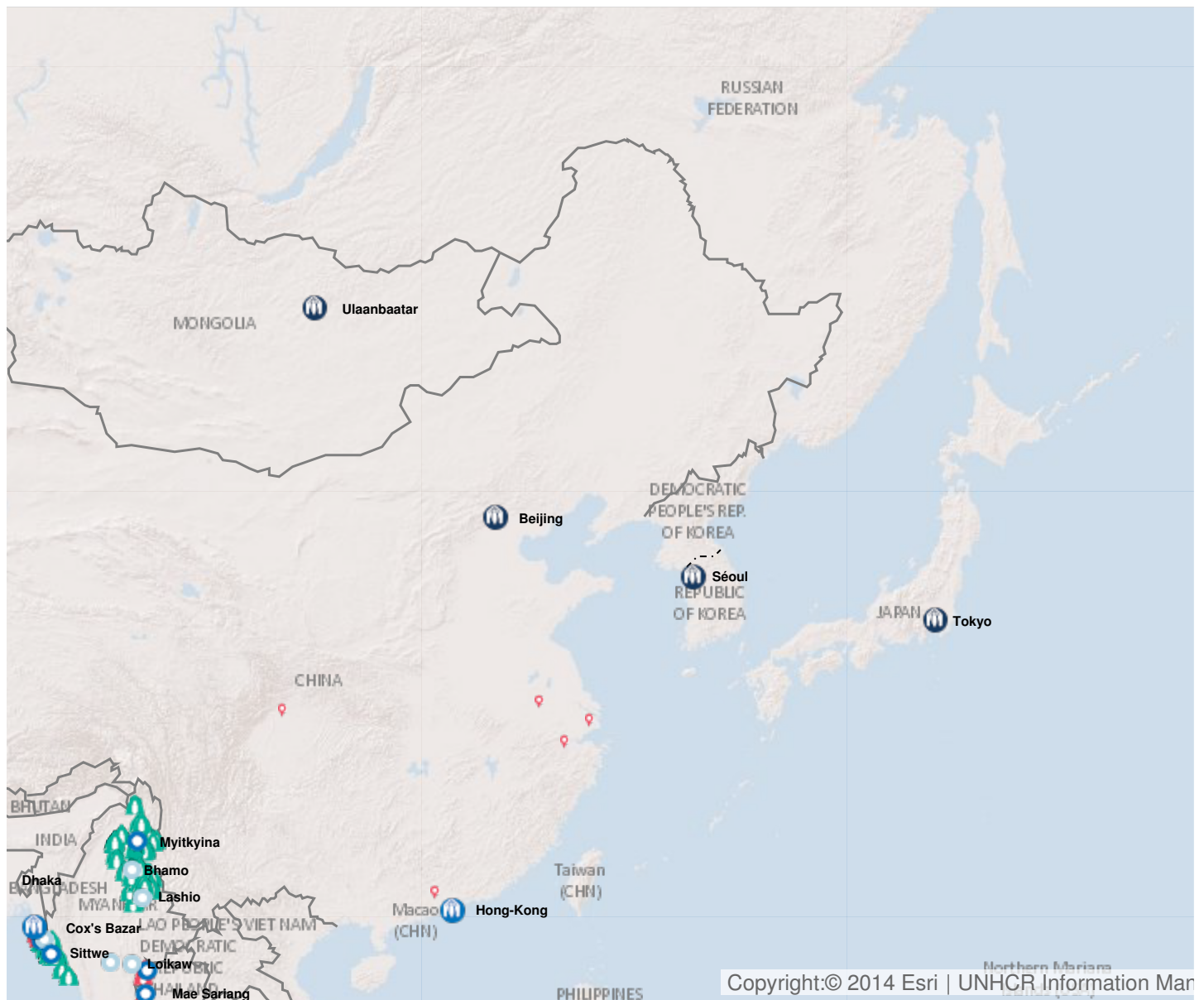


Subregion: East Asia and the Pacific

| Australia | China (including Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions) | Japan | New Zealand
| Pacific Island States | Papua New Guinea | Republic of Korea |



Latest update of camps and office locations 21 Nov 2016.

Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion East Asia and the Pacific

Millions (USD)

● Budget ◆ Expenditure

People of Concern - 2016 [projected]

Response in 2016

In 2016, UNHCR's Regional Office in Australia focused on preserving and strengthening asylum space in **Australia** and **New Zealand**; improving protection from refoulement; expanding durable solutions; and promoting a positive understanding of refugees and asylum-seekers. Monitoring of Australian and New Zealand admissibility and eligibility procedures focused on ensuring access to fair and efficient refugee status determination (RSD), and providing comments to legislative instruments and guidelines. UNHCR monitored policy and practice regarding detention at the processing centres in **Nauru** and **Papua New Guinea**, where UNHCR has serious concerns that the treatment of people fails to meet minimum international standards. In November 2016, the Australian Government announced a bilateral agreement with the United States of America to consider the relocation of refugees who were transferred to regional processing centers in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. UNHCR provided assistance on an exceptional, good offices basis, by endorsing referrals made to the United States of America. UNHCR promoted public awareness through multiple media, including the "Human Lives, Human Rights" campaign highlighting the positive contributions of refugees in Australia.

UNHCR's strategy in the Pacific was designed to: provide practical support to States to introduce protection safeguards and develop a national refugee policy and framework; sustain capacity building; and to provide support in relation to people of concern.

China is a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, but is yet to enact formal legislative or administrative provisions governing asylum. In the absence of a national legal framework, UNHCR conducts RSD and assists the government by seeking durable solutions for refugees. In 2016, UNHCR focused its efforts on advocating for a legislative framework on asylum and statelessness and undertook capacity building activities with relevant government counterparts. In Hong Kong, the government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) to determine the status of asylum claimants in March 2014 and therefore Sub-Office Hong Kong (SOHK) ceased RSD. In 2016, 52 potential new applicants approached SOHK and were referred to the Government's USM procedure.

In **the Republic of Korea**, UNHCR and several refugee advocacy organizations released a detailed study on the conditions and procedures for asylum-seekers at Korean ports of entry. The study expressed concern with the laws and procedures relating to asylum claims at the airport and the physical conditions under which non-referred asylum-seekers are detained. The pilot resettlement programme continued in 2016, with the arrival of 34 Myanmar refugees from Thailand and another group of about the same size from Thailand planned for 2017.

In **Japan**, the number of asylum-seekers continued to rise in 2016, surpassing over 10,000, an increase of 44 per cent as compared to 2015. This has placed significant stress on the existing RSD system.

Japan received 18 Myanmarese refugees from Malaysia as part of the formal resettlement programme. The government announced in May 2016 admission of 150 Syrian students during the next 5 years, of which 100 are administered by JICA. UNHCR provided policy and technical advice to JICA for developing the framework for admission of 100 Syrian refugee students under the scholarship programme.

During 2016, UNHCR enhanced its partnership with the Ministry of Justice through regular dialogue, as well as increased capacity-building activities and some new training programs. However, due to lack of sufficient resources, UNHCR was limited in its ability to support the Government's efforts to process and manage increasing numbers of asylum applications. UNHCR also continued to foster relationships with its main private sector partner, Japan for UNHCR (J4U) in order to ensure broader support for UNHCR throughout the country.

2016 Budget for East Asia and the Pacific | USD

Operation	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	Total
Total	0	0	0	0	0
