



THAILAND



UNHCR's planned presence | 2014

Number of offices	5
Total personnel	121
International staff	17
National staff	57
JPOs	4
UN Volunteers	8
Others	35

Overview

Working environment

- The context of reforms and the improved situation in the south-eastern part of Myanmar, the area of origin for most refugees in Thailand, are generating discussions on the prospects for eventual voluntary return, which is currently regarded with “cautious optimism”.
- There is concern among the Myanmar refugees in Thailand that assistance levels in the border camps may not be sustained in the medium term, as donor and agency support may increasingly focus on assistance to south-east Myanmar.
- The provision of temporary shelter in nine border camps by the Thai Government has remained unchanged over the years, with limited access to higher education, livelihoods and other opportunities for refugees. With the possible reduction in humanitarian assistance, the protection risks of economically vulnerable refugees who might resort to negative coping mechanisms for survival, will represent an additional challenge for the Office in 2014.
- In urban areas, the surge in the number of new asylum-seekers who originate from various countries will affect the capacity of UNHCR to undertake registration and refugee status determination (RSD) in the absence of a national asylum framework or legislation.

People of concern

The main groups of people of concern planned for in 2014 are: Myanmar refugees of mostly ethnic Kayin and Kayah origin (others are of Bamar, Shan and Mon descent) who are enduring one of the most protracted refugee situations in the world (some arrived in temporary shelters on the Thai-Myanmar border in 1984); urban refugees and asylum-seekers of more than 30 different nationalities, mainly residing in Bangkok, who have reportedly lost their connection with their former countries of origin and are deemed to be stateless in Thailand. A smaller group of stateless people is that of Rohingya individuals fleeing civil unrest and violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar, who have been under the temporary protection of Thailand since January 2013.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Dec 2013		Dec 2014		Dec 2015	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Myanmar	77,240	77,240	44,540	44,540	12,500	12,500
	Various	1,480	1,480	1,740	1,740	1,950	1,950
Asylum-seekers	Myanmar	14,400	14,400	9,900	9,900	7,400	7,400
	Various	2,430	1,100	3,740	1,100	5,040	1,100
Stateless people	Stateless	506,200	-	506,200	-	506,200	-
Others of concern	Myanmar	45,020	44,020	25,490	25,490	5,750	5,750
Total		646,770	138,240	591,610	82,770	538,840	28,700

Note: The figures provided above are solely for the purposes of planning. At present, conditions in Myanmar are not considered conducive to return. UNHCR, while supporting a refugee profiling exercise in the nine camps and developing a comprehensive solutions strategy, is neither promoting nor deciding on any plan specifically related to voluntary repatriation to Myanmar.

| Response |

Needs and strategies

In 2014, core protection concerns will continue to be at the forefront of UNHCR's objectives on the Thai-Myanmar border in the face of challenges in terms of preventing and responding to vulnerabilities, child protection concerns and domestic and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNHCR will support strategies that promote the skills development and empowerment of refugees and work towards achieving trust and reconciliation between communities. Meanwhile, the Office will continue to prepare for voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity when conditions are conducive. It will be imperative to ensure that humanitarian actors are adequately prepared and to set standards to preempt involuntary or premature returns or returns to places other than those selected by individual refugees. It is not anticipated that return, either spontaneous or in an organized manner, will be on a large scale in 2014.

However, the situation may change depending on developments in the country of origin and requires close monitoring.

In urban areas, considering the institutional and legal vacuum in relation to asylum for non-Myanmar asylum-seekers, UNHCR will need to continue to promote policy change, process registration, conduct RSD, provide subsistence allowance to vulnerable individuals and facilitate access to essential services, such as health care and education. Robust advocacy to ensure that urban refugees/asylum-seekers can benefit from existing social protection mechanisms will continue.

In the context of Thailand's national strategy for addressing the situation of people whose legal status is unclear, UNHCR will step up its support to the Government as it continues to register, verify and regularize the status of people who have lost their connection with former countries of origin and are regarded as stateless.

Main objectives and targets for 2014

The following matrix contains examples of some of the main activities planned in 2014. Using a selection of objectives from UNHCR's programme plans for the 2014-2015 biennium, it is designed to illustrate:

- what – under the global needs assessment planning and prioritization process – has been planned (Planned activities) for particular groups of people of concern (People of concern);
- the identified needs that can be covered if full and flexible funding is made available (2014 comprehensive target); and
- the needs that may not be met if funding falls short of the ExCom-approved budget (Potential gap). The estimation of a potential gap is based on the country operation's own assessment of the likely impact of a global funding shortfall. Calculations are based on various criteria, including the particular context, strategic priorities and

experience of resource availability for the respective area of activity in previous years.

Activities under objectives on child protection (including best interest determination), education and prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are core areas which are given priority in the allocation of funding (priority area). In order to ensure the necessary flexibility in the allocation of funds, UNHCR relies on unrestricted contributions from its donors.

It should be understood that in some cases, targets for activities or delivery of services may not be reached for reasons other than a funding shortfall, e.g. lack of access to people of concern, cases not reported, changing circumstances, security problems, insufficient capacity to implement all programmes planned, etc. In the Global Report 2014, an explanation of why any target may not have been reached will be provided.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	PEOPLE OF CONCERN	2014 COMPREHENSIVE TARGET	POTENTIAL GAP
Favourable protection environment			
Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved			
UNHCR will provide counseling and support to dispute resolution in the camps and will encourage the treatment of civil and criminal offences in a manner that is consistent with Thai law.			
In urban areas, UNHCR will provide legal support, facilitate the issuance of civil registration documents and conduct training for police officers on the right and responsibilities of people of concern.			
Number of adjudicators trained	Myanmar refugees	1,000	750
Number of people of concern receiving legal support	Urban refugees	35	15
Security from violence and exploitation			
Risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is reduced and quality of response improved			
UNHCR will support prevention, facilitate the coordination of response mechanisms and undertake activities to reduce protection risks faced by people of concern, in particular SGBV, discrimination and in relation to the vulnerabilities of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals. UNHCR will also help empower communities to build their own support network.			
Number of partner, government and UNHCR staff trained on SGBV prevention and response	Myanmar refugees	800	priority area
Protection of children strengthened			
UNHCR will work with partners to identify and address child protection cases, and will conduct effective monitoring of unaccompanied and separated children/separated children facing protection risks in the camps' boarding houses and in foster families. UNHCR will advocate for a greater involvement of the Government in the best interest determination (BID) process in order to improve access to public services to by refugee children.			
Number of best interest determination decisions taken by BID panel	Myanmar refugees	400	priority area
Durable solutions			
Potential for resettlement realized			
UNHCR will utilize resettlement to preserve family unity and assist individuals in need of additional protection, such as for example women and children who may be at risk and refugees for whom return may not be an option.			
Number of people submitted for resettlement	Myanmar refugees	4000	500
Number of resettlement registration forms (RRFs) submitted	Urban refugees	750	352
Comprehensive Solutions Strategy developed, strengthened or updated			
UNHCR will continue its mandated lead and coordination role to develop a comprehensive solutions strategy. The Office will also provide support to refugee profiling and updating information on the camp population along the Thai-Myanmar border, as well as the development of a voluntary repatriation framework and an information management strategy. UNHCR will advocate with the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand on the importance and value of a tripartite agreement in the event the context allows for voluntary repatriation to take place under safe and dignified conditions.			
Percentage of population profiled	Myanmar refugees	50	0 gap
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Civil registration and civil status documentation strengthened			
UNHCR will support the Government and ensure that birth registration for refugees is implemented in line with the 2008 Civil Registration Act. The Office will continue to maintain its <i>proGres</i> database consistent with the registration records of the Ministry of the Interior.			
Number of children registered and issued documentation under regular birth registration procedure	Myanmar refugees	2,500	500
Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved			
UNHCR will monitor the continued asylum of Myanmar refugees in Thailand and their protection against <i>refoulement</i> . It will also support the Government to adequately and efficiently address cases submitted for fast-track processing by the Provincial Admission Boards ensuring that this mechanism allows for reunion between registered and unregistered members of the same family as well as the processing of individuals with serious protection or health concerns in the camps.			
UNHCR will continue to conduct registration and refugee status determination (RSD) for asylum-seekers in Bangkok, further engage the Government in RSD and expand the protection and asylum space for urban asylum-seekers/refugees.			
Extent to which capacity support is provided to government status determination staff	Myanmar refugees	100%	0 gap
Extent to which UNHCR status determination procedure is implemented	Urban refugees	100%	45%

Reception conditions improved

UNHCR will closely monitor the situation of Rohingya individuals who may be at risk of indefinite detention or of *refoulement* and will support the Government in its efforts to provide temporary protection and dignified conditions of stay for this group based on humanitarian standards.

Extent to which Government supported to provide material assistance to people of concern	Stateless people	100%	50%
Number of monitoring and protection support visits conducted and recorded	Stateless people	38	17

Basic needs and essential services

Services for people with specific needs strengthened

UNHCR will support a project that provides individual assistance and rehabilitation services to individuals with physical disabilities in the camps.

Number of people of concern with disabilities receiving specific support	Myanmar refugees	2,900	1,450
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Population has optimal access to education

UNHCR will support Thai language classes at the Bangkok Refugee Center and will expand educational opportunities to take into consideration the variety of profiles and needs of children of concern in urban areas. A new referral and sponsorship framework will be implemented with Thai public schools and schools offering vocational training or non-formal education.

Number of people of concern enrolled in accelerated learning programmes	Urban refugees	696	166
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Health status of the population improved

UNHCR will continue to support the health care of urban refugees and registered asylum-seekers referred to Thai hospitals for treatment. UNHCR will intensify its advocacy for the access of people of concern to the national medical insurance schemes that the Government is planning to open to migrants in Thailand.

Number of people referred to secondary and tertiary medical care	Urban refugees	1,500	150
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| Implementation |

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of the Interior

NGOs:

American Refugee Committee, Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees, Handicap International

Others:

UNDP, UNOPS, UNV

Operational partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, National Security Council

NGOs:

Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Service, *Malteser International*, Right to Play, *Shanti* Volunteer Association, *Solidarités International*, Taipei Overseas Peace Service, Thailand Burma Border Consortium, Women's Education for Advancement and Empowerment, World Education

Others:

FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

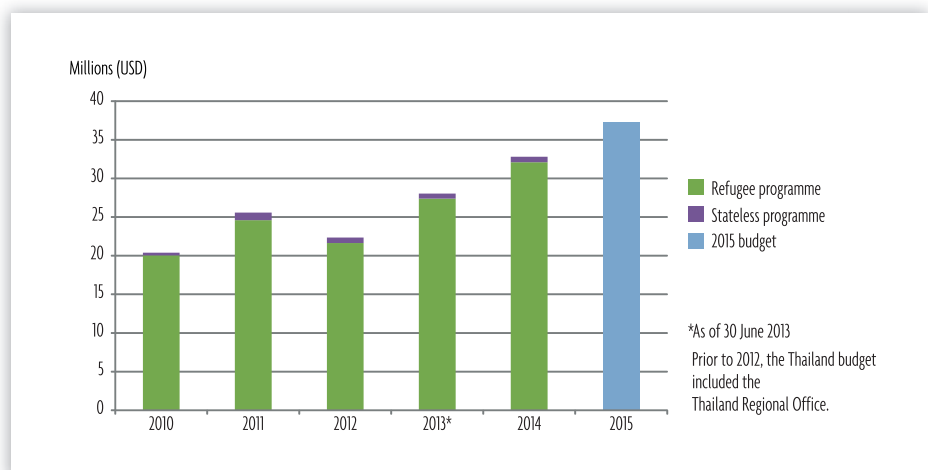
Coordination

The operation for Myanmar refugees on the border is coordinated with the Ministry of the Interior, the authorities at provincial and district level, and with the international and local NGOs operating under the umbrella of the Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand. Refugee representatives, donors and NGOs will take part in the newly created Voluntary Repatriation Coordination Group. UNHCR will ensure the interface with the Governments of Thailand and Myanmar, organize cross-border coordination and provide information management common services to facilitate the preparedness of refugees regarding voluntary return and other durable solutions. Coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Immigration Bureau as well as the support of UN Agencies and local associations are essential to meet protection needs in urban areas and to address the specific situation of Rohingyas.

| Financial information |

The 2013 budget for Thailand has slightly increased from the 2012 budget to support a larger group of urban refugees and provide for provisional preparations for voluntary repatriation to Myanmar. In 2014, the comprehensive needs are estimated at USD 32.8 million. The increase of USD 5.3 million compared to 2013, is to facilitate voluntary repatriation should a number of refugees decide to return (cash grant and specific transport arrangements for vulnerable groups). Within the 2014 budget, USD 26.3 million are foreseen for protection activities and voluntary returns of Myanmar refugees; USD 5.8 million for refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas and USD 700,000 for stateless people in Thailand. The “face-to-face” private sector fund raising initiative in Thailand is expanding and is a major contributor to local fundraising efforts. Early and flexible funding will allow the operation to meet additional protection needs and facilitate voluntary return.

Budgets for Thailand | 2010–2015



2014 budget for Thailand | USD

Budget breakdown	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
2013 revised budget (as of 30 June 2013)	27,390,846	653,675	28,044,521
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy	0	207,632	207,632
Access to legal assistance and remedies	3,445,325	0	3,445,325
Access to territory and <i>refoulement</i> risk reduced	1,588,302	26,440	1,614,743
Subtotal	5,033,627	234,072	5,267,699
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Reception conditions	0	320,413	320,413
Registration and profiling	1,711,089	0	1,711,089
Status determination procedures	1,502,683	0	1,502,683
Civil registration and status documentation	768,800	0	768,800
Subtotal	3,982,572	320,413	4,302,985
Security from violence and exploitation			
Prevention and response to SGBV	858,695	0	858,695
Freedom of movement and detention risk reduced	227,914	0	227,914
Protection of children	1,210,120	0	1,210,120
Subtotal	2,296,730	0	2,296,730
Basic needs and essential services			
Health	1,511,326	0	1,511,326
Reproductive health and HIV services	290,758	0	290,758
Basic and domestic items	3,215,413	0	3,215,413
Services for people with specific needs	658,881	0	658,881
Education	767,506	0	767,506
Subtotal	6,443,883	0	6,443,883
Community empowerment and self-reliance			
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	2,527,345	0	2,527,345
Subtotal	2,527,345	0	2,527,345
Durable solutions			
Comprehensive solutions strategy	579,478	0	579,478
Voluntary return	6,576,156	0	6,576,156
Resettlement	1,901,389	0	1,901,389
Subtotal	9,057,023	0	9,057,023
Leadership, coordination and partnerships			
Coordination and partnerships	1,791,011	89,504	1,880,514
Subtotal	1,791,011	89,504	1,880,514
Logistics and operations support			
Logistics and supply	123,208	0	123,208
Operations management, coordination and support	834,845	66,070	900,915
Subtotal	958,053	66,070	1,024,123
2014 total budget	32,090,244	710,059	32,800,303