

ASIA AND

A photograph of a blind man walking with a cane. He is wearing a blue tarp over his shoulders, a woven hat, and flip-flops. He has a tattoo on his right leg. The background shows a wooden structure and a red fire extinguisher.

A blind man walks to a work site on an agricultural project run by the NGO Zoa for Mae La camp refugees.

THE PACIFIC

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- In Sri Lanka, UNHCR responded effectively to the needs of more than 280,000 IDPs within the space of a few weeks. UNHCR's advocacy was particularly important in expanding humanitarian space and protection for the IDPs, including obtaining freedom of movement for them in the camps. By the end of the year, some 156,000 persons had returned to their areas of origin through a Government-led return process. Another 29,000 people were released into host-family and community care.
- UNHCR has made progress towards resolving protracted refugee situations in Asia, where three of its biggest resettlement operations are located. More than 25,500 refugees in Nepal departed for resettlement countries in 2009, reducing the camp population by 16 per cent. Malaysia and Thailand saw a total of more than 30,000 resettlement submissions and over 24,000 departures in 2009.
- UNHCR helped some 54,500 registered Afghans to return to their country in 2009. This effort was in line with Afghanistan's National Development Strategy, which seeks to ensure that returns are voluntary and gradual, given the country's limited absorption capacity.
- UNHCR and its partners mounted a swift and effective emergency response following the mass population movement of some 3 million people in Pakistan. The focus was on the rapid establishment of camps, registration, the distribution of non-food items (NFIs) and protection monitoring. When returns began, UNHCR assisted the Government with transport, distributed NFIs in return areas and set up temporary shelters and social service centres.
- Sustained advocacy by UNHCR and its NGO partners has raised the level of awareness of statelessness among the authorities in Central Asia. Some 11,800 stateless people were granted Kyrgyz nationality in 2009.
- In the aftermath of a series of typhoons that hit the Philippines, UNHCR assumed leadership of the protection cluster in order to support the national authorities in meeting the needs of vulnerable people.

| Working environment |

The Asia and the Pacific region was home to major humanitarian situations which expanded dramatically in the first half of 2009, causing large-scale human suffering. UNHCR played a prominent role in providing emergency assistance and protection to affected civilians as well as in subsequent return and reintegration efforts.

However, UNHCR's task was complicated by restrictions on access to affected populations and a rise in threats against UN staff. The deliberate targeting of humanitarian workers in Pakistan and Afghanistan has presented the Office with the difficult task of reaching those most in need while at the same time ensuring staff safety. There is an increasing emphasis on working with local partners who are able to reach communities in areas where access is particularly difficult.

The Asia-Pacific region has a low level of accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention, while some signatory State parties are not implementing their Convention obligations. In this context, UNHCR faced major challenges in ensuring respect for the principle of *non-refoulement* and safeguarding access to individuals of concern. The fragility of protection environments for asylum-seekers in the region was highlighted by an increase in detention as well as deportations towards the end of the year.

UNHCR has worked to help States manage migratory movements in a systematic and concerted manner while ensuring protection for those who need it.

| Achievements and impact |

● *Ensuring protection for all people of concern*

UNHCR engaged successfully with the Governments of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the continued temporary legal stay of Afghans in both countries. Between them, the two countries host some 2.7 million Afghans, the largest population of registered refugees in the world. The extension of the Management and Repatriation Strategy for Afghan refugees in Pakistan includes the extension of the validity of Proof of Registration cards for Afghans until 2012, while in the Islamic Republic of Iran the *Amayesh* card IV was distributed to all Afghan refugees who re-registered.

In India, UNHCR streamlined its procedures by outsourcing registration and reducing the time taken to reach refugee status determination (RSD) decisions.

UNHCR cooperated with the Government of Thailand to revitalize the national screening mechanism for asylum-seekers from Myanmar.

A pilot pre-screening exercise resulted in more than 11,000 interviews of unregistered persons.

In Malaysia, constructive dialogue with the authorities resulted in better protection for people of concern. Significant progress was made in registration and in securing the release of asylum-seekers from detention. UNHCR registered nearly 40,000 people, many through the innovative Mobile Registration Programme. The total number of refugees and asylum-seekers registered in the country stood at more than 75,000.

● *Affirming and developing an international protection regime*

UNHCR continued to advocate for the preservation of asylum and protection space in Central Asia. The Government of Kazakhstan adopted national refugee legislation, while in Kyrgyzstan UNHCR initiated a strategy for the prevention and reduction of statelessness, contributing to the adoption of a comprehensive national action plan.

With increasing numbers of Afghans seeking asylum in Tajikistan, UNHCR helped the Ministry of Interior, newly responsible for refugees, to respond to the protection and assistance needs of this population. Meanwhile, UNHCR's capacity-building efforts have led to the Government of Turkmenistan assuming responsibility for RSD.

UNHCR worked closely with members of Nepal's Constituent Assembly and others to ensure that the country's new Constitution meets international standards regarding equal, non-discriminatory and effective access to citizenship, addressing draft provisions which could give rise to situations of statelessness.

A steady increase in the number of new arrivals in Indonesia called for UNHCR to strengthen cooperation with the authorities. The Office conducted emergency RSD and resettlement processing in order to assist the Government when a boat carrying Sri Lankan asylum-seekers was rescued at sea en route to Australia.

The Emergency Transit Mechanism in the Philippines became fully functional, providing a safe venue for some specific refugees cases awaiting resettlement.

In Cambodia, the Government assumed full responsibility for processing and adjudicating refugee cases under legislation passed in December 2009. UNHCR stands ready to provide support for its effective implementation in 2010.

Australia and New Zealand enacted a number of positive reforms to asylum and refugee policy. Australia continued to pursue regional cooperation on mixed migration, focusing on people smuggling, people trafficking and refugee protection. The arrival of asylum-seekers by boat generated intense

assistance to both unregistered populations of concern and host communities in the areas of health, education, food security and livelihoods. UNHCR continued to advocate for the improvement of conditions for the unregistered populations living outside the official camps.

In Myanmar, UNHCR focused on promoting the rights and well-being of people without citizenship in northern Rakhine State (NRS). Two townships in NRS with a population of some 400,000 Muslim and non-Muslim people benefited from UNHCR's special projects in infrastructure. In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR's activities were aimed at reducing the serious vulnerabilities of persons and communities affected by displacement. Approximately 50,000 people in the area benefited from improved access to basic services.

- *Attaining durable solutions*

UNHCR negotiated and facilitated the return of over 1,000 IDP families (some 7,000 individuals) in Afghanistan. The Office consolidated its role in the protection cluster and continued to co-chair the IDP Task Force with the Ministry of Refugees and Reintegration.

The large-scale resettlement of registered refugees from Bhutan living in Nepal continued, with some 25,500 refugees departing for third countries in 2009. Since the start of the large-scale resettlement programme some 23 per cent had declared their interest in resettlement by the end of 2009. A key indicator of the success of this resettlement programme is the rate of acceptance among resettlement countries, which stands at approximately 99 per cent. For those who remain in the camps, UNHCR is working with the Government of Nepal and NGO partners to ensure access to services while efforts continue unabated to make progress in voluntary repatriation.

In Thailand, the continuation of UNHCR's large-scale resettlement operation benefited a substantial number of refugees from Myanmar. During the year, the total number of departures since the operation commenced in 2004 passed 50,000. From Malaysia, over 7,500 refugees departed for resettlement, surpassing the annual target by 14 per cent.

Working in partnership with UNDP in Uzbekistan, UNHCR succeeded in finding durable solutions for 226 mainly Afghan refugees, primarily through resettlement.

In Viet Nam, steps were taken to reduce statelessness through the naturalization of former Cambodian refugees, particularly those residing in camps who had previously been assisted by UNHCR.

UNHCR welcomed Japan's first resettlement programme and supported it by identifying

refugees from Myanmar in Thailand who will be resettled over the next three years.

Australia's resettlement programme provided durable solutions for approximately 6,000 UNHCR-referred refugees, and New Zealand maintained its resettlement intake of 750 places. UNHCR welcomed the introduction of multi-year resettlement plans by both countries.

- *Developing dynamic partnerships*

Developing strong partnerships with local actors helped UNHCR maintain operations in areas with a high security risk. In Afghanistan, UNHCR continued to work in close partnership with a wide array of government and civil-society actors to enhance community outreach, maximize the delivery of humanitarian assistance and strengthen protection. UNHCR also started a similar approach in Pakistan in 2009, strengthening capacities of local actors and communities for effective reach out to beneficiaries.

UNHCR pursued strategic partnerships with regional organizations and processes, with a focus on refugee protection in mixed migration. It engaged in the Bali Process, which seeks to promote humanitarian and protection-oriented migration management in the context of law enforcement and anti-smuggling cooperation.

The Office developed partnerships with regional disaster-management entities, including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's Disaster Management Centre in New Delhi, and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

- *Guaranteeing age, gender and diversity perspectives in operations*

Offices in the region have supported their NGO partners to promote age, gender and diversity considerations in programme planning, implementation and evaluation wherever feasible.

In Thailand and Malaysia UNHCR led large-scale Best Interest Determinations (BID) processes to identify the most appropriate durable solutions for unaccompanied and separated children. More than 450 BID cases were completed in Thailand in 2009 and over 800 in Malaysia.

In Afghanistan, UNHCR led the creation of a gender-based violence prevention and response sub-cluster. The Office strengthened an existing protection project to provide legal, psycho-social and material assistance to victims of sexual and gender-based violence, working in close cooperation with UNIFEM and a national network of safe houses for women and girls.

UNHCR in Myanmar systematically included the results of the extensive participatory assessment undertaken in northern Rakhine State in project proposals to donors. A pilot project started in 2008 to bring Muslim girls from remote areas to live in hostels close to secondary schools was expanded in 2009, with positive results. Ongoing discussions with religious leaders, community heads and parents have led to gradual changes in attitudes, as evidenced by the strong support for educational programmes for women and girls.

In China, the first age, gender and diversity mainstreaming assessment saw the participation of both Government authorities and refugees.

Constraints

The Asia-Pacific region saw a shrinking of humanitarian space in general and protection space in particular. Afghanistan and Pakistan continued to be affected by a volatile security situation constraining access to populations in need. The United Nations, including UNHCR, experienced deadly attacks against its staff and was often forced to temporarily suspend its operations.

Legitimate government concerns related to national security and bilateral considerations between States continued to take precedence over refugee protection. These factors constrain UNHCR's operational space, including access to individual cases, and compromised the principle of *non-refoulement*. ■

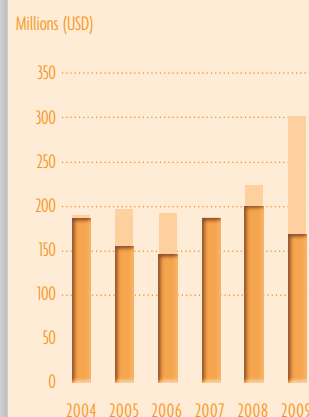
Financial information

Operations across the region were adequately funded in 2009. The initial approved Annual Budget of USD 165 million was increased to USD 190 million during the year, mainly through transfers from the Operational Reserve and the "NAM" Reserve to fund evolving requirements. Notable appropriations from the Operational Reserve included USD 3 million for educational support for Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran; USD 3 million to cover unmet needs in Afghanistan and Myanmar; and USD 3.2 million to improve security in high-risk operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In addition to the Annual Budget, appeals were launched to establish supplementary budgets totalling USD 162.5 million in 2009, including USD 130 million for IDP operations in Pakistan and USD 34.6 million in response to the IDP crisis in Sri Lanka. The project for Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas in Pakistan was also supported. All supplementary budgets in the region received strong interest and the generous financial support of donors.

Expenditure in Asia and the Pacific 2004-2009

- Annual budget
- Supplementary budget



Note: Includes South-West Asia and Central Asia, which were part of the Central Asia, South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East (CASWANAME) region through 2006.

| Budget and expenditure in Asia (USD) | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Country | Final budget | | | Expenditure | | |
| | Annual budget | Supplementary budgets | Total | Annual budget | Supplementary budgets | Total |
| South-West Asia | | | | | | |
| Afghanistan | 57,364,250 | 0 | 57,364,250 | 51,933,968 | 0 | 51,933,968 |
| Islamic Republic of Iran | 16,576,456 | 790,000 | 17,366,456 | 15,514,079 | 700,934 | 16,215,013 |
| Pakistan | 24,001,574 | 126,840,263 | 150,841,837 | 20,028,264 | 103,563,525 | 123,591,790 |
| Regional activities ¹ | 1,687,923 | 0 | 1,687,923 | 418,715 | 0 | 418,715 |
| Subtotal | 99,630,203 | 127,630,263 | 227,260,466 | 87,895,026 | 104,264,459 | 192,159,485 |
| Central Asia | | | | | | |
| Kazakhstan | 2,347,625 | 0 | 2,347,625 | 1,963,763 | 0 | 1,963,763 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 1,454,973 | 0 | 1,454,973 | 1,351,319 | 0 | 1,351,319 |
| Tajikistan | 627,597 | 0 | 627,597 | 614,878 | 0 | 614,878 |
| Turkmenistan | 705,867 | 0 | 705,867 | 700,211 | 0 | 700,211 |
| Uzbekistan | 158,607 | 0 | 158,607 | 158,563 | 0 | 158,563 |
| Regional activities | 88,500 | 0 | 88,500 | 52,486 | 0 | 52,486 |
| Subtotal | 5,383,169 | 0 | 5,383,169 | 4,841,220 | 0 | 4,841,220 |
| South Asia | | | | | | |
| Bangladesh | 6,809,089 | 117,214 | 6,926,303 | 6,399,435 | 117,214 | 6,516,648 |
| India | 5,146,054 | 0 | 5,146,054 | 4,507,540 | 0 | 4,507,540 |
| Nepal | 12,538,757 | 0 | 12,538,757 | 10,197,944 | 0 | 10,197,944 |
| Sri Lanka | 5,755,464 | 32,508,295 | 38,263,759 | 5,281,889 | 29,367,288 | 34,649,177 |
| Regional activities | 100,000 | 0 | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Subtotal | 30,349,364 | 32,625,509 | 62,974,873 | 26,386,808 | 29,484,501 | 55,871,309 |
| East Asia and the Pacific | | | | | | |
| Australia and New Zealand | 1,426,414 | 0 | 1,426,414 | 1,190,071 | 0 | 1,190,071 |
| Cambodia | 1,106,351 | 0 | 1,106,351 | 1,052,172 | 0 | 1,052,172 |
| China | 4,889,532 | 0 | 4,889,532 | 4,008,152 | 0 | 4,008,152 |
| Indonesia | 3,508,182 | 0 | 3,508,182 | 2,834,044 | 0 | 2,834,044 |
| Japan | 4,628,180 | 0 | 4,628,180 | 4,509,402 | 0 | 4,509,402 |
| Malaysia | 6,752,314 | 63,057 | 6,815,371 | 6,318,088 | 63,057 | 6,381,145 |
| Mongolia | 549,610 | 0 | 549,610 | 487,279 | 0 | 487,279 |
| Myanmar | 8,875,416 | 2,229,269 | 11,104,685 | 8,509,655 | 1,968,460 | 10,478,115 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1,196,864 | 0 | 1,196,864 | 1,173,138 | 0 | 1,173,138 |

| Country | Final budget | | | Expenditure | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | Annual budget | Supplementary budgets | Total | Annual budget | Supplementary budgets | Total |
| Philippines | 683,193 | 0 | 683,193 | 561,350 | 0 | 561,350 |
| Republic of Korea | 1,033,415 | 0 | 1,033,415 | 901,768 | 0 | 901,768 |
| Thailand | 18,799,208 | 0 | 18,799,208 | 14,377,184 | 0 | 14,377,184 |
| Timor Leste | 244,952 | 0 | 244,952 | 203,499 | 0 | 203,499 |
| Viet Nam | 464,607 | 0 | 464,607 | 394,598 | 0 | 394,598 |
| Regional activities ² | 333,000 | 0 | 333,000 | 153,501 | 0 | 153,501 |
| Subtotal | 54,491,238 | 2,292,326 | 56,783,564 | 46,673,901 | 2,031,517 | 48,705,418 |
| Total | 189,853,974 | 162,548,098 | 352,402,072 | 165,796,955 | 135,780,477 | 301,577,433 |

Note: Excludes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities-mandate-related" (NAM) reserve.

¹ Includes repatriation of Afghans from non-neighbouring countries.

² Includes protection activities, dissemination of refugee law, transport and repatriation activities.

| Voluntary contributions to Asia and the Pacific (USD) | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Donor | Regional funding | Annual Budget ¹ | Supplementary Budgets | Total |
| Andorra | | | 10,138 | 10,138 |
| Australia | | 7,121,277 | 3,872,898 | 10,994,175 |
| Australia for UNHCR | | 201,328 | 661,026 | 862,354 |
| Belgium | | 1,684,615 | | 1,684,615 |
| Brazil | | | 46,500 | 46,500 |
| Canada | 1,610,306 | 2,396,166 | 5,704,473 | 9,710,946 |
| Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) | | 2,046,527 | 6,973,681 | 9,020,208 |
| Czech Republic | | | 242,188 | 242,188 |
| Denmark | | 1,717,328 | 1,903,383 | 3,620,710 |
| <i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO</i> (Germany) | | 15,060 | 304,812 | 319,872 |
| Emergency Relief Fund | | 49,503 | | 49,503 |
| <i>España con ACNUR</i> (Spain) | | 402 | 77,390 | 77,791 |
| Estonia | | | 58,423 | 58,423 |
| European Commission | | 24,575,955 | 12,385,517 | 36,961,472 |
| Finland | | 376,506 | 1,297,071 | 1,673,577 |
| France | | 590,551 | 2,761,638 | 3,352,189 |
| Germany | | 5,246,411 | 8,604,429 | 13,850,840 |
| Greece | | 266,524 | | 266,524 |
| HQ Online Donations (Switzerland) | | 2,254 | 92,099 | 94,353 |
| HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein (UAE) | | 143,400 | | 143,400 |
| India | | | 2,491,713 | 2,491,713 |
| Ireland | | | 56,799 | 56,799 |
| Italy | | 1,280,021 | 1,990,033 | 3,270,054 |
| Japan | 1,332,738 | 24,809,685 | 5,140,186 | 31,282,608 |
| Japan Association for UNHCR | 5,446 | 479,704 | 96,609 | 581,759 |
| Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) | | 185,020 | | 185,020 |
| Liechtenstein | | | 40,052 | 40,052 |
| Luxembourg | | 643,777 | 399,142 | 1,042,918 |
| Netherlands | | 3,681,633 | 1,367,647 | 5,049,280 |
| Norway | | 1,814,558 | 7,108,350 | 8,922,908 |
| Oman | | | 1,860,000 | 1,860,000 |
| OPEC Fund for International Development | | 26,500 | | 26,500 |
| Private donors in Australia | 1,781 | | | 1,781 |
| Private donors in Canada | | 7,977 | 135,494 | 143,471 |
| Private donors in China | 48,809 | 447,525 | 13,675 | 510,010 |

| Donor | Regional funding | Annual Budget ¹ | Supplementary Budgets | Total |
|--|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Private donors in Greece | 228 | | 509 | 738 |
| Private donors in Italy | | 98,477 | 79,500 | 177,977 |
| Private donors in Japan | | 452 | | 452 |
| Private donors in Korea | 23,872 | 2,075 | | 25,947 |
| Private donors in Luxembourg | | 174 | | 174 |
| Private donors in Malaysia | | 4,858 | | 4,858 |
| Private donors in Pakistan | | | 178,976 | 178,976 |
| Private donors in Sri Lanka | | | 38,926 | 38,926 |
| Private donors in Sweden | | | 33,745 | 33,745 |
| Private donors in Switzerland | | 134 | | 134 |
| Private donors in Thailand | | 1,430,366 | | 1,430,366 |
| Private donors in the United Kingdom | | 2,794 | 22,778 | 25,573 |
| Private donors in the United States | | | 47 | 47 |
| Republic of Korea | | | 279,000 | 279,000 |
| Russian Federation | | 500,000 | 930,000 | 1,430,000 |
| Slovenia | | | 65,309 | 65,309 |
| Spain | | 697,350 | 3,920,376 | 4,617,726 |
| <i>Stichting Vluchteling</i> (Netherlands) | | | 104,674 | 104,674 |
| Sweden | 1,300,390 | 14,396,749 | 4,312,474 | 20,009,613 |
| Switzerland | | 1,305,483 | 643,450 | 1,948,933 |
| The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (Japan) | | 11,282 | | 11,282 |
| UN Trust Fund for Human Security | | 155,017 | | 155,017 |
| UNIQLO Co., Ltd (Japan) | | 15,292 | | 15,292 |
| United Arab Emirates | | | 28,037,383 | 28,037,383 |
| United Kingdom | | 426,256 | 2,006,568 | 2,432,824 |
| United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) | | | 1,652,677 | 1,652,677 |
| United States of America | | 50,294,448 | 43,589,100 | 93,883,548 |
| USA for UNHCR | | 564,100 | 1,201,018 | 1,765,118 |
| Total | 4,323,570 | 149,715,515 | 152,791,873 | 306,830,957 |

¹ Includes earmarking at the subregional, country, thematic and sector levels.

Note: Contributions shown exclude indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities - mandate related" (NAM) Reserve.