

| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries – a multi-year strategy developed by Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and UNHCR – was endorsed by the international community in May 2012.
- As part of the emergency response operation that was launched following inter-communal violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in June and October, UNHCR strengthened its protection capacity and cluster leadership for shelter, camp management and camp coordination, and non-food items.
- Significant progress was made in the management of mixed flows in Asia. The operationalization of the Regional Cooperation Framework under the Bali Process continued to gain momentum, and a Regional Support Office was opened in Bangkok in September 2012. In Central Asia, a cooperation framework was developed under the Almaty Process. The Almaty and Bali Processes provide regional platforms for dialogue and cooperation to protect asylum space and address mixed flows.
- Worldwide, most people departing for resettlement come from the Asia-Pacific region with Nepal, Malaysia and Thailand as the top three departure countries. Over 37,000 refugees, mostly from Bhutan, Myanmar and Afghanistan were resettled from Asian countries in 2012.
- Guided by the principles of the Transformative Agenda, UNHCR reinforced inter-agency collaboration in the region, particularly in the Sri Lanka and Kyrgyzstan return operations for internally displaced persons (IDPs), the Myanmar situation and the response to Typhoon Bopha in the Philippines, as well as addressing internal displacement situations in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Turkmenistan acceded to both statelessness conventions, while UNHCR's sustained advocacy efforts in other countries led to constructive dialogue with Governments on ways to reduce statelessness in the region.

ASIA AND THE

8 year-old Fatemeh, an Afghan refugee in the Islamic Republic of Iran, lives with her family in Rafsanjan settlement where her mother does carpet weaving and embroidery and her father works as a labourer to earn a living.

PACIFIC

| Working environment |

The protection environment in the Asia-Pacific region remains fragile. Of the 45 countries and territories covered by the Bureau, only 20 have acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Central Asia and South-West Asia are the best covered with six out of eight countries having acceded. However, most States in the region have a long history of hosting refugees. UNHCR supports refugee status determination (RSD) in all non-signatory States as well as in 13 of the 20 signatory countries in the region. In 2012, the region held some 8.4 million individuals of concern to UNHCR.

Political developments in Myanmar raised hopes that comprehensive solutions could be found both for IDPs in the south-east and long-staying refugees in Thailand. However, the escalation of conflict in Kachin State and inter-communal violence in Rakhine State led to new waves of internal displacement and outflow of refugees by sea, with repercussions for neighbouring countries and countries further afield.

Many of the departures by sea were Rohingya fleeing Myanmar. UNHCR estimates that there were more than 16,000 departures from Myanmar and Bangladesh towards Malaysia in the period June-December 2012. The main countries of transit or destination were Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Regional cooperation is required to address issues of distress at sea, maritime interception and the establishment of referral procedures. UNHCR continues to advocate for burden sharing among countries to offer asylum-seekers and refugees an alternative to dangerous and exploitative boat journeys. The irregular movements that took place on an unprecedented scale throughout the region in 2012 were often assisted by smuggling networks. Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia were some of the countries at the receiving end of these irregular movements that responded by adopting policies to discourage movements by boat. UNHCR is engaged in dialogue with concerned States to ensure that they maintain international protection standards.

| Achievements and impact |

○ *Safeguarding protection and asylum space*

UNHCR's work to safeguard the protection and asylum space in Asia included conducting mandate RSD in most of the countries in the region, while advocating for national ownership of RSD processes. UNHCR also helped to build the capacity of State authorities to safeguard the asylum space.

The Regional Support Office established in Bangkok in 2012 under the co-management of Australia and Indonesia, along with UNHCR and IOM, is designed to support States participating in the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime to put into practice the Regional Cooperation Framework. Its purpose is to improve cooperation among States on refugee protection and international migration through information sharing, capacity building and exchange of best practices; the pooling of common technical resources; and logistical, administrative, operational and coordination support for joint projects. Regional projects initiated in 2012 included: the preparation of a round table on irregular movements by sea and the design of a project to analyse the protection situation of unaccompanied and separated children who move irregularly into or within Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

In Central Asia, 2012 saw the adoption of a regional cooperation framework by Central Asian States as part of the Almaty Process on Mixed Migration and International Protection. A ministerial meeting on this process is planned in June 2013. UNHCR is also working on regional strategies with regard to refugee protection and mixed movements by sea both in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere.

In countries with national asylum procedures, UNHCR engaged in strategic advocacy and litigation. It also promoted capacity building by facilitating the transfer of expertise between countries and supporting external training. Furthermore, UNHCR helped States to develop national legal frameworks. Significant progress was made in the Republic of Korea, where a Refugee Act was

adopted, as well as in China, which introduced the refugee definition in its Law on Exit and Entry of Aliens. The Philippines adopted a unified refugee and statelessness determination procedure in October 2012.

UNHCR supported measures to broaden the protection and self-sufficiency of refugees living in urban areas. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, a landmark health insurance scheme makes it possible for refugees to avail themselves of health care services. Moreover, the issuance of work permits to registered refugees allows them to access livelihood opportunities and contribute to the economy.

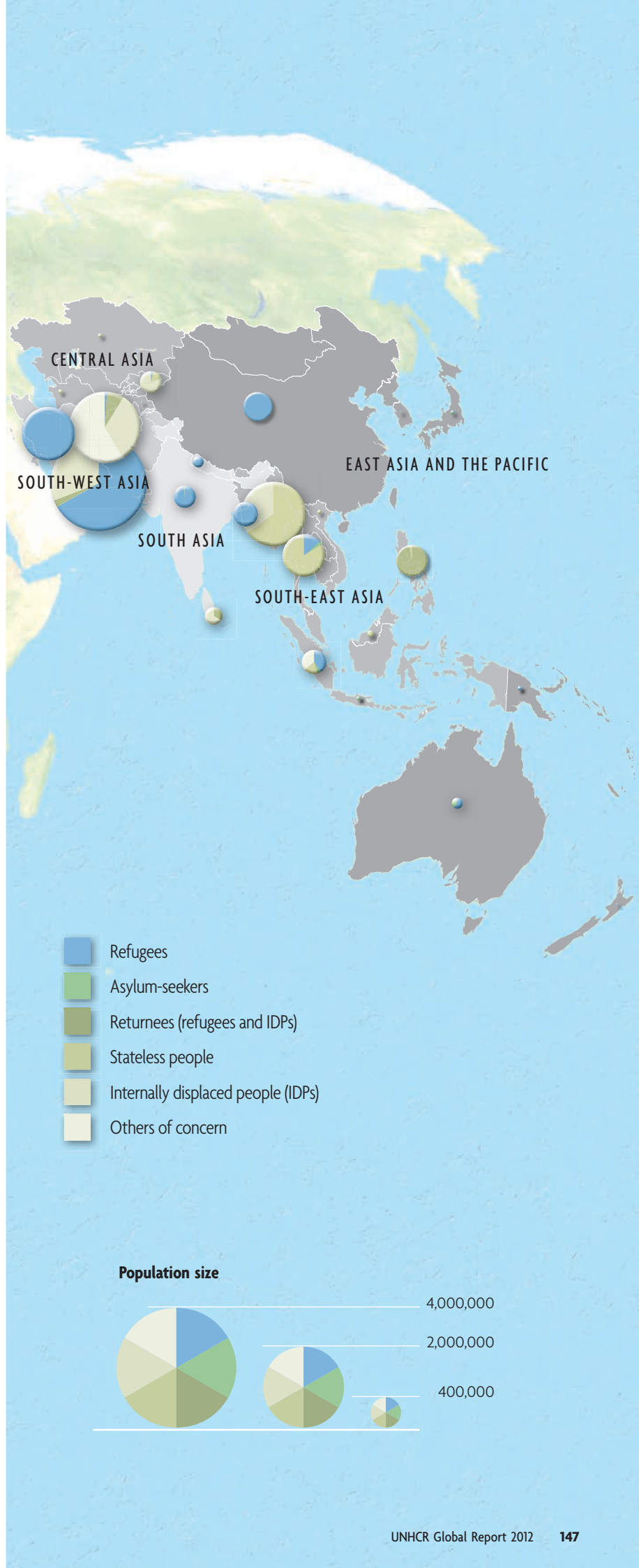
In India, the Government adopted a policy that allows eligible refugees to apply for long-stay visas and work permits, in addition to providing them with access to health care and education. These measures should bring about a marked improvement in the quality of asylum in the country.

○ *Finding solutions for protracted refugee situations*

A milestone in finding solutions for protracted refugee situations was the launch of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) to support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Integration and Assistance to Host Countries, which was endorsed in May 2012 by the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, in collaboration with UNHCR, and received widespread support from the international community. The overall aim of the strategy is to strengthen community-based investments in areas of high return within Afghanistan, while preserving asylum space and supporting host countries pending solutions. Institutional mechanisms were set up, work plans adopted and 12 Memoranda of Understanding signed with line ministries in Afghanistan to facilitate implementation of the strategy. The robust engagement of development actors in aligning resources towards the outcomes of the SSAR will be essential to its success.

The large-scale resettlement programme in Nepal for refugees from Bhutan continued in 2012, reducing the number of camp-based refugees to some 40,000 by the end of the year.

In line with similar efforts in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in 2012, Pakistan was deemed a priority resettlement operation. A contact group was established under the leadership of



Australia increase options for the resettlement of Afghan refugees and to support the wider objectives of the SSAR in Pakistan. Australia has doubled its quota of UNHCR-referred resettlement places to 12,000, within its overall annual humanitarian intake of 20,000 persons.

In Myanmar, inter-communal violence in Rakhine State and instability in Kachin led to new displacement in 2012. Political reforms may further improve prospects for the voluntary returns of IDPs in the south-east of the country as well as repatriation of refugees in Thailand. UNHCR explored the prospects for voluntary repatriation by preparing for a refugee profiling exercise that will take place in 2013 in Thailand, surveying intentions on return and assessing reintegration needs.

UNHCR continued to assist the Government of Bangladesh to improve living conditions for the 30,000 registered Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who reside in two official camps. It also advocated for regularization and comprehensive solutions for the unregistered caseload outside the camps.

● *Ensuring protection and durable solutions for IDPs*

In 2012, UNHCR's efforts to protect and find durable solutions for IDPs centred on the situations in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. In Kyrgyzstan, the focus was on ensuring voluntary and dignified conditions of return for those displaced by the crisis in 2010. To fulfil this goal, UNHCR strengthened programmes in the areas of community development, confidence building, livelihoods and peaceful-coexistence.

In Sri Lanka, Menik Farm Camp was closed in September 2012, and the majority of IDPs in the country had returned to their places of origin by the end of the year. UNHCR supported the returnees' reintegration while seeking solutions for the small number of people still displaced in the north and east of the country.

In Afghanistan, UNHCR supported close to 500,000 people displaced, many of them more than once, by conflict. UNHCR implemented a winterization campaign and supported the development of a national IDP Policy. In Pakistan, some 745,000 people remained displaced as a result of security operations

in areas bordering Afghanistan. UNHCR assisted the Government with registration, camp management and coordination and the provision of assistance and protection for vulnerable people.

In the Philippines, UNHCR and the Government co-led the protection cluster for IDPs affected by complex emergencies and disasters in Mindanao, as part of the joint-UN and Government response. UNHCR worked with civil-society partners to establish an information database and provide documentation to IDPs.

In the midst of other major ongoing emergencies worldwide, UNHCR's response capacity was stretched to cope with the aftermath of the violence that erupted mid-year in Myanmar's Rakhine State, which displaced some 115,000 people initially. The rapidly evolving crisis and complex community dynamics called for a strong protection response. UNHCR delivered aid, often to remote areas, as part of the inter-agency effort.

● *Preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless people*

Another important goal for UNHCR in the region is to reduce and prevent statelessness and protect stateless people. In this regard, the accession of Turkmenistan to both Statelessness Conventions was a welcome development. A total of 20,000 people obtained citizenship in Central Asia through various initiatives supported by UNHCR. In South-East and South Asia, mapping exercises were launched to identify potentially stateless populations and other groups of undetermined nationality. Granting nationality to 2,000 out of an estimated 3,000 women who had lost their Vietnamese citizenship was a significant achievement in 2012.

It is estimated that there are some 800,000 Rohingya without nationality in Myanmar, and UNHCR is prepared to assist with technical expertise to achieve a solution for this particular group. In South-East Asia, a regional workshop on good practices in birth registration was organized jointly by UNHCR and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights in Bangkok in December 2012. The workshop brought together delegates from eight South-East Asian countries as well as UNICEF and the ASEAN Secretariat.

| Constraints |

Despite the limited number of legal and normative frameworks governing refugee protection, Asian countries have hosted millions of refugees and other displaced persons over the years. Some parts of the region are facing asylum fatigue owing to the prolonged nature of some refugee situations. Disparities in asylum practices present challenges to asylum-seekers, and often lead to secondary movements as refugees and asylum-seekers continue to seek the international protection they require.

The principal challenges in the region are presented by irregular and mixed-migration movements, protracted refugee situations and urban refugees. Hundreds of people are reported to have perished at sea along the main migration routes to Malaysia and Australia. The dramatic increase in the number of boat movements and tragic maritime accidents is indicative of how human despair is being exploited by transnational criminal networks in the form of people smuggling and human-trafficking. UNHCR has urged States to agree on protocols for the safe and quick disembarkation of rescued passengers and the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance. Mechanisms are required for UNHCR to be

able to identify and access those in need of international protection in these situations.

Of the 3.6 million refugees in Asia, fewer than 1.3 million live in refugee camps. The vast majority are located in urban environments. While urban settings can offer certain advantages when compared to camp settings, such as freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities, they also pose significant risks for vulnerable populations. UNHCR continues to advocate for legal and institutional frameworks for refugee protection in urban contexts, and has reinforced its network of partners working in urban areas.

The situation in Afghanistan remains the most critical challenge for UNHCR in the region. Insecure conditions affecting staff and partners have reduced UNHCR's capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance to newly displaced populations and to secure durable solutions for returnees. The Solutions Strategy and its successful implementation rely on the active engagement of development actors. Ensuring this robust collaboration will be essential to making a meaningful impact on populations of concern. The support for humanitarian action and the mobilization of development resources by the international community remain critical in Afghanistan. ■

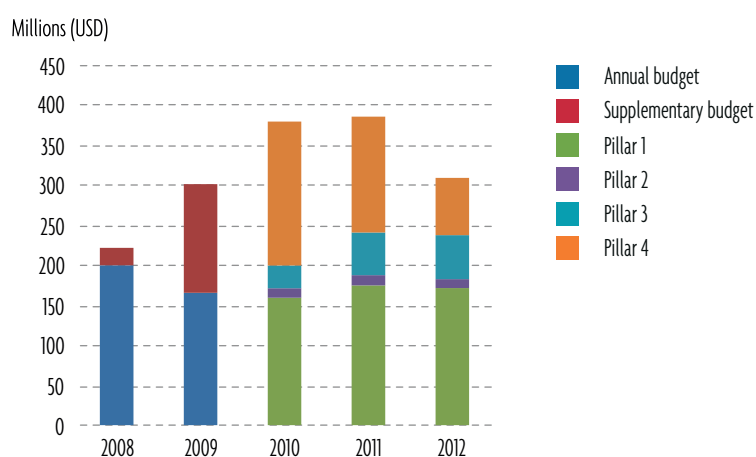
Financial information

The initial budget of USD 502 million for Asia and the Pacific was increased to USD 525 million in the course of the year, mainly because of additional requirements for emergency assistance to the recently displaced populations in Myanmar. Final expenditure for 2012 stood at USD 309 million, reflecting a shortfall of USD 215.8 million.

Although the region continued to receive strong support from donors, particularly for the operations in South-West and South-East Asia, operations in other subregions had to be financed by a combination of broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds. This required constant reprioritization throughout the year.

The funding shortfall left unmet needs with respect to RSD, resettlement capacity and assistance for urban refugees throughout the region. Reintegration programmes for returnees in Afghanistan, assistance for Afghan refugees in host countries and projects to benefit host communities in Pakistan had to be managed under restricted budgets.

Expenditure in Asia and the Pacific 2008-2012



BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC | USD

Operation		Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	Total
SOUTH-WEST ASIA						
Afghanistan	Budget	43,425,747	0	77,616,776	18,622,582	139,665,105
	Expenditure	33,265,580	0	40,664,082	13,433,853	87,363,515
Islamic Republic of Iran	Budget	53,221,255	0	0	0	53,221,255
	Expenditure	30,851,656	0	0	0	30,851,656
Pakistan	Budget	53,963,279	876,992	28,786,519	52,968,645	136,595,435
	Expenditure	30,175,505	872,617	13,247,839	31,274,485	75,570,446
Subtotal	Budget	150,610,281	876,992	106,403,295	71,591,227	329,481,795
	Expenditure	94,292,741	872,617	53,911,921	44,708,338	193,785,617
CENTRAL ASIA						
Kazakhstan Regional Office	Budget	7,370,465	1,363,773	0	567,780	9,302,018
	Expenditure	2,937,735	713,705	0	227,578	3,879,018
Kyrgyzstan	Budget	2,803,000	365,895	0	6,937,406	10,106,301
	Expenditure	1,319,174	365,241	0	3,300,494	4,984,909
Tajikistan	Budget	1,782,672	98,518	0	0	1,881,190
	Expenditure	1,136,031	96,301	0	0	1,232,332
Turkmenistan	Budget	550,567	1,044,217	0	0	1,594,784
	Expenditure	300,732	487,098	0	0	787,830
Subtotal	Budget	12,506,704	2,872,403	0	7,505,186	22,884,293
	Expenditure	5,693,672	1,662,345	0	3,528,072	10,884,089
SOUTH ASIA						
India	Budget	13,130,133	81,278	0	0	13,211,411
	Expenditure	6,458,455	71,510	0	0	6,529,965
Nepal	Budget	12,955,089	1,351,419	1,411,101	0	15,717,609
	Expenditure	9,315,841	747,228	623,778	0	10,686,847
Sri Lanka	Budget	10,119,117	68,724	0	7,553,888	17,741,729
	Expenditure	4,761,080	39,306	0	4,357,006	9,157,392
Subtotal	Budget	36,204,339	1,501,421	1,411,101	7,553,888	46,670,749
	Expenditure	20,535,376	858,044	623,778	4,357,006	26,374,204
SOUTH-EAST ASIA						
Bangladesh	Budget	15,054,054	56,387	0	0	15,110,441
	Expenditure	7,806,561	54,778	0	0	7,861,339
Cambodia	Budget	939,248	10,000	0	0	949,248
	Expenditure	726,126	6,182	0	0	732,308
Indonesia	Budget	5,738,085	173,602	0	0	5,911,687
	Expenditure	3,912,212	134,636	0	0	4,046,848
Malaysia	Budget	16,051,888	510,384	0	0	16,562,272
	Expenditure	8,326,069	41,935	0	0	8,368,004
Myanmar	Budget	40,000	9,952,586	0	24,764,418	34,757,004
	Expenditure	0	6,063,649	0	15,818,250	21,881,899

Operation		Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	Total
Philippines	Budget	788,326	778,277	0	5,942,991	7,509,594
	Expenditure	403,819	543,027	0	3,238,128	4,184,974
Thailand	Budget	21,640,907	706,230	0	0	22,347,137
	Expenditure	13,390,578	352,089	0	0	13,742,667
Thailand Regional Office	Budget	5,447,307	0	0	0	5,447,307
	Expenditure	3,621,870	0	0	0	3,621,870
Timor-Leste	Budget	187,346	19,654	0	0	207,000
	Expenditure	5,764	10,000	0	0	15,764
Viet Nam	Budget	0	455,500	455,000	0	910,500
	Expenditure	0	451,173	370,409	0	821,582
Subtotal	Budget	65,887,161	12,662,620	455,000	30,707,409	109,712,190
	Expenditure	38,192,999	7,657,469	370,409	19,056,378	65,277,255
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC						
Australia Regional Office ¹	Budget	2,144,316	0	0	0	2,144,316
	Expenditure	1,809,328	0	0	0	1,809,328
China Regional Office	Budget	5,621,120	143,934	0	0	5,765,054
	Expenditure	4,346,970	107,243	0	0	4,454,213
Japan	Budget	4,656,671	51,772	0	0	4,708,443
	Expenditure	4,104,373	41,194	0	0	4,145,567
Papua New Guinea	Budget	1,375,249	0	0	0	1,375,249
	Expenditure	1,221,387	0	0	0	1,221,387
Republic of Korea	Budget	1,931,121	188,402	0	0	2,119,523
	Expenditure	1,233,324	118,976	0	0	1,352,300
Regional activities	Budget	412,769	0	0	0	412,769
	Expenditure	90,012	0	0	0	90,012
Subtotal	Budget	16,141,246	384,108	0	0	16,525,354
	Expenditure	12,805,394	267,413	0	0	13,072,807
Total	Budget	281,349,731	18,297,544	108,269,396	117,357,710	525,274,381
	Expenditure	171,520,182	11,317,888	54,906,108	71,649,794	309,393,972

¹ Includes activities in China and Mongolia

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASIA AND THE PACIFIC | USD

<i>Donor</i>	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
Australia	3,050,470			375,940		3,426,410
Australia for UNHCR				26,163		26,163
Belgium	971,503		592,535	378,968		1,943,005
Brazil	300,000	120,000			50,000	470,000
Canada					5,616,851	5,616,851
Central Emergency Response Fund			2,299,944	15,487,705		17,787,649
Charities Aid Foundation					2,927	2,927
China	124,630					124,630
Denmark	584,938		3,320,473	935,901		4,841,313
Educate A Child Programme	1,427,545					1,427,545
European Union	14,419,295	1,837,275	2,435,168	20,330,853		39,022,590
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. (UNIQLO)	94,024				134,010	228,034
Finland					3,083,110	3,083,110
France	394,734			65,531		460,265
Germany	9,082,924		2,784,197	1,547,148		13,414,270
IKEA Foundation	2,201,373					2,201,373
International Olympic Committee	36,130					36,130
Italy	54,545		2,800,000	75,325		2,929,870
Japan	19,000,000		11,000,000		10,465,263	40,465,263
Japan Association for UNHCR	314,229					314,229
Kazakhstan	169,236					169,236
Kuwait	250,000					250,000
Kyrgyzstan	67,014					67,014
Luxembourg	266,667				415,584	682,251
Netherlands					2,857,143	2,857,143
Norway	2,041,069				3,306,332	5,347,401
Private donors in Canada				95,695		95,695
Private donors in Japan					158,731	158,731
Private donors in Malaysia	1,287					1,287
Private donors in Thailand	277,542				3,414,286	3,691,828
Private donors in the Republic of Korea	7,718			1,557	294	9,569
Qatar Charity				322,986		322,986

<i>Donor</i>	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
Republic of Korea				236,587		236,587
Russian Federation					450,000	450,000
Saudi Arabia		1,000,000				1,000,000
Sweden					1,385,042	1,385,042
Switzerland	272,035			816,104	544,070	1,632,209
Turkmenistan	81,792					81,792
United Kingdom	166,794					166,794
United Nations Delivering as One	40,558	176,845				217,403
United Nations Development Programme			1,911,894			1,911,894
United Nations Peacebuilding Fund				1,028,084		1,028,084
United Nations Population Fund				6,362		6,362
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS	183,440					183,440
United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security	69,800	345,637				415,437
United States of America	2,119,051	760,000		9,990,000	70,443,000	83,312,051
USA for UNHCR				1,044,312	89,311	1,133,623
Viet Nam	180,000					180,000
Total	58,250,343	4,239,757	27,144,212	52,765,220	102,415,953	244,815,484

Note: Includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve