



HIGHLIGHTS

4,367

Persons of concern in immigration detention facilities

612

Unaccompanied and separated children

2,325

Individual RSD decisions finalized in 2016

893

Refugees submitted for resettlement consideration in 2016

1,000

Refugees resettled to third countries in 2016

Population of Concern

A total of **13,707** persons of concern as of 30 September 2016

By country of origin

Country	Total Refugees	Total Asylum-seekers
Afghanistan	3,579	3,484
Myanmar	897	62
Somalia	498	811
Sri Lanka	320	256
Iran	247	239
Palestine	388	98
Pakistan	336	111
Iraq	315	580
Others	317	1,169
Total	6,897	6,810

UNHCR Presence in Indonesia

Staff:

32 national staff

8 international staff

27 affiliate workforce staff under deployment arrangements with IUNV, UNOPS, and ICMC

Offices:

The country office is in Jakarta and UNHCR also has a presence of staff in Kupang, Langsa, Lhokseumawe, Makassar, Medan, Pekanbaru, Surabaya, and Tanjung Pinang.



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works closely with government counterparts, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, including the Directorate-General of Immigration, and the Ministry of Home Affairs to provide protection and support to, and to identify comprehensive solutions for persons under UNHCR's mandate.
- UNHCR engages with international, NGO and civil society partners, including UN agencies, 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, and the National Human Rights Commission, to assist the Government of Indonesia to ensure the effective protection of refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- 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. An immigration regulation 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)

- As of 30 September 2016, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Indonesia totals 13,707 individuals, including 6,897 refugees and 6,810 asylum-seekers. 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 2016 some 2,352 asylum-seekers have undergone RSD interviews while decisions have been finalized for 2,325 individuals. At present 3,242 cases of 5,302 individuals are pending first instance RSD interview, and the average waiting period from registration to RSD interview ranges from 18 to 24 months depending on the priority and complexity of the case.

Comprehensive Solutions

- UNHCR pursues a range of options for refugees depending on each individual's situation. These could include family reunification, 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 labor schemes, particularly joint projects with members of host communities, as well as income-generating activities.
- As part of the Office's protection strategy, refugees are submitted to countries offering resettlement, with priority given to those most vulnerable. In 2015 some 610 refugees departed for resettlement while 1,494 others were submitted for consideration by States, including Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, and the United States. Thus far in 2016 UNHCR has submitted 893 refugees, mainly to the United States, Australia, and New Zealand, while 1,000 have departed to third countries.
- The Office facilitates voluntary repatriation for refugees and assisted voluntary return for asylum-seekers who request return, with arrangements made in close cooperation with IOM. Some 343 persons (all but a few being asylum-seekers) returned to their countries of origin in 2015, while 485 persons have returned thus far in 2016.

Detention

- The Government of Indonesia provides alternatives to detention through community accommodation for recognized refugees and vulnerable asylum-seekers. However, due to various factors, some 4,367 persons of concern are currently detained, including women and children. The Government continues to use detention to deter onward movement by intercepting and arresting mixed groups attempting to enter or leave the country illegally, including persons under UNHCR's mandate. They are kept in 13 immigration detention centers and some 20 temporary detention facilities across Indonesia. In addition to those who are detained for illegal entry or exit, over the past two years UNHCR has been challenged by the increasing number of asylum-seekers and refugees who have "self-reported" to immigration authorities to be detained because they cannot financially support themselves. This creates a range of problems, most notably severe overcrowding in detention facilities and growing concerns about the presence of refugees and asylum-seekers in host communities.
- UNHCR has full and unhindered access to all detention facilities and works with partners to monitor them. UNHCR also continues to advocate for the release of those under its mandate, particularly those eligible for release to alternative community

accommodations – women, children and recognized refugees. In 2015, 1,239 persons of concern were released from detention through the intervention of UNHCR and IOM, while thus far in 2016 a total of 577 have been released.

- UNHCR continues to advocate with the authorities for alternatives to detention, including the expansion of shelters for unaccompanied children run by UNHCR through CWS and the community accommodation scheme managed by IOM, which includes shelters for unaccompanied children through an arrangement with the Department of Social Affairs.

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 benefit refugees as well as members of the communities hosting them.
- Male and female refugee leaders representing various nationalities participate in activities implemented by UNHCR, CWS, and the Indonesian Red Cross, 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, UNHCR continues to implement educational programs through 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 with CWS, the Indonesian Red Cross, refugee communities, and training providers.
- In 2015 only 51 school-age refugee children were 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 programs, inadequate sources of funding, language barriers, 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 to ensure access to primary and secondary medical care. Healthcare services are provided to persons under UNHCR's mandate through public health facilities. Community maternity and child care centers provide immunization, particularly compulsory vaccinations for children. UNHCR works with partners to provide information on public health services available to those under UNHCR's mandate 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 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 are estimated not to have birth certificates, making them at risk of statelessness. In 2016 UNHCR is working with the Government to implement the outcomes of this important event, including the organization of mapping exercises to identify potentially stateless populations, particularly in border areas.

Regional Mixed Migration

- As the risk of mixed boat movements within the region continues, the Government has increasingly engaged other affected countries to identify effective solutions to this complex phenomenon, particularly through the Bali Process, the Jakarta Declaration process, and other initiatives. In this context, UNHCR provides technical support to the Government to ensure protection-sensitive approaches – based on solidarity and responsibility-sharing among States – are part of the solution.
- UNHCR continues to work to provide protection and assistance to just over 300 Rohingya refugees who remain out of nearly 1,000 who arrived in Indonesia in May 2015 after smugglers abandoned them on boats in the Andaman Sea, in close coordination with the Government and other partners.

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