



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Newsletter, 2013 - Volume 4



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ใบอนุญาตพิเศษที่ 55/2555
ศพ. บดินทรเดชา 10312

REPRESENTATIVE'S MESSAGE



Mireille Girard (right) with a refugee and UNHCR staff at this year's World Refugee Day event in Mae La camp, Tak province.

Dear UNHCR Supporters,

The year 2012 was even more challenging than 2011 for UNHCR globally. Facing one crisis after another, over 1 million people had to flee from their homes mainly from Syria, Mali, Sudan and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNHCR had to reduce its budget support to several countries, including Thailand.

Fortunately, with continued donations from Thai people, UNHCR's operation in Thailand was less affected than other countries. I am pleased to inform you that your kind donation represents 27% of the budget we spent towards helping refugees in Thailand. Your regular contribution helped us to continue providing sufficient support to refugees, mostly children, women, disabled and elderly people.

The impact of your donation in the past year is clear. You have made it possible for 3,800 newborn children to receive birth certificates. Many families have been reunited and 6,800 people have started new lives in other countries. However, our mission to provide lasting solutions for refugees is not completed. I wish to sincerely thank you for your kindness in helping us change the lives of refugees in the past year and hope that you will continue standing by UNHCR to help refugees until the day they can restart their lives with dignity and safety.

Thank you again for your generosity.











With my warmest regards,

Mireille Girard
Representative
UNHCR Thailand

MISSION STATEMENT

The High Commissioner for Refugees is mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. UNHCR's primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. In its efforts to achieve this objective, the Office strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state, and to return home voluntarily. By assisting refugees to return to their own country or to settle permanently in another country, UNHCR also seeks lasting solutions to their plight.

BASIC FACTS

-  **35,844,580:** People of concern to the High Commissioner
-  **2.35 billion:** Total 2012 UNHCR expenditure (USD)
-  **124:** Countries in which UNHCR is present
-  **434:** Number of UNHCR offices worldwide
-  **7,092:** UNHCR regular staff members
-  **6,446:** Staff members in the field
-  **646:** Staff members at Headquarters
-  **1 per 5,054:** Ratio of staff members to people of concern
-  **957:** NGOs working as implementing partners
-  **148:** States parties to the 1951 Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol



2012 UNHCR THAILAND OPERATION

Refugees living in camps in Thailand were forced to flee from violence and conflict in Myanmar.

There are about 128,000* people who live in nine camps in four provinces along the Thai-Myanmar border, 83,000* of them are registered refugees. Most of them are ethnic Karen and Karenni. Many have lived in the camps for more than two decades. UNHCR takes the necessary steps to protect them, helping them rebuild their lives, providing them with skills to become self-reliant and finding durable solutions for them.

*statistics by end of 2012

UNHCR'S PRESENCE IN THAILAND

Number of offices

5

Total staff

120



2012 ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT



A newborn baby is registered to get a birth certificate.

BIRTH REGISTRATION

UNHCR works closely with the Thai Government to ensure that refugee children born in camps are registered at birth. **In 2012, about 3,800 children born in refugee camps received birth certificates.**

PROTECTING UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

UNHCR supports and monitors the well-being of unaccompanied children in camps. **Nearly 5,500 of them were registered while more than 1,500 were identified in 2012.**



UNHCR staff talks to an unaccompanied girl to determine further help.

STATUS DETERMINATION

Following the Government's approval of fast-track processing for selected unregistered individuals in the camps under specific criteria applied by the Provincial Admissions Boards, **UNHCR participated in meetings to determine the status of some 1,000 unregistered individuals who had close family links with registered refugees who had resettled or were in the process of resettling in third countries.**

LEGAL ASSISTANCE COUNSELLING

Legal assistance centres supported by UNHCR **provided counselling in close to 400 cases**, some 80 of which were referred to the Thai legal system.

SANITARY KITS

UNHCR provided **44,000 sanitary kits to women and girls of reproductive age in the camps.**



A refugee girl is glad to receive sanitary kits from UNHCR.



Refugees learn about lives in other countries before applying for resettlement.

RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

In 2012, about 6,800 refugees living in the camps departed for third countries. The number of registered individuals in the camps was reduced from some 88,000 to about 83,000. Since 2005, 82,000 refugees have been resettled in 13 countries.

ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The continuing reforms in Myanmar generated much discussion among stakeholders, including on the greater prospects for voluntary return to the country in the future. **UNHCR will continue to advocate and reaffirm with various stakeholders the international principles for voluntary return: that returns should be voluntary, conducted in safety and dignity, and undertaken only when conditions are conducive.**

LACK OF FUNDING

The lack of resources to address identified needs has hampered UNHCR's efforts to sufficiently maintain our protection interventions and promote comprehensive solutions. For example, **the project providing adapted care for refugees with disability is limited to three camps but services are required in nine camps.** Vocational training is only provided to a fraction of refugees that are interested in increasing self-reliance.

FACE TO FACE FUNDRAISING

To address the lack of funding, UNHCR has started raising funds in Thailand through the face-to-face fundraising programme run by an outsourced agency. By the end of 2012, we had almost 25,000 supporters who regularly contributed to UNHCR humanitarian programme for refugees in Thailand. 100% of donations from individual donors in Thailand is used to help refugees in Thailand. UNHCR does not spend it on any administrative expense.

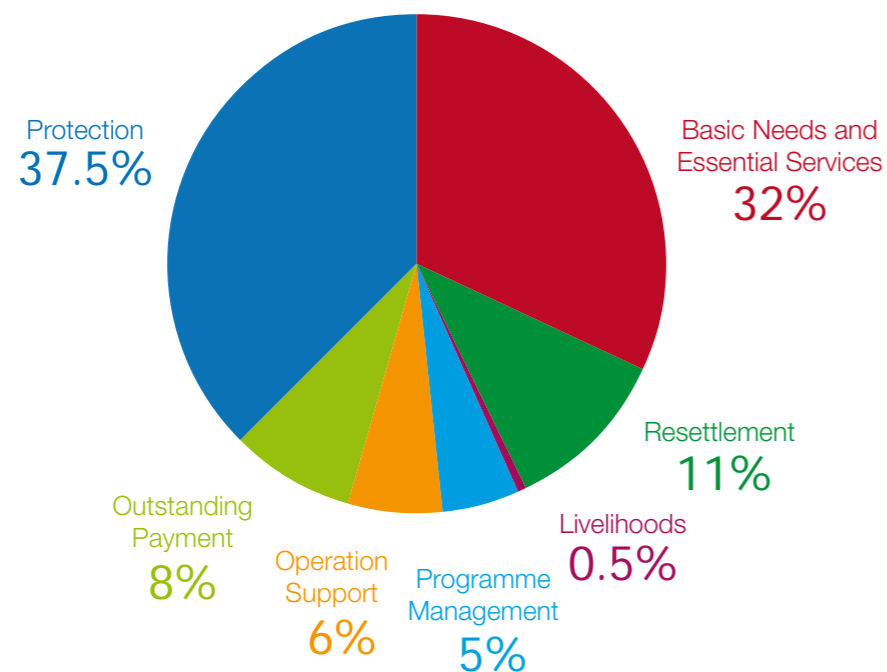
Long-term commitment from donors is essential for UNHCR to continue our support for refugees effectively.



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Source of Income	Thai Baht	%
Income from abroad	311,576,009	73%
Income from individual donors in Thailand*	114,446,668	27%
Total Funds Available	426,022,677	100%

*100% of donations from individual donors in Thailand is used for the benefit of refugees in Thailand



Expenditure	\$US	Thai Baht
Protection	5,127,744	158,960,064
Basic Needs and Essential Services	4,432,398	137,404,338
Resettlement	1,518,491	47,073,221
Livelihoods	52,346	1,622,788
Programme Management	637,409	19,759,679
Operations Support	861,301	26,700,331
Outstanding Payment	1,112,976	34,502,256
Total	13,742,667	426,022,677

*Exchange rate 1 \$US = 31 Baht



OUR GOALS IN 2013

- + Civil registration and civil status documentation are strengthened. All children in the camps who are under 12 months of age are issued official birth certificates by national authorities.
- + Access to legal assistance and legal remedies is improved.
- + The risk of sexual and gender-based violence in camps is reduced and the timing and quality of responses are improved.
- + All refugees identified to be in need of resettlement are referred to resettlement countries.
- + Access to information on conditions in potential return areas in Myanmar and on basic protection standards regarding voluntary repatriation.
- + Identification of stateless people is improved based on clarified criteria.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Government

Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior

NGOs

Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Première Urgence-Aide Médicale Internationale, American Refugee Committee, Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees, Handicap International, International Rescue Committee, Malteser International, ZOA Refugee Care

Others

UNOPS, UNV

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

Government

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

NGOs

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

Others

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

FUNDRAISING NEWS



Toyo-Thai Donates Blankets

Mr. Sayan Taveekij, Project Manager of Toyo-Thai Corporation PCL, donates 400 blankets worth 188,000 Baht to UNHCR for refugees in Thailand.



Fundraisers Visit Ban Don Yang Camp

Fundraisers representing UNHCR take a picture with the refugee camp committee at Ban Don Yang camp in Kanchanaburi. Observing projects supported by UNHCR and interacting with refugees motivate them to fundraise from their hearts.

NEWS AND EVENTS



Message by Lady Antebellum was broadcast for the whole day in Times Square, the heart of New York's Manhattan district.



Message by Lady Antebellum was also broadcast via digital media supported by Plan B Media.

World Refugee Day

This year's World Refugee Day on 20 June saw a host of celebrities from around the world come together to support UNHCR and show solidarity for refugees.



Say Htoo, a refugee from Mae La Oon camp, shares his own story.



Educational boards for children in Mae Ra Ma Luang camp.



Refugee children join the opening ceremony of World Refugee Day in Mae La camp.



Refugees perform a traditional dance in Umpiang camp.

Refugee Camps

Refugees living in nine camps observe World Refugee Day with cultural performances, sports and story sharing. It's a day to celebrate their courage and dignity.



Refugee Film Festival

About 1,500 people attended the Refugee Film Festival in Bangkok, watching four award-winning films about refugees. The audience included UNHCR donors, students, media and the general public. Their post-screening feedback was unanimous, with everyone agreeing that refugees need urgent help from everyone.



Plan B Promotes World Refugee Day

Khun Palin Lojanagosin, CEO, Plan B Media Co.,Ltd. (middle) accepts a certificate of appreciation from UNHCR. As the leading company in outdoor media, Plan B helps UNHCR promote its World Refugee Day public service announcement through their digital billboards both outdoors and in buses.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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