

South-East Asia

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a blue and white striped t-shirt and a pearl earring, is focused on her work in a market stall. She is leaning forward, and her hands are visible as she handles items. The background shows various market goods, including bottles and fabrics, under a wooden structure.

Bangladesh
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
Indonesia
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Viet Nam

Some of those displaced by Typhoon Ondoy in the Philippines receive medical attention at a relocation site.



| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- In the Philippines, UNHCR established a presence in Mindanao to address the protection needs of vulnerable populations displaced by conflict.
- UNHCR held discussions with South-East Asian countries on a regional approach to refugees and irregular movements, resulting in agreements to cooperate on this issue.
- In Cambodia, UNHCR increased efforts to find durable solutions for the small population of Montagnard refugees still remaining in the country.

| Working environment |

The prevalence of mixed-migration movements in South-East Asia has led to a blurring of the distinction between asylum-seekers and migrants in the region. States continued to give priority to national security concerns and bilateral relations, resulting in a fragile protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers. The growing number of asylum-seekers arriving by boat in Australia after transiting through South-East Asia added impetus to the search for a collective approach to refugees and irregular movements in the region.

| Achievements and impact |

UNHCR strove to improve the protection space in South-East Asia for all persons of concern and gave priority to efforts to engage States in a regional approach to asylum management. Ensuring access to asylum and respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*, addressing onward movements, and the harmonization of asylum regimes were key elements of this approach. UNHCR also advocated for alternatives to detention for asylum-seekers and refugees, better access to livelihoods for urban refugees, and measures to reduce statelessness.

Positive developments arose from the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Trans-national Crime, which provided opportunities to discuss refugee protection within the context of mixed migration. UNHCR and the Philippines co-hosted a workshop under the auspices of the Bali Process on Regional Cooperation on Refugees and Irregular Movements. This brought together concerned stakeholders and concluded with a broad agreement to cooperate on a regional approach to irregular movement in the region and the UNHCR discussion paper *Regional Cooperative Approach to address Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Irregular Movement* was unanimously endorsed. This should lead to further discussions on the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) and the development of the concept into practical arrangements.

The increasing use of immigration detention facilities in South-East Asia to hold refugees and asylum-seekers, including children and other vulnerable groups, has become a worrying trend. UNHCR observed an increase in the number of persons of concern in detention in countries such as Thailand and Indonesia.

In Malaysia, although persons of concern to UNHCR continued to be arrested and detained in large numbers, constructive dialogue with national authorities resulted in an improvement in the situation. Compared to the previous year, fewer people were detained and more of them were released as a result of UNHCR's interventions. Advocacy efforts were strengthened; UNHCR continued to work with civil society and national human rights institutions; and two consultations on alternatives to detention were held in 2010.

UNHCR promoted the prevention and reduction of statelessness by joining the National Human Rights



Commission of Thailand to convene a Regional Expert Round Table on Good Practices for the Identification, Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and the Protection of Stateless Persons in South-East Asia. The meeting raised awareness about statelessness in the region and highlighted areas of progress.

Significant advances were made in Viet Nam towards reducing statelessness through the naturalization of former Cambodian refugees, many of whom have been residing in the country since the 1970s without legal status. In 2010, some 430 former Cambodian refugees from camps previously assisted by UNHCR acquired Vietnamese citizenship through a naturalization process that is expected to benefit more than 9,000 people in the coming years. UNHCR strengthened support for the Government's efforts to address statelessness, including among Vietnamese women who lost their citizenship through marriage to foreigners.

| Constraints |

Government concerns relating to national security and irregular migration continued to constrain efforts to promote refugee protection in South-East Asia. The lack of national legal frameworks for dealing with refugees and

asylum-seekers in many countries in this subregion remained a major protection challenge. Many urban refugees faced difficulties in their daily lives due to lack of legal status, limited livelihood opportunities and insufficient access to social services.

UNHCR's efforts to expand the humanitarian space for Muslim residents of Myanmar's northern Rakhine State, both in their country of origin and countries of asylum, remained constrained. In Bangladesh, negative public perceptions towards refugees increased, hindering attempts to address the situation of an estimated 200,000 undocumented people from Myanmar residing outside the camps who are of concern to UNHCR. A development approach aimed at combating poverty in the refugee-hosting area and attaining more equitable living conditions for persons of concern, as well as the host population, is still pending approval by the Government.

Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Malaysia, Myanmar** and **Thailand** are covered in separate chapters.

In **Bangladesh**, UNHCR continued its protection and assistance programmes, benefiting 29,000 refugees from Myanmar's northern Rakhine State residing in two camps in Cox's Bazar and small numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas. Progress was made in improving conditions for the camp population particularly

in the areas of nutrition, reproductive health, infrastructure and skills training.

UNHCR addressed malnutrition in the camps by providing blanket feeding programmes for infants and establishing breast-feeding groups. As a result, the global acute malnutrition rate was reduced from 19 per cent in 2009 to 15 per cent in 2010. UNHCR and the Government worked to harmonize their refugee databases.

In **Cambodia**, following successful implementation of the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding between Cambodia, Viet Nam and UNHCR, only a small number of Montagnard refugees remained in Phnom Penh. UNHCR redoubled efforts to find solutions for them following its intervention to keep the last Montagnard site open beyond the end of 2010.

UNHCR also strengthened capacity-building activities to help the Government manage asylum procedures during the transitional period following the passing of domestic refugee legislation in December 2009, under which the Government assumed full responsibility for these functions. Progress was made in the development of a national asylum system; and the Refugee Office began to register asylum-seekers and adjudicate cases in the course of 2010.

In **Indonesia**, UNHCR continued to be the primary provider of protection to refugees and asylum-seekers, undertaking responsibility for registration, refugee status determination (RSD) and the search for durable solutions. It strengthened cooperation with the authorities through a

Budget and expenditure in South-East Asia | USD

Country		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
Bangladesh	Budget	8,175,453	16,000	0	0	8,191,453
	Expenditure	5,241,678	15,506	0	0	5,257,184
Cambodia	Budget	784,467	50,000	0	0	834,467
	Expenditure	716,454	45,388	0	0	761,842
Indonesia	Budget	5,126,396	475,000	0	0	5,601,396
	Expenditure	3,057,852	473,230	0	0	3,531,082
Malaysia	Budget	14,151,108	188,851	0	0	14,339,959
	Expenditure	7,489,594	186,749	0	0	7,676,343
Myanmar	Budget	3,919,024	8,923,959	0	3,400,000	16,242,983
	Expenditure	0	8,886,724	0	2,407,181	11,293,905
Philippines	Budget	989,074	0	0	1,826,330	2,815,404
	Expenditure	942,352	0	0	1,326,278	2,268,630
Thailand Regional Office¹	Budget	20,044,525	340,000	0	0	20,384,525
	Expenditure	14,331,050	329,953	0	0	14,661,003
Timor Leste	Budget	342,990	0	0	0	342,990
	Expenditure	228,606	0	0	0	228,606
Viet Nam	Budget	229,697	100,000	300,000	0	629,697
	Expenditure	44,797	95,516	227,676	0	367,989
Total budget		53,762,734	10,093,810	300,000	5,226,330	69,382,874
Total expenditure		32,052,383	10,033,066	227,676	3,733,459	46,046,584

¹ Includes the Office of the Regional Coordinator which provides support to 12 countries in the subregion.

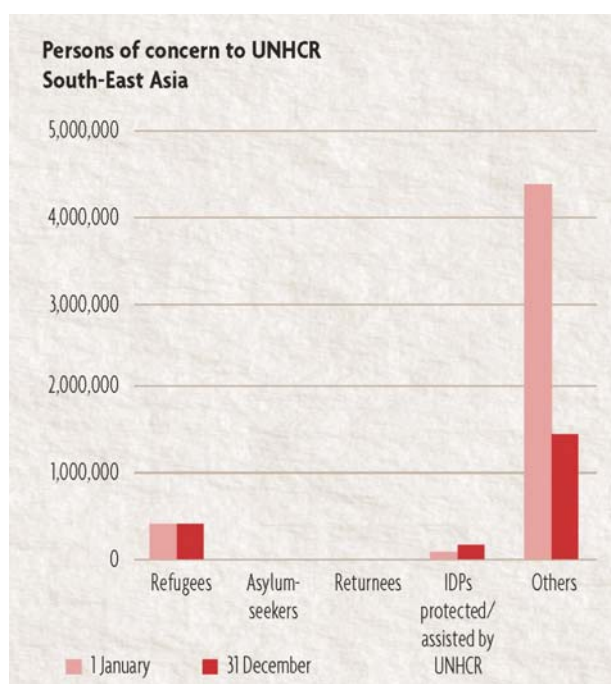
significant expansion of capacity-building activities and by offering more than 50 training sessions to some 3,600 government officials. In order to respond effectively to the steady growth in new arrivals, UNHCR increased its protection presence in five strategic locations across the archipelago and reinforced capacity in RSD, resettlement and community services.

To assist people displaced by conflict in **the Philippines**, UNHCR expanded its operations to Mindanao and established a field office in Cotobato. It worked closely with the authorities to address the protection needs of vulnerable populations and continued to lead the protection cluster for internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by a series of typhoons in 2009. Assistance provided by UNHCR included implementation of some 30 quick-impact projects aimed at helping returnees to restart their livelihoods, providing non-food items (NFIs) to some 1,170 families as well as assistance to almost 300 people with special needs.

UNHCR increased the capacity of the emergency transit mechanism for accelerated resettlement processing to meet the growing needs in the region. In 2010 more than 210 refugees transited the Philippines and benefited from facilitated resettlement processing under this mechanism.

In **Timor-Leste**, UNHCR continued to assist a small number of refugees and asylum-seekers. Progress was made towards establishing refugee admission mechanisms and in enhancing the Government's capacity to conduct RSD in accordance with international standards. Capacity-building efforts were also directed at increasing awareness and understanding of statelessness issues in view of the country's anticipated accession to the statelessness conventions.

In **Viet Nam**, community-based support was provided to the Montagnard refugees who returned from Cambodia. Three education projects were completed, benefiting the entire community through the construction of two primary schools and a kindergarten. UNHCR continued to monitor the returnees to ensure their smooth reintegration.



Financial information

Of the total requirements delineated in the comprehensive needs assessment, some 35 per cent were met by the contributions earmarked for South-East Asia. These contributions helped meet nearly 50 per cent of the prioritized activities in the subregion, while the remainder was covered by unearmarked funding. Though the level of funding enabled UNHCR to maintain its processing capacity, it was not enough to address backlogs. Moreover, the funding level made prioritization of human resources necessary, which presented difficulties in maintaining a reasonable and effective ratio between staff for protection and durable solutions, on the one hand, and programme and administrative support on the other.

The needs for IDP operations in the Philippines, which commenced in 2009 (natural disasters) and 2010 (conflict-based displacement), were almost entirely met through unearmarked funding.

Voluntary contributions to South-East Asia | USD

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
SOUTH-EAST ASIA SUBREGION					
United States of America				6,400,000	6,400,000
South-East Asia subtotal	0	0	0	6,400,000	6,400,000
BANGLADESH					
Australia	110,405				110,405
European Commission	2,886,003				2,886,003
Finland				645,228	645,228
Japan				322,928	322,928
Japan Association for UNHCR	79,156			114,811	193,967
Private donors in China				34,818	34,818
Saudi Arabia	51,085				51,085
United Kingdom	23,863				23,863
Bangladesh subtotal	3,150,511	0	0	1,117,785	4,268,296

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
INDONESIA					
Australia	1,409,927				1,409,927
Indonesia subtotal	1,409,927	0	0	0	1,409,927
MALAYSIA					
Australia	949,188				949,188
Private donors in Malaysia	293				293
Malaysia subtotal	949,482	0	0	0	949,482
MYANMAR					
Australia				2,622,378	2,622,378
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)		2,142,869			2,142,869
Charities Aid Foundation				1,672	1,672
European Commission		2,274,741	760,456		3,035,197
Japan				861,141	861,141
Japan Association for UNHCR				26,730	26,730
Sweden		879,091			879,091
UN Trust Fund for Human Security		695,687			695,687
Myanmar subtotal	0	5,992,389	760,456	3,511,921	10,264,766
PHILIPPINES					
Australia			838,926		838,926
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)			101,082		101,082
Philippines subtotal	0	0	940,008	0	940,008
THAILAND					
Australia	9,167				9,167
European Commission	910,469				910,469
HQ online donations				390	390
Japan				1,076,426	1,076,426
Luxembourg				432,900	432,900
Private donors in Thailand				2,098,796	2,098,796
Switzerland	470,810				470,810
UN Programme on HIV and AIDS	186,712				186,712
UN Trust Fund for Human Security	157,290				157,290
Thailand subtotal	1,734,448	0	0	3,608,513	5,342,961
VIET NAM					
European Commission		40,000			40,000
Viet Nam subtotal	0	40,000	0	0	40,000
Total	7,244,368	6,032,389	1,700,464	14,638,218	29,615,439

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.