



THAILAND



UNHCR's presence in 2012

Number of offices	5
Total staff	120
International staff	13
National staff	56
JPO staff	4
UNVs	8
Others	39

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of Education,
Ministry of the 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 agencies:

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

| Overview |

Operational highlights

- In line with amendments to Thailand's Civil Registration Act of 2008, just under 3,800 children born in refugee camps, as well as 60 refugee and asylum-seeker children born in urban areas, received birth certificates in 2012.
- More than 6,800 refugees from Myanmar living in camps in Thailand departed for eight resettlement countries. In addition, a total of 429 refugees from the urban population departed for nine resettlement countries.
- The Thai Government approved the fast-track processing of unregistered individuals in camps, under specific criteria applied by Provincial Admissions Boards, the national screening mechanism for admission to the camps. A list of some 1,000 unregistered individuals who had immediate family links with registered people either already resettled or wishing to resettle in third countries was submitted to the Provincial Admissions Boards for determination of status.

People of concern

The main populations of concern for UNHCR in 2012 were: Myanmar refugees, sheltered in nine government-administered camps along the Thai-Myanmar border; asylum-seekers and refugees, mainly in Bangkok, who entered Thailand by air or by land through border-crossings and originate from some 40 different countries, (excluding Myanmar); and stateless people who have lived in the country for many generations and who have lost all ties with their country of origin.

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Myanmar	83,300	83,300	50	45
	Various	1,200	1,200	40	30
Asylum-seekers	Myanmar	13,500	13,500	46	31
	Pakistan	420	420	42	36
	Viet Nam	250	250	44	40
	Various	450	450	36	23
Stateless	Stateless people	506,200	0	-	-
Total		605,320	99,120	-	-

| Report on 2012 results |

Achievements and impact

Favourable protection environment

- UNHCR continued to advocate for the prevention and reduction of statelessness and the protection of people without citizenship. The Government of Thailand further progressed in its implementation of the national strategy that could lead to legal status for at least half a million people deemed to be without nationality and who have lost their connections with their countries of origin.
- UNHCR supported camp-based legal assistance centres which provided counselling in close to 400 cases, some 80 of which were referred to the Thai legal system.

Fair protection processes

- Following the Thai Government's approval of fast-track processing of unregistered individuals in camps, under specific criteria applied by the Provincial Admissions Boards, UNHCR helped the Thai authorities to establish appropriate procedures. Towards the end of the year, UNHCR participated in Provincial Admissions Boards' meetings to determine the status of some 1,000 unregistered individuals who had close family links with registered people resettled/wishing to resettle in third countries. UNHCR also worked with the Government to ensure that children born in refugee camps were registered at birth
- UNHCR conducted refugee status determination (RSD) under its mandate for asylum-seekers who are not from Myanmar. In 2012, some 1,300 new asylum-seekers were registered and 500 individuals were recognized as refugees.

Security from violence and exploitation

- In the border camps, UNHCR followed up on child-protection cases, including those of unaccompanied and separated children. Nearly 5,500 unaccompanied and/or separated children were registered in the nine camps, of whom more than 1,500 were identified in 2012. Government involvement in the Best Interest Determination (BID) process for this group increased, leading to improved access to government services for refugee children. In 2012, the BID panel considered reports involving nearly 700 children in camps. Of these, more than 300 were unaccompanied or separated children. The BID panel also considered cases involving 22 unaccompanied and separated children in urban areas during the year.
- The application of immigration laws to refugees and asylum-seekers in Thailand resulted in the arrests of some 130 of them in 2012, despite UNHCR's interventions. Some 22 people of concern were released on bail with the assistance of NGOs and private individuals. At the end of 2012, some 42 asylum-seekers and refugees, including four minors, were in detention. The indefinite nature of detention and the detention of children remained of significant concern to UNHCR, which continued to advocate with national authorities to consider alternatives, especially for the most compelling and/or vulnerable cases. UNHCR also followed up on the proposal submitted by the inter-agency Task Force on Detention, which it leads, to the Government for alternatives to detention for refugees and asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR provided 44,000 sanitary kits to women and girls of reproductive age in camps.

Basic needs and services

- Refugees from Myanmar are confined to nine closed camps with no right to employment, and are thus dependent on external assistance. Operational partners provided the bulk of basic services and material assistance, but the level of assistance decreased due to funding and other constraints.
- As urban refugees lack legal status and are unable to seek lawful employment or avail of basic services, UNHCR provided subsistence allowances to 1,354 of them who were especially vulnerable.
- UNHCR also provided primary health care for urban refugees and asylum-seekers through a health clinic. The clinic received more than 5,500 visits, approximately 51 per cent of which were then referred to Thai health facilities.

Durable solutions

- In 2012, UNHCR submitted the application of some 6,500 refugees from Myanmar to eight resettlement countries. A total of 6,845 Myanmar refugees departed for third countries. Since 2005, 82,000 Myanmar refugees have been resettled in 13 countries.
- The number of officially registered individuals in the camps was reduced from some 88,000 at the beginning of 2012 to approximately 83,000 by the end of the year. UNHCR referred 754 refugees originating from places other than Myanmar for resettlement in 2012, the highest number in the past five years.
- To facilitate and engage in further dialogue on voluntary return, UNHCR issued a discussion paper on Voluntary Repatriation, which has been shared with Governments and the humanitarian community.

Assessment of results

The continuing reforms in Myanmar generated much discussion among stakeholders, including on the greater prospects for voluntary returns to the country. UNHCR will continue to promote 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.

In Thailand, UNHCR was able to meet some of its main objectives with regard to protection and durable solutions. Major achievements were obtaining the Government's approval for fast-track Provincial Admissions Board decisions and the profiling of the camp population to be initiated in 2013. Resettlement continued to provide a positive solution for many refugees in Thailand, and an increased number of children were issued with birth certificates.

Working with others

UNHCR worked with 12 implementing partners, including governmental agencies and international and national NGOs. It collaborated with a number of operational partners within the framework of the common cooperative arrangement for assistance to refugees from Myanmar in the border camps, namely the Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand. The Office also collaborated with one implementing partner and operational partners in providing assistance to urban asylum-seekers and refugees.

UNHCR led or participated in various coordination platforms and organized training sessions and workshops to promote protection principles. It engaged directly with refugees, counselling them on protection issues, undertaking interventions where necessary and making referrals as required. UNHCR continued its efforts to widen the protection space by strengthening relations with government counterparts, especially through regular bilateral contacts and an annual retreat which brought together high-ranking officials from relevant ministries.

Constraints

Asylum and protection space remained tenuous for all groups of concern in Thailand. The Government regarded the issue of refugees mainly in the context of national security and its bilateral relations with neighbouring countries. The intermittent functioning of the national screening mechanism for admission to the camps created a situation where a large number of people from Myanmar, estimated at 60,000 at the end of 2012, lived in the camps but remained unregistered. Although granted food support and basic services, they were constrained by a lack of legal status. Refugees and asylum-seekers living outside the camps were regarded as illegal migrants under immigration law and subject to arrest, detention and/or deportation. Refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas, including the airport, and those held in immigration detention were especially vulnerable.

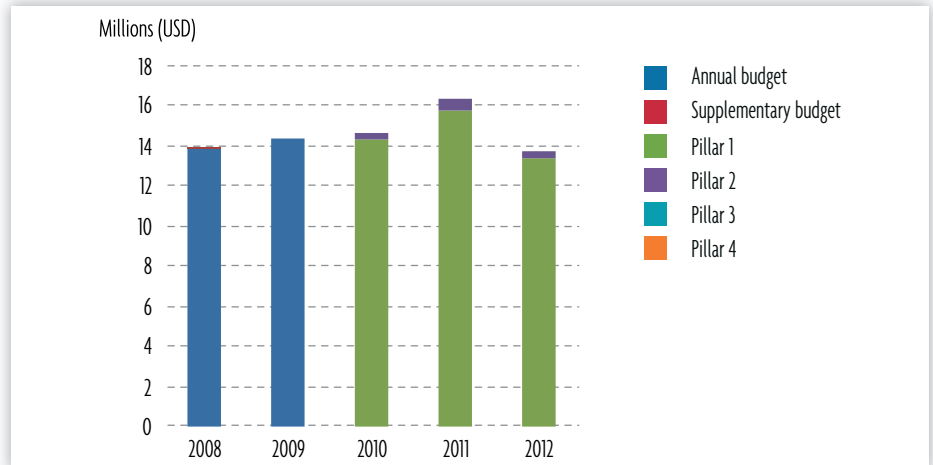
Unmet needs

- The lack of resources to address emerging needs has hampered UNHCR's efforts to maintain a sufficiently large presence in border camps, undertake protection interventions, promote comprehensive solutions and prepare for potential voluntary repatriation
- The subsistence allowance for refugees in urban areas could not be increased despite Thailand raising the minimum rate by an average 40 per cent to keep up with rising costs. The allowance did not cover refugees' living costs, forcing them to reside in substandard and overcrowded accommodation, with corresponding hygiene issues and health problems.
- UNHCR's ability to run preventive medical campaigns for refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas, especially with regard to immunization and nutrition programmes, was curtailed.
- An estimated 167 children were limited to one day a week of schooling, delaying their opportunity to learn Thai and integrate into the local school system.
- A total of 138 asylum-seeker children were out of school in 2012.

Financial information

Expenditures for Thailand | 2008 to 2012

The financial requirements for UNHCR's operation in Thailand amounted to USD 22.3 million in 2012, and the level of funding, including private-sector support, allowed the operation to expend USD 13.7 million. The overall financial requirements in 2012 decreased from USD 25.6 million in 2011, with the removal of the Thailand Regional Office's budget from the country operation budget.



Budget, income and expenditure in Thailand | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
FINAL BUDGET	21,640,907	706,230	22,347,137
Income from contributions ¹	7,357,698	0	7,357,698
Other funds available / adjustments / transfers	6,032,880	352,089	6,384,969
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	13,390,578	352,089	13,742,667

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Favourable Protection Environment

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
International and regional instruments	0	0	0
Law and policy	0	145,772	145,772
Administrative institutions and practice	0	0	0
Access to legal assistance and remedies	816,528	0	816,528
Access to territory and refoulement risk reduced	714,170	0	714,170
Public attitude towards persons of concern	0	0	0
Subtotal	1,530,698	145,772	1,676,469

Fair Protection Processes and Documentation

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
Reception conditions	0	0	0
Identification of statelessness	0	38,952	38,952
Registration and profiling	484,032	0	484,032
Status determination procedures	841,612	0	841,612
Individual documentation	0	0	0
Civil registration and status documentation	184,512	0	184,512
Family reunification	0	0	0
Subtotal	1,510,157	38,952	1,549,108

Security from Violence and Exploitation

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
Protection from crime	0	0	0
Protection from effects of armed conflict	0	0	0
Prevention and response to SGBV	886,299	0	886,299
Freedom of movement and detention risk reduced	99,464	0	99,464
Protection of children	916,403	0	916,403
Subtotal	1,902,167	0	1,902,167

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
<i>Basic Needs and Essential Services</i>			
Health	797,033	0	797,033
Reproductive health and HIV services	668,222	0	668,222
Nutrition	0	0	0
Food security	0	0	0
Water	0	0	0
Sanitation and hygiene	664,579	0	664,579
Shelter and infrastructure	109,739	0	109,739
Access to energy	0	0	0
Basic and domestic items	899,741	0	899,741
Services for people with specific needs	265,782	0	265,782
Education	1,027,303	0	1,027,303
Subtotal	4,432,398	0	4,432,398
<i>Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance</i>			
Community mobilization	0	0	0
Coexistence with local communities	0	0	0
Natural resources and shared environment	0	0	0
Self-reliance and livelihoods	52,346	0	52,346
Subtotal	52,346	0	52,346
<i>Durable Solutions</i>			
Comprehensive solutions strategy	160,466	0	160,466
Voluntary return	343,170	0	343,170
Reintegration	0	0	0
Integration	0	0	0
Resettlement	1,014,855	0	1,014,855
Reduction of statelessness	0	0	0
Subtotal	1,518,491	0	1,518,491
<i>Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships</i>			
Coordination and partnerships	559,505	77,903	637,409
Camp management and coordination	0	0	0
Emergency management	0	0	0
Donor relations and resource mobilization	0	0	0
Subtotal	559,505	77,903	637,409
<i>Logistics and Operations Support</i>			
Logistics and supply	0	0	0
Operations management, coordination and support	781,717	79,584	861,301
Subtotal	781,717	79,584	861,301
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	1,103,099	9,878	1,112,976
Total	13,390,578	352,089	13,742,667

Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities - mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.