



## HIGHLIGHTS

**2,338**

Identified people with specific needs\*

**2,020**

Individual RSD interviews conducted\*

**2,169**

Individual RSD decisions finalized\*

**372**

Refugees resettled to third countries\*

\*Statistical information as of 31 August 2015

### Population of Concern

A total of **13,110** persons of concern (refugees and asylum-seekers)

#### By country of origin

Country	Total Refugees	Total Asylum-seekers
Afghanistan	2,564	3,611
Myanmar	685	881
Somalia	418	640
Sri Lanka	298	328
Iran	335	382
Palestine	381	147
Pakistan	337	158
Iraq	255	456
Others	355	879
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,628</b>	<b>7,482</b>

### Funding

**USD 8.5 Million** requested

**USD 474,140** contributions

**6%** funded

### UNHCR Presence

#### Staff:

**32** national staff

**8** international staff

**20** affiliate workforce staff under deployment arrangements with IUNV, UNOPS, ICMC, and IRC

#### Offices:

**1** country office in **Jakarta**, with presence of staff in Medan, Tanjung Pinang, Lhokseumawe, Langsa, Pekanbaru, Surabaya, Makassar and Kupang.



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

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- UNHCR works closely with government counterparts, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, and the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, as well as with other partners and civil society, to provide protection and support to UNHCR's persons of concern pending the identification of comprehensive solutions.
- UNHCR engages with partners, including Church World Service (CWS), UNHCR's implementing partner involved in assistance programs, as well as operational partners including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), and the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM), to assist the Government of Indonesia to ensure the effective protection of refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

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### Protection

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- While Indonesia is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol it has a long tradition of hosting refugees and asylum-seekers, and the Government has authorized UNHCR to help protect and find solutions for them. A regulation issued by the Director General of Immigration ensures that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to UNHCR, and allows them to stay temporarily in the country until their refugee status can be confirmed and appropriate solutions can be found for them.

### Registration and Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

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- As of 31 August 2015, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Indonesia totals 13,110 individuals, including 3,100 persons registered thus far in 2015. A marked increase in the number of registrations by UNHCR occurred in May 2015 following the rescue at sea of nearly 1,000 Rohingyas from Myanmar.
- Thus far in 2015 a total of 2,020 RSD interviews have been conducted and some 2,169 decisions have been made, while over the course of 2014 some 3,122 RSD decisions were finalized. At present 4,447 cases of 6,022 individuals remain pending first instance RSD interview, and the average waiting period from registration to first instance interview ranges from 8 to 20 months depending on the priority and complexity of the case.

### Comprehensive Solutions

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- UNHCR pursues a range of options for refugees depending on each individual's situation. These could include family reunification, access to labour schemes, voluntary repatriation to countries of origin, resettlement to a third country for the most vulnerable, and temporary protection mechanisms that focus on vocational training and promoting access to income-generating activities.
- As part of the Office's protection strategy, the cases of refugees are submitted to various countries for resettlement consideration. In 2014 a total of 838 refugees were resettled to countries offering resettlement, including Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada and Germany, and thus far in 2015 some 372 refugees have departed for resettlement while 743 others have been submitted for consideration by States.
- When feasible, the Office facilitates voluntary repatriation for refugees and assisted voluntary return for asylum-seekers in close cooperation with IOM. Some 257 persons (all but a few being asylum-seekers) returned to their countries of origin in 2014, and 233 persons have returned thus far in 2015.

### Detention

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- The Government of Indonesia provides alternatives to detention through community accommodation for recognized refugees and vulnerable asylum-seekers. However, some 4,511 persons of concern are currently detained, and detention continues to be used as a deterrent to irregular maritime movement through detaining those intercepted attempting to enter or leave the country illegally. There are 13 formal detention centers and 20 temporary detention facilities across Indonesia that house UNHCR's persons of concern. In addition to those who are detained for illegally entry or exit, over the past year UNHCR has been challenged by the increasing number of asylum-seekers and refugees who have self-reported to immigration authorities to be detained because of their inability to financially support themselves. This is creating a range of problems, most notably severe overcrowding in detention facilities and growing concerns about the presence of refugees and asylum-seekers in communities across the country.

- UNHCR is afforded full and unhindered access to all detention facilities. UNHCR continues to advocate for the release of persons of concern from detention, particularly in the case of recognized refugees, women, children, and other vulnerable individuals, and thus far in 2015 a total of 856 persons of concern have been released from detention through the intervention of UNHCR.
- UNHCR continues to advocate with the authorities for alternatives to detention, including the expansion of shelters for unaccompanied minors run by UNHCR through CWS and the community accommodation scheme managed by IOM.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- While the Government provides refugees and asylum-seekers with safe haven until UNHCR can identify longer-term solutions for them, they do not have the right to work in Indonesia. With this in mind, UNHCR works to create community-empowerment and self-reliance programs that could benefit refugees as well as local communities hosting them.
- Male and female refugee leaders representing various nationalities participate in activities implemented by UNHCR and CWS, such as assisting vulnerable refugees in accessing services, disseminating information among the refugee community, managing community learning centres, providing skills training and education for children and adolescents, and providing interpretation and translation services when required.

## Education

- In line with the UNHCR Global Education Strategy (2012-2016), UNHCR continues to implement educational programs through its implementing partner, CWS. Refugee children have access to primary and secondary education in Indonesian public schools. Non-formal education and recreational activities are available for a limited number of children and youths. Non-formal education and vocational training programs are implemented together with CWS, refugee communities, and training providers.
- In 2015 only 51 school-age refugee children are enrolled in public schools, representing less than 10% enrolment in formal education. This is the result of several factors, including the limited geographical coverage of CWS assistance programs, inadequate sources of funding, and the lack of willingness on the part of parents to enroll their children in Indonesian schools.

## Health

- UNHCR collaborates with various partners to provide healthcare services to persons of concern to reduce major health risks and ensure access to primary and secondary medical care. Healthcare services are provided to persons of concern through public health systems, such as referrals to community health centres and to hospitals for more complicated illnesses and emergency treatment. The provision of immunization through community maternity and child care centers is ensured, particularly compulsory vaccinations for children. UNHCR works with partners to provide information on public health services available to persons of concern and to raise awareness on common illnesses and communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

## Statelessness

- Indonesia is not a party to either of the UN Statelessness Conventions. Under its statelessness mandate UNHCR provides support to Government initiatives to prevent statelessness through effective birth registration procedures, and advocates for universal birth registration for all children born in the country, including the children of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Together with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights and the Ministry of Home Affairs, in early 2015 UNHCR co-hosted a roundtable discussion involving government, UN agencies, and civil society to look at ways to address gaps in birth registration, considering that as many as 40 million Indonesian children do not have birth certificates and are at risk of statelessness.

## Regional Mixed Migration

- As the number of irregular boat movements in the region continues to grow, the Government has increasingly engaged other affected countries to identify effective solutions to these complex and mixed movements. In this context, UNHCR provides technical support to the Government to ensure protection on the basis of solidarity and responsibility-sharing among States.
- In May 2015 nearly 1,000 Rohingya refugees and some 800 Bangladeshi migrants arrived in Indonesia after boats they were on were abandoned by smugglers. UNHCR immediately responded with a range of protection interventions including registration of asylum claims, carrying out best interests assessments, and assisting the Government in ensuring effective coordination.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation:

| [Government of Japan](#) | [Big Heart Foundation \(Qatar\)](#) |

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