

Indonesia

February 2022

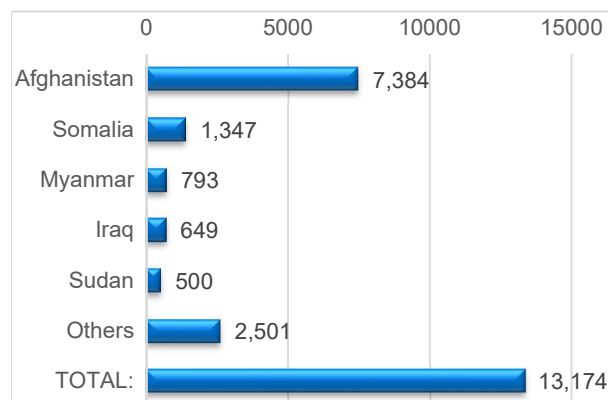
13,174 persons registered with UNHCR including - **73% adult** and **27% children**. Of the total number of adult, 27% are women and 73% are men.

On 30 December, a group of **105 Rohingya refugees** arrived by boat in North Aceh. As of end of February 2022, the number of refugees hosted at the refugee site in Lhokseumawe is 41 individuals.

Of the **3,498 children** registered with UNHCR, **69 children are unaccompanied** by a parent or other adult relative and **28 children are separated** from their parents.

As many as **1,268 vulnerable refugees** received the monthly subsistence allowance in February 2022.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

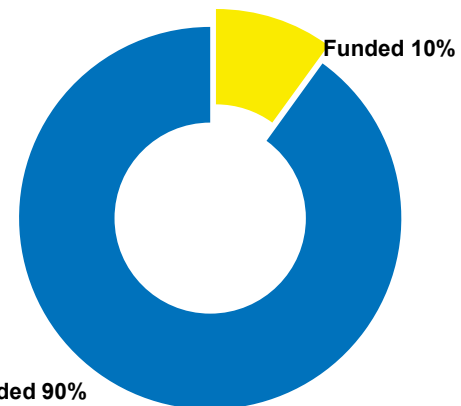


* source: UNHCR statistical report January 2022

2022 FUNDING

USD 12.5M

requested for UNHCR's response in Indonesia



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 29 National Staff
- 10 International Staff
- 33 Affiliated Work Force

Offices:

- 1 Main office [Jakarta]
- 5 Out-posted locations [Aceh, Medan, Pekanbaru, Tanjung Pinang, Makassar]



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Working with Partners

- UNHCR works closely with counterparts of the Republic of Indonesia to provide protection and support, and to identify solutions for persons under UNHCR's mandate, particularly the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs and its department for Refugees and People Smuggling; the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, including the Directorate-General of Immigration; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Social Affairs; the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Manpower.
- UNHCR works in a close collaboration with the UNRC and other UN agencies including UNICEF, ILO, WHO, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNAIDS, and IOM. UNHCR also engages with international and national NGOs as well as civil society partners, including UNHCR-funded partners and Refugee-led organizations. For example, Church World Service (CWS), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), the Indonesian Red Cross, Dompot Dhuafa, Human Initiative and the National Human Rights Commission, to assist the Government to ensure that refugees and stateless persons are protected and provided with assistance, such as in the provision of emergency and lifesaving medical assistance, addressing the special needs of the unaccompanied/separated and other children at risk, distribution of monthly cash allowance to the most vulnerable refugees, education assistance, SGBV prevention and response, among others.
- Recently, UNHCR together with the UNRC, UNICEF, IOM and through the advocacy of the UN Country Team, along with other partners and stakeholders such as CWS, CRS, University of Indonesia Hospital (RSUI), Jakarta Provincial Government Indonesia Chambers of Commerce (KADIN) and Cargill Indonesia managed to vaccinate more than 7,450 refugees, using vaccines from different sources including government, donation from the private sectors as well as unused vaccines that were allocated for UN staff and dependents.
- Different UN joint programs are also being effectively implemented in Indonesia, such as the UN Joint Team on AIDS/HIV (UNJTHA), the GAP (Global Action Plan) on Child Wasting, the UN Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTF) on livelihood and economic inclusion, and the UNICEF – UNHCR Blueprint for Joint Action.
- Several UNHCR's activities are being implemented with the support from the private sector. For example, our PPH/Islamic Philanthropy unit builds partnership with major philanthropy institutions, who are committed to support UNHCR's Cash-Based Intervention program.

Main Activities

Protection

- While Indonesia is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, it has a long tradition of allowing access to and hosting refugees. Indonesia has enacted a comprehensive national refugee law, signed as a presidential regulation in December 2016, which provides access and temporary protection to refugees in the country until longer-term solutions can be found for them. Under the law, the Government has authorized UNHCR to help protect and find solutions for them.
- The 2016 refugee law includes provisions for the Government to rescue refugees on boats in distress near Indonesia and to help them disembark. These provisions were once again implemented on 30 December 2021, when 105 Rohingya refugees were rescued in North Aceh, after being stranded in the open seas for 4 days. UNHCR worked together with the authorities, local Refugee Task Force, UN agencies, NGO partners and the local community to provide assistance to the group. As many as 64 refugees departed spontaneously from the shelter in Lhokseumawe, leaving 41 people as of the end of February 2022.

- In December 2021, during the High-Level Officials Meeting in Geneva, representative from Indonesia reported its focus in rescue at sea for boats in distress and inclusion of refugees in the national COVID-19 vaccination programs. Indonesia also encouraged the international community to take part in this shared responsibility to refugees and not to deny entry or push refugee boats back to sea.
- Indonesia is not a party to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on Reduction of Statelessness. In February 2021, according to the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesian children living without birth certificates reached 6 percent of the population under 18 years of age, or over 5 million children. UNHCR works to advocate for access to universal birth registration for all children of marginalized groups, including refugee children, working closely with the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registry. Presidential Regulation No. 96 Year 2018 and the Ministry of Home Affairs Regulation No. 108 Year 2019 serves as the legal basis for refugee children to attain birth certificates, as confirmed by the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registry of the Ministry of Home Affairs. However the actual number of refugee children who have received them is still very low due to lack of awareness of the local Civil Registry Office.
- In 2021 UNHCR's partner, University of Diponegoro, conducted statelessness mapping in several border areas in Indonesia to identify how many individuals may be at risk of statelessness. The research concluded that there are around 1,462 individuals in North Kalimantan and North Sulawesi, recorded as stateless persons in total. The actual statelessness population figure in Indonesia is believed to be significantly higher than what have been captured in the research. This is due to limited official data available, dynamic of demographic changes, and limited coverage area. The research highlights the importance of accession to the 1954 Convention to establish more effective and comprehensive legal framework in addressing statelessness situation in Indonesia. The research also suggests that there must be an acceleration process for current naturalization or acquisition of citizenship to resolve current statelessness issues.
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- Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical for UNHCR Indonesia to receive sustained funding to be able to deliver protection and complementary solutions to the persons of concerns as the pandemic continues to pose challenges to the already limited resettlement opportunities.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Refugees are not able to exercise their right to work in Indonesia. Recognizing that direct assistance is not sustainable, UNHCR continues to advocate for refugees to be given access to livelihood opportunities and works with partners to create community-empowerment and self-reliance programs that benefit Indonesians and refugees. The programs include vocational trainings and entrepreneurship schemes that promote economic development in Indonesian host communities. In December 2019, at the Global Refugee Forum organised by UNHCR in Geneva the Indonesian Government Delegation pledged support to refugee productivity empowerment activity as part of Indonesia's effort to address the global refugee crisis. UNHCR continue to follow up on the pledges made by the Government in the 2019 Global Refugee Forum through different opportunities including during the June 2021 coordination meeting of the National Refugee Task Force.
- Refugee women and men leaders, representing various nationalities, participate in activities implemented by UNHCR and partners, 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, as well as providing interpretation and translation services. In 2020, due to the pandemic-related restrictions, UNHCR started organising Virtual Town Hall meetings with Refugee Representatives (RRs) and the wider refugee communities in Jakarta and other cities where refugees reside. The office continues this good practice in 2022.

- The 1,268 vulnerable refugees from 464 households continued to receive monthly subsistence allowance in February 2022. The distribution of allowance is made through Post Offices in areas where refugees living independently, including in out-post locations.

Education

- Indonesia is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and provides refugee children access to national schools through the Ministry of Education Circular Letter No. 75253/A.A4/HK/2019 issued on 10 July 2019. UNHCR encourages refugee children to enrol into the national school system. To prepare refugee children for enrolment in national schools, UNHCR is working with partners in Jakarta and the Greater area as well as out-posted locations to teach refugee children Bahasa Indonesia, as well as basic math and literacy, and local customs and culture.
- UNHCR appreciates the Ministry of Education for a circular note to include refugee children in formal education. The circular note, however, does not cover all areas in which refugees live like Bogor, Depok, Bekasi, Bali and Aceh. UNHCR continues to advocate for the expansion of the circular note to overcome some obstacles including the access to formal certification upon completion of studies.
- With our partners, UNHCR works for all refugee children to have access to national schools. In February 2022, some 862 refugee children are enrolled in accredited national schools. UNHCR is conducting verification exercise and will obtain a more accurate number on the enrolment number. Challenges to increase refugee children's enrolment rates include limited knowledge of Bahasa Indonesia, inadequate sources of funding, and reports of limited places in public schools where refugees reside. Around 1,342 school aged children are not yet attending formal schools, but among them some 1,000 children are receiving education through refugee learning centres organised by UNHCR, IOM or centres led by the refugee communities.
- Other educational opportunities include enrolment in online, accredited university courses. UNHCR encourages refugees to complete accredited courses through Coursera for Refugees, a free online learning platform, in addition to non-formal educational, vocational and recreational activities made available for children and youth in children's homes. In Jakarta and the greater area, as well as in the other out-posted locations, refugee communities have several community-based learning centres for refugee children. Through these centres, UNHCR continue to encourage refugee parents to prepare their children with the necessary skills until they are ready to enrol in national schools. As of end of February 2022, some 4,612 refugees are enrolled in online education and training platforms such as Coursera and EdX and in educational programs organised by the refugee communities.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, refugee children who previously attended public schools continue their studies with arrangements made by their respective school. Working with partners, online distant-learning are made available for refugee children at UNHCR supported learning centres and some community-based learning centres. Some of the challenges faced by refugee students include the limited ownership of device and internet data that are required for online distant-learning. Language barriers also limit accessing the distant learning programs provided by the government via television.

Health

- Refugees have access to primary medical care through public health facilities, as well as community maternity and childcare, which provides immunizations. UNHCR works with partners in covering life threatening/saving medical situation to the extent of available and mobilised resources.

COVID-19

- The 10 June 2020 Circular Note issued by the Government of Indonesia has ensured access for registered refugees (UNHCR ID card holders) to COVID-19 related services, of which UNHCR appreciates. However, on 21 May 2021, the Ministry of Health issued a Decree No. HK.01.07/MENKES/4718/2021 stating UNHCR ID card is no longer serve as a basis for COVID-19 related services cost coverage, as of 20 April 2021. This regulation in practice has also excluded refugees from government-covered COVID-19 treatment, and UNHCR and its partner have been receiving various request for payment from the hospitals. UNHCR continues to advocate for UNHCR ID cards re-inclusion in the future regulations of Ministry of Health.
- The Ministry of Health issued more detailed instructions on COVID-19 vaccination for refugees through a decree which allows refugees with UNHCR issued identity documents to access the private sector vaccination scheme and also the national COVID-19 vaccination scheme provided that at least 70 per cent of the population in the area where refugees reside have received a first vaccination dose. The updated instructions were officially announced on 27 September 2021. As of February 2022, more than 7,450 refugees (62% of the total population of refugees eligible for vaccination) have received, at least, first dose of vaccination in coordination with the Government and the private sector.
- UNHCR collaborates with partners to provide COVID-19 related information, such as public health services and health-protocols awareness for refugees through refugee representatives and during regular town-hall meeting with refugee communities. The office also provides COVID-19 Hotline for refugees seeking consultation, then they will be advised to contact CWS Health Hotline for further COVID-19 related inquiries.

Durable Solutions

- While the opportunities provided by countries offering resettlement out of Indonesia are reducing, the most vulnerable refugees are identified for submission for the limited number of resettlement places available. In 2020, only 403 refugees departed for resettlement. This represents 3% of the total refugee population in the country. Meanwhile in 2021, as of the end of December, 457 refugees have departed to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and United States for resettlement. The outlook for resettlement places is such that it cannot be considered the only viable durable solution for the refugees in Indonesia. Unfortunately, refugees are put in a position that they will not be able to live a meaningful life until they are resettled, although only a small number will be able to benefit from resettlement. In February 2022, as many as 69 refugees departed to resettlement countries. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to find other durable solutions than resettlement and to consider Indonesia as a country of de facto longer stay for refugees.
- With joint efforts from UNHCR and Roshan Learning Centre, two Afghan refugees successfully departed to Lithuania on a complementary pathway through education. The first refugee departed in March 2021 and the second in December 2021. Since mid-2021, UNHCR has collaborated with Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) on a pilot project Labour Mobility Scheme. The pilot project aims to match refugee job candidates in Indonesia with employers in Australia to offer a potential solution and pathway to residency. In December 2021, one Afghan refugee had an interview for possible recruitment for a job of butcher in Australia.
- UNHCR facilitates voluntary repatriation for refugees who request return, with arrangements made in close cooperation with IOM through its assisted voluntary return program. In 2020, only 1% of the total persons of concern (139 people) have returned voluntarily to their countries of origin. Meanwhile as of end of December 2021, 101 refugees have opted for voluntary repatriation (0.7% of the total persons of concern). As at the end of February 2022, the total number of refugees repatriated voluntarily is 7 individuals.
- UNHCR provides information and guidance to refugees who may have family members abroad and would like to pursue private sponsorship options. In 2020, 27 people (0.2% of total persons of concern) departed abroad on private sponsorships, and as per December 2021, the number recorded by UNHCR is 59 people (0.4% of total persons

of concern). While as of February 2022, 45 individuals have been departed on private sponsorships. Although the number is still low, the increase presents an important achievement, which UNHCR will build on to expand and diversify the range of solutions that refugees can benefit from.

Private Sector Partnership (PSP)

- By February 2022, PSP Indonesia successfully recorded new income of **IDR Rp437,678,238 (USD30,453)**. During the reporting month, PSP recruited 683 new donors, bringing the number of new donors in 2022 to 1,680 people, generated from Digital Fundraising program, Face to Face (F2F) program and donor development program. Additionally, the PPH/Islamic Philanthropy together with 3 Islamic Philanthropy organizations developed Digital Campaign Collaboration in preparation for the Ramadan Campaign 2022.

External/ Donor Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the support of the following donors for their funding either directly to the operation or via softly earmarked or unearmarked funds: Australia | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Private Donors | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

In addition, UNHCR thanks the following organizations, private sector partners and other UN Agencies for their support and donation in recent years: Bank Mayapada | Bina Nusantara School | Dato' Tahir | Global Jaya School | Indonesia for Refugees | Metro TV | PT. Eagle Indopharma | PT. Tan Kiang | SPH Lippo Cikarang School | SCTV | Tahir Foundation | Tunas Muda School | Unilever (UK) | Uniqlo | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Wanda House of Jewels | IOM | UNICEF | ILO | UNFPA | UNAIDS | Bank Sharia Indonesia | Rumah Zakat Indonesia | BP ZIS Indosat | DT Peduli

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