.57%	5,595,337	100.00%
IA3: Empower	4,257,068	2,763,160	64.91%	2,763,160	100.00%
IA4: Solve	3,564,951	1,350,867	37.89%	1,350,867	100.00%
Total	26,690,687	14,452,750	54.15%	14,452,750	100.00%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	6,110,609	2,283,576	37.37%	2,283,576	100.00%
OA2: Status	1,925,571	1,462,216	75.94%	1,462,216	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	959,048	536,011	55.89%	536,011	100.00%
OA4: GBV	750,851	278,503	37.09%	278,503	100.00%
OA5: Children	2,191,772	1,952,484	89.08%	1,952,484	100.00%
OA6: Justice	785,786	461,583	58.74%	461,583	100.00%
OA7: Community	1,416,353	1,260,456	88.99%	1,260,456	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	4,275,850	2,209,034	51.66%	2,209,034	100.00%
OA9: Housing	143,402	10,511	7.33%	10,511	100.00%
OA10: Health	1,472,158	977,842	66.42%	977,842	100.00%
OA11: Education	2,443,899	1,497,024	61.26%	1,497,024	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	396,817	5,679	1.43%	5,679	100.00%
OA14: Return	145,580	73,440	50.45%	73,440	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	1,947,394	805,713	41.37%	805,713	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	1,471,977	471,713	32.05%	471,713	100.00%
EA18: Support	207,043	147,580	71.28%	147,580	100.00%
EA19: People	46,579	19,385	41.62%	19,385	100.00%
Total	26,690,687	14,452,750	54.15%	14,452,750	100.00%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

By year-end, only 57% of UNHCR Thailand's budgeted needs were met, with funding from four donors and the private sector.

In prioritizing resources, UNHCR considered its comparative advantages across the countries covered by the Thailand multi-country office. Most of the resources were allocated in Thailand, home to a significant refugee and asylum-seeker population, as well as one of the largest registered stateless populations. In Thailand, UNHCR's technical expertise in refugee and stateless law complemented the growing national human rights capacities. UNHCR focused its resources on protection activities. Despite notable

achievements such as the establishment of the National Screening Mechanism, advocacy for refugee rights remained a priority, particularly given the volatile situation in Myanmar. Refugees faced limited access to public facilities, restricted freedom of movement and lacked the right to work, placing them in precarious situations. As a result, resources were directed to meet their basic needs.

In 2024 substantial efforts were made to provide cash assistance to forcibly displaced and stateless people. To improve the lives of stateless people, UNHCR focused on enhancing the capacity of civil registration officials and Government agencies in Thailand, as well as Cambodia and Viet Nam, to handle civil registration and legal identity documentation.

With an agreement in place to pursue large-scale group resettlement, resources were also allocated to resettlement work and child protection to prevent family separations. The initial administrative budget was set at the same level as the previous year, with a 3% increase in earmarked funds to support the large-scale resettlement programme to the United States, while staffing costs remained unchanged. Resource prioritization focused on supporting essential activities such as office relocation in Bangkok, field office improvements and team-building initiatives.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Continued capacity building through a structured and systematic approach remains a priority for UNHCR. Activities that raise awareness of humanitarian principles and strengthen relationships between the Government, military, and provincial protection sector Working Group members were instrumental in improving the humanitarian response in 2024. These efforts increased camp-based refugees' access to public child protection and other services. Moving forward, greater advocacy will be needed to ensure refugees have access to education and basic literacy, enabling communities to support themselves and setting families up for future success. Bolstering child protection activities and providing opportunities for young people to contribute positively to their communities will also be essential. In addition, increasing male participation in awareness-raising activities is critical to improving their understanding of these issues, foster support and promote positive aspects of masculinity. Substance misuse prevention and response will remain a priority across UNHCR's programmes in 2025.

Several key lessons emerged from UNHCR's work in urban areas in Thailand. One significant insight was the need for more systematic and narrower targeting of cash assistance, given resource constraints, and more targeted messaging for newly-arrived asylum-seekers on what support is and is not available. Mental health services need to be better aligned with community needs. Building and nurturing relationships with relevant Thai government agencies and authorities remains vital for preventing imminent arrest and deportation, as well as broader policy reform.

In Thailand, supporting the Government at both central and district levels will be key to ending statelessness. Mobile registration initiatives will help decentralize IT resources thereby making the process more efficient.

To support the consistent implementation of the Thai Cabinet's approval of an accelerated pathway to permanent residency and nationality for nearly half a million stateless people, a Government-run media campaign is recommended to enhance public and local officials' understanding of the regulation. As perceptions of UNHCR's involvement in this work may vary across districts, engaging with a receptive district could set a positive precedent. To support the Government's implementation of this resolution, UNHCR could coordinate central efforts to set targets and track those granted nationality. Encouraging partners to hire more stateless people will provide firsthand knowledge and employment opportunities for them. UNHCR will advocate for the Government to implement mobile registration, establish clear district targets, provide integrity training for officials, and ensure accurate information dissemination to mitigate fraud and corruption risks. These lessons will guide the programme's future strategies, ensuring resources are used efficiently and the needs of the community are met.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

www.unhcr.org