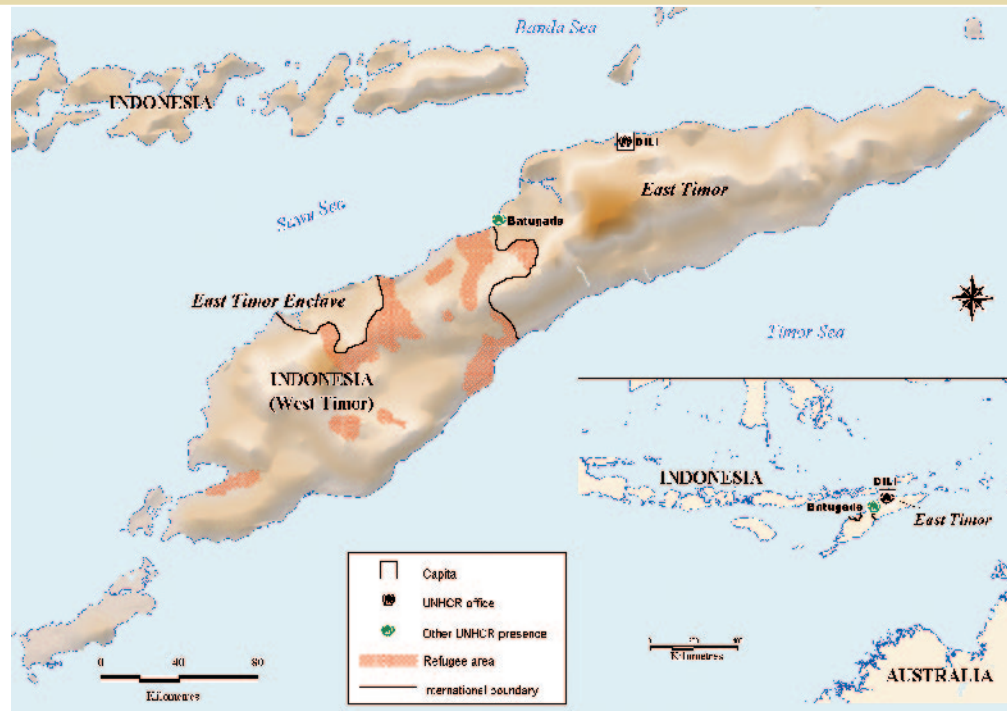


Indonesia

Main Objectives

- Promote and facilitate durable solutions for the remaining East Timorese refugees through support to the Indonesian Government.
- Implement timely and effective refugee status determination (RSD) procedures. Provide adequate care and maintenance for those in need and find durable solutions for recognised refugees.
- Improve the authorities' preparations for and ability to handle emergencies.
- Reduce the likelihood of human rights violations occurring in conflict prone areas of Indonesia through training in human rights and refugee law.
- Identify and register separated East Timorese children and enable them to rejoin their families.



Planning Figures

Population	Jan. 2003	Dec. 2003
Refugees	30,000	600
Asylum-Seekers	800	800
Total	30,800	1,400

Total Requirements: USD 8,026,232

Working Environment

Recent Developments

In May 2002, the High Commissioner announced that UNHCR would apply the cessation of refugee status for East Timorese as of 1 January 2003, provided that certain minimal safeguards are in place. To meet this deadline UNHCR has been working with East Timorese authorities to ensure that legislation regarding nationality and citizenship is equitable and applicable to all returnees, irrespective of their ethnicity.

The termination by Indonesian authorities on 31 August 2002, of financial assistance to refugees repatriating to East Timor coincided with a signifi-

cant fall in the number of returns. UNHCR and Indonesian authorities expect that some 20,000 to 30,000 East Timorese will remain in West Timor at the start of 2003. Some of the reasons provided by refugees for not returning include:

- The Special Fund to compensate former Indonesian civil servants, including police and army personnel, in an amount of some USD 10 million (reduced from an initial target of USD 25 million), is not yet operational;
- Continued misinformation and intimidation, albeit somewhat reduced, by pro-integration groups;
- Inadequate post-arrival assistance and limited opportunities to access employment and educational opportunities in East Timor; and,
- Persons associated with militia groups are waiting for amnesty arrangements to be promulgated by the East Timor Government.

Providing that East Timorese voluntarily elect to remain in Indonesia, UNHCR remains supportive of Indonesian local integration efforts outside of West Timor. Unfortunately, progress on local integration projects has been limited, as many East Timorese refugees have indicated that, although they do want to remain in Indonesia, they do not wish to be resettled outside West Timor.

The demise of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan led to a significant decline in the number of asylum-seekers travelling to Indonesia. It is expected that the number of asylum-seekers seeking protection in Indonesia will continue to decrease in 2003. This will allow the Office in Jakarta to focus on resettlement and capacity-building activities. Initial optimism that the Indonesian authorities would accede to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol has been tempered by the concerns the Government has voiced over the resource implications of accession.

Constraints

Due to the continued UN designation of West Timor as a high security risk, UNHCR's interventions in 2002 to support voluntary repatriation and local settlement were restricted to time-limited ad hoc missions. Each ad hoc mission has required security clearance from UNSECOORD in New York. Regular UN access to West Timor in 2003 remains contingent on a lowered security phase. In Aceh and West Papua, ongoing security concerns limited the scope of the Police Training Project. Indonesian authorities requested that training activities be undertaken in safer, more stable areas. The Special Fund which was to facilitate the return of East Timorese civil servants, through the payment of their pensions, was delayed due to a lack of support from donors. Implementation of a local integration project for East Timorese refugees outside of West Timor was also delayed due to the priority attached by the Indonesian Government to



Refugees from East Timor in front of their temporary shelter. UNHCR / M. Kobayashi

repatriation until late in 2002. In early August 2002, it was reported that seven communities in West Sumba confirmed their willingness to receive up to 300 East Timorese refugee families. In the wake of the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States, a number of resettlement countries either suspended the processing of applications or introduced more stringent security clearance procedures.

Strategy

Protection and Solutions

In 2003, UNHCR will continue to engage in the screening of asylum-seekers and provide protection for individual cases in Indonesia and Singapore through RSD, limited assistance and the facilitation of solutions, primarily resettlement. If the number of asylum-seekers approaching UNHCR continues to decrease, and if the backlog is cleared, greater attention can be placed on resettling recognised refugees. It is expected that many Afghans, particularly those rejected, will choose to repatriate to Afghanistan.

The deportation of several hundred thousand illegal Indonesian migrants from Malaysia in late 2002 has assisted UNHCR in refocusing the Government's attention on the need to develop immigration procedures, and appropriate protection safeguards at the border. UNHCR will continue to call for accession to the 1951 Convention, and a strengthening of the capacity of the Government to respond to population displacements in the region, in the hope that the authorities will ultimately deal with RSD themselves. To pursue this objective, UNHCR will continue to support activities related to emergency preparedness and contingency planning through the first half of 2003.

The Indonesian Government's decision to halt financial assistance for returning East Timorese refugees as of 31 August 2002, and the resulting fall in returns may result in an estimated 20,000-30,000 East Timorese remaining in the country at the time cessation is applied in East Timor. The pursuit of durable solutions for the remaining East Timorese will be continued in the first half of 2003

with support to local authorities and NGOs in West Timor to facilitate continued repatriation and local integration (outside of the island). Although it does not plan to resume a permanent presence in West Timor, UNHCR will liaise closely with local authorities and refugee communities to facilitate their return.

UNHCR will continue to employ a national consultant based in Jakarta to co-ordinate activities related to separated East Timorese children. In late 2002, UNHCR field tested the revised guidelines on gender and sexual-based violence at training sessions in Jakarta. Representatives of East Timorese NGOs focussing on women and gender equality also attended the training sessions. Recommendations arising out of these sessions will be implemented in Indonesia, and where applicable throughout the region, in 2003.

Assistance

UNHCR expects to complete the implementation of the local settlement project for those East Timorese opting to remain in Indonesia – but outside of West Timor – and to finalise disbursement of funds to former Indonesian civil servants. Subject to application of the cessation clause for East Timorese refugees as of 1 January 2003, UNHCR anticipates that its assistance programme for East Timorese will be completed by 30 June 2003. However, basic care and maintenance activities will be maintained for recognised refugees. It is anticipated that with a reduction of asylum-seekers entering Indonesia en route to Australia, the number of persons being recognised as refugees will fall. This will allow UNHCR to concentrate on resettlement programmes for the remaining refugees.

Desired Impact

By mid-2003, the vast majority of East Timorese displaced during the 1999 violence should have either voluntarily repatriated or been locally integrated in Indonesia. The number of East Timorese separated children will be reduced as UNHCR improves the registration data base and facilitates reunions. With a reduction in the backlog as fewer asylum-seekers enter Indonesia, processing times should be significantly reduced.

Organisation and Implementation

Management Structure

Since the closure of UNHCR's offices in West Timor in 2000, following the killing of three UNHCR staff members in Atambua, UNHCR's presence in Indonesia has been limited to the Regional Office in Jakarta. Until such time as the UN Security Phase designation of West Timor is reduced, UNHCR's activities will be restricted to time-limited ad hoc missions to support voluntary repatriation efforts. In 2003, UNHCR will operate with 12 international and 19 national staff. The total number of staff is likely to be reduced as the RSD backlog is reduced and activities related to the Police Training Project and Local Settlement Projects are either completed or handed over to other agencies.

Co-ordination

UNHCR works with one international and three local NGOs. The Regional Office in Jakarta also works closely with OCHA, UNDP and relevant Indonesian Government ministries with which it is co-implementing a number of activities related to local settlement activities for East Timorese refugees. UNHCR also enjoys close collaboration with IOM on the transport needs of asylum-seekers and refugees.

Offices

Jakarta

Partners

Government Agencies

Coordinating Ministry for Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees (Bakornas)

Coordinating Ministry for People's Welfare (Menko Kesra)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Justice and Human Rights

Ministry of Manpower and Transmigrations (Nakertrans)

Ministry of Police/BRIMOB

Ministry of Settlements and Regional Infrastructure (Kimpraswil)

NGOs

Bangun Mitra Sejati

Centre for Refugee Studies, Bandung School of Social Work

Indonesian Red Cross

Others

ICRC

IOM

OCHA

UNDP

UNOPS

UNVs

Budget (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	325,093
Community Services	106,281
Domestic Needs	725,597
Education	49,816
Health	75,851
Legal Assistance	2,341,991
Operational Support (to Agencies)	744,663
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	1,641,405
Transport / Logistics	166,296
Total Operations	6,176,993
Programme Support	1,849,239
Total	8,026,232