

East Asia and the Pacific

Australia
Cambodia
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
East Timor
Fiji
Indonesia
Japan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Mongolia
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
The Philippines
Republic of Korea
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Thailand
Viet Nam

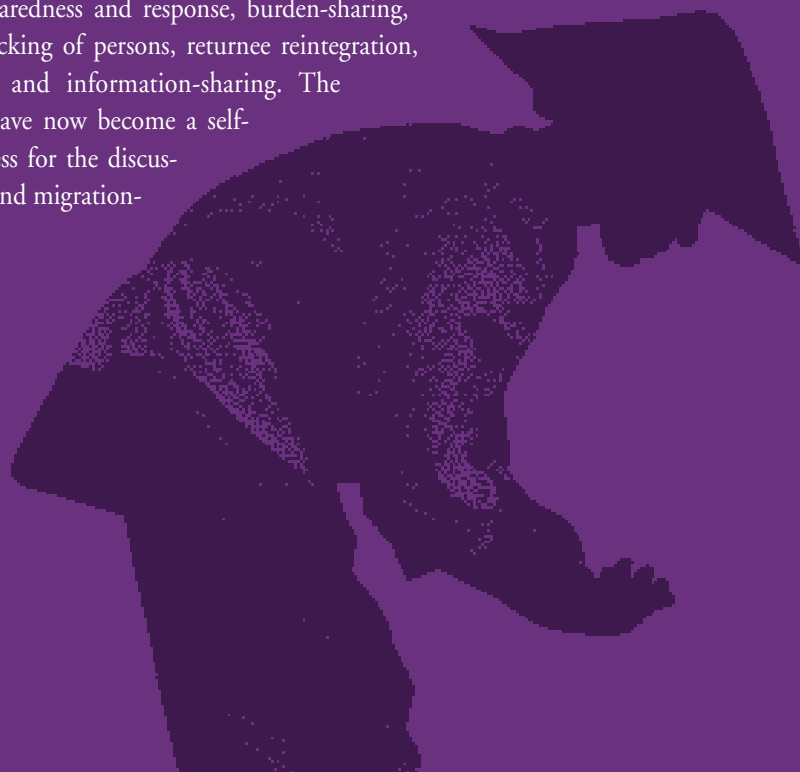
Recent Developments

In Indonesia, the brutal killing of three UNHCR staff members in Atambua, West Timor, on 6 September 2000 was a shock to UNHCR and the international community and a tragic illustration of the difficult security environment in which staff were working to protect and assist East Timorese refugees. After the murders, all UN staff were evacuated from West Timor and activities suspended. On 8 September, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1319, condemning the murders and insisting that the Government of Indonesia take a number of concrete steps to improve the security situation in the refugee camps. UNHCR's return to West Timor and the resumption of operations will be contingent upon the achievement of non-negotiable benchmarks communicated formally to the Government. These include the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the murders, disarmament, disbanding and removal of the militias from the refugee camps; and the restoration of law and order in West Timor. UNHCR maintains a dialogue with the Government, notably on its Comprehensive Plan of Action for East Timorese Refugees, which was developed in July. This dialogue continues on the clear understanding that UNHCR will not resume its activities in West Timor until the above-mentioned benchmarks have been fully met. From 11 to 16 November, the Office participated in a Security Council mission to Indonesia (including visits to camps in West Timor) and East Timor, intended to assess the Government's follow-up to resolution 1319. At the time of writing, UNHCR had not yet taken a decision to resume operations in West Timor. UNHCR has strengthened contingency planning in East Timor for an influx of refugees or returnees from West Timor.

Strategic Objectives

UNHCR's principal objectives for the region in 2001 will be to ensure that the fundamental protection principles of *non-refoulement* and asylum are respected, that the quality of asylum is improved and that states adopt a more consistent approach to refugee issues. In addition, UNHCR will continue to encourage governments to accede to international conventions on refugees and statelessness.

In this context, UNHCR will continue to co-sponsor and actively support the Asia Pacific Consultations for Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC), which are in their fourth year. Since the inaugural APC session in Canberra in November 1996, the discussions have covered such diverse issues as capacity-building, emergency preparedness and response, burden-sharing, smuggling/trafficking of persons, returnee reintegration, data collection and information-sharing. The Consultations have now become a self-sustaining process for the discussion of refugee and migration-related issues.





Operations

Programmes in **Thailand** and **East Timor** are described in separate chapters. The following paragraphs summarise UNHCR's objectives and activities in countries not covered elsewhere in country chapters.

UNHCR's office in **Australia** will continue to cover New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific countries. It will focus on resettlement, external relations and the provision of protection-related advice. A special focus in 2001 will be on public awareness programmes. UNHCR will continue to assist its national committee – Australia for UNHCR – to undertake public information activities as well as private sector fund-raising.

Following the phase-out of its reintegration programme in **Cambodia** at the end of 2000, UNHCR will maintain a minimum structure in Phnom Penh and will assist the Government in developing a framework for the protection of asylum-seekers and refugees in the country, in accordance with its obligations under the 1951 Convention. Furthermore, UNHCR will continue to monitor the well-being of returnees and the sustainability of reintegration projects that were implemented between 1997 and 2000.

In **China**, UNHCR will continue to actively pursue durable solutions for some 295,000 Vietnamese refugees in the form of

naturalisation of the majority and voluntary repatriation of small numbers who may wish to return home. UNHCR will also assist in finalising comprehensive procedures for the management and monitoring of the Revolving Fund Based Credit Scheme, with a view to handing over the Fund to the Government in the near future. Projects financed under the Fund will continue to generate employment opportunities for refugees and their host communities.

In **Indonesia**, the Office will pay particular attention to continued collaboration with the authorities on accession to the international refugee instruments and on the subsequent development of legislation and refugee status determination procedures for individual asylum-seekers. As in 2000, the Office will engage in the screening of intercepted cases arriving mainly from the Middle East. It will also facilitate the return to Papua of refugees currently in Papua New Guinea. At the time of writing, it is unclear whether the conditions in West Timor will permit UNHCR to assist and continue the repatriation of East Timorese refugees in 2001.

In **Japan** and the **Republic of Korea**, UNHCR will continue to promote refugee law, public information and fund-raising activities to further improve the conditions of asylum in the two countries and to encourage the Republic of Korea's support for UNHCR programmes world-wide. The Regional Training Centre for International Humanitarian Response –

the 'E-Centre' ('E' for emergency) – established in Japan in 2000 will develop a network of mechanisms for emergency response in the region. Through the E-Centre, UNHCR will also organise distance-learning training activities on how to cope with emergencies involving population displacements in the Asia-Pacific region for government officials, NGOs and UN staff, to improve emergency response capacity.

In the **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, UNHCR will continue protection and reintegration monitoring activities and maintain a reduced presence in 2001. Linkages with development agencies will be forged to ensure continued coverage of the needs of some 29,000 returnees within the national development framework. This will include assistance for some returnee communities still facing difficulties in achieving self-reliance.

In **Malaysia**, the **Philippines** and **Singapore** (covered by the Regional Office in Jakarta), UNHCR will continue to provide protection and material assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers from various countries, offer advice on refugee status determination procedures and promote refugee rights through training and public awareness initiatives. In addition, UNHCR will closely monitor current and potential population displacement and support emergency preparedness, capacity building and contingency planning throughout the region. In the Philippines, UNHCR will provide the Government with technical advice to help it address the needs of internally displaced persons in Southern Mindanao.

In **Mongolia**, which is covered by the Regional Office in China, UNHCR will support national initiatives to accede to the 1951 Convention.

In **New Zealand**, UNHCR will continue to develop closer and more strategic contacts with the Government, NGOs and the media, in an effort to promote awareness and support for UNHCR's activities. The office in Auckland will be moved to Wellington in 2001 to benefit from closer contacts with all parties concerned.

UNHCR will re-open its office in Port Moresby, **Papua New Guinea**, in 2001. This will strengthen UNHCR's collaboration with the authorities in finding durable solutions for the remaining 6,000 Irian Jayan refugees. It will also enable it to advise the Government on meeting its obligations under the 1951 Convention. In addition, the office will

BUDGET (USD)

Country	Annual Programme
Australia and New Zealand	1,469,404
Cambodia	772,823
China	2,373,466
East Timor	6,671,827
Indonesia ¹	11,859,707
Japan	3,451,073
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	639,667
Malaysia	743,937
Papua New Guinea	50,200
Philippines	353,199
Singapore	60,700
Thailand	5,440,249
Viet Nam	136,182
Regional Projects ²	236,000
Total	34,258,434

¹ Includes USD 10.3 million for West Timor and USD 1.6 million for the rest of Indonesia.

² Includes general protection activities and dissemination of refugee law in East Asia, assistance to refugees in the South Pacific, Asia-Pacific Consultations, repatriation activities of Vietnamese boatpeople and scholarships for refugees students.

monitor developments in countries in the South Pacific, including **Fiji** and the **Solomon Islands**.

The office in **Viet Nam** will continue to carry out protection monitoring and advocate UNHCR's mandate. In the event of the repatriation of Indo-Chinese refugees from third countries which fall outside the scope of Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA), UNHCR will provide limited assistance.

