

# INDONESIA

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*There was no separate country chapter for Indonesia in the 2002 Global Appeal but since that publication, Indonesia's programme budget was increased to more than USD five million, so it now appears in the Mid-year Progress Report.*

## INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Promote and facilitate permanent solutions for East Timorese refugees, through support to the Indonesian Government.
- Implement timely and effective refugee status determination procedures, and provide adequate care and maintenance for those in need and find durable solutions for recognised refugees.
- Improve the emergency management and contingency preparedness of authorities at all levels.
- Contribute to the reform of the Indonesian police force and subsequently reduce instances of mistreatment of refugees and IDPs through implementation of the Refugee and Human Rights Law Training project.

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, PROGRESS ACHIEVED, AND CONSTRAINTS

### East Timorese Refugees

In the first six months of 2002, nearly 20,000 East Timorese repatriated from Indonesia to their homeland. Thus almost 213,000 refugees have returned since the inception of the repatriation in October 1999. Although West Timor remains in a security phase V, since the murders of three UNHCR staff in September 2000, UNHCR has been facilitating repatriation movements through support to reconciliation meetings and "go and see" visits. Repatriation efforts have been supported by the Government of Indonesia, which has reiterated that voluntary repatriation is the preferred durable solution for the remaining refugees. The Indonesian military and IOM have provided transport and logistics assistance.

UNHCR estimates that some 50,000 East Timorese have yet to return.

Interviews with refugees in West Timor in the first part of 2002, revealed the following constraints to their repatriation:

- The Special Fund which would compensate former Indonesian civil servants was not yet operational;
- Continued misinformation and intimidation by pro-integration groups;
- Inadequate post-arrival assistance, in addition to lack of opportunities to access employment and educational opportunities in East Timor;
- Persons associated with militia groups were waiting for an "amnesty" to be promulgated by the East Timor Government.

The High Commissioner announced in Dili on 20 May 2002, that UNHCR would declare cessation of refugee status at the end of 2002. This means that by the end of the year, any refugees remaining in West Timor would no longer benefit from refugee status and UNHCR would be responsible for assisting the return and reintegration of individuals who at that point but not thereafter, had chosen to return to East Timor.

### Urban Refugees

The decision made by the Government of Indonesia to focus on voluntary repatriation has restricted progress on local settlement related activities for those refugees who have not chosen to return to East Timor. Following lengthy negotiations with the Indonesian authorities, it was agreed that:

- repatriation would remain the priority to the end of August 2002, however detailed planning on local settlement could start in July;

- although the first location to be assessed will be Sumba Island, second priority locations in other parts outside West Timor would also be assessed.

### **Individual asylum-seekers and refugees**

In the first six months of 2002, only 58 persons (52 cases) approached the Regional Office in Jakarta in search of protection. This represents a significant decline from previous years and is largely attributed to the implementation by the Australian Government of the “Pacific Solution” (see chapter on East Asia and the Pacific).

Although the Office is processing some 820 persons (550 cases), this represents asylum-seekers who arrived in Indonesia in 2001 or earlier but who had been transferred to areas which were accessible by UNHCR only in 2002.

During the first half of the year, traditional resettlement countries reactivated their programmes after a suspension following the events of 11 September 2001. Several missions to Indonesia were undertaken resulting in the resettlement of 240 persons (115 cases).

The suicide of an Afghan asylum-seeker early in April and threats from several others to follow his example brought to the surface the anxiety and frustration experienced by this population.

### **Prevention, early warning and technical assistance**

The Refugee and Human Rights Law Training Project has involved some 7,000 police officers who participated during the reporting period. Activities included two Training of Trainer workshops. A total of 118 senior police officials have been qualified as trainers. While the exact extent of any improvement in the human rights record of the security apparatus in Indonesia will be difficult to gauge, what has been demonstrated to all who have participated is

the commitment of the police to the project and its overall objectives.

### **Emergency Management Training and contingency planning**

A Regional Seminar on Partnership for Emergency Preparedness in February 2002 marked this reporting period. UNHCR offices, national government counterparts, UN agencies and international NGOs participated in the seminar. This resulted in a Regional Action Plan being formulated and a Technical Working Group was formed to oversee the implementation of the action plan. Aside from promoting collaboration, the forum also promotes co-operation in emergency preparedness particularly in relation to potential flash points in the Sub-region.

With the support of the e-Centre in Tokyo (Regional Centre for Emergency Training in International Humanitarian Responses), seven sub-national level contingency planning workshops were organised together with trained facilitators in three countries. Two of these were conducted in Southern Mindanao in view of the ongoing hostilities and military exercises in that area. Another was held in Sabah, Malaysia, in view of a potential refugee influx from Mindanao. The workshop conducted in Indonesia dealt with potential population displacement due to ethnic conflict. The rest of the workshops addressed the issue of preparedness in case of potential natural disasters.

In order to further institutionalise the knowledge and experience accumulated from programme activities in this sub-region, UNHCR sponsored the establishment of a Centre for Refugee Studies of the Bandung School of Social Work in Indonesia. In East Timor, UNHCR participated with UNDP East Timor and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in a needs assessment for capacity-building in emergency management early this year.

**Progress as measured against indicators**

<b>Impact/Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Actual Progress</b>
Number of refugees identified and solutions achieved (including local settlement, voluntary repatriation and for separated children, family reunification).	19,999 refugees voluntarily repatriated (in excess of the total number who repatriated in 2001). No refugee families were locally settled with UNHCR support during the period under review. 683 separated children were reunited with their families.
Number of individual cases processed.	58 persons (52 cases) approached the office and requested asylum. Coincidentally, 52 positive decisions (refugee status granted) and 174 rejections affecting 285 persons (either on first instance or on appeal) have been made. 240 persons (115 cases) resettled.
Number of police officers trained.	42 trainers trained. Some 7,000 police officers including 120 riot police officers trained. More than 500 police officials received an introduction to community policing.
Enhanced emergency preparedness.	35 national officials trained in emergency preparedness, as well as trained to train as national trainers. Contingency planning workshops held in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Establishment of a training centre/ Centre for Refugees Studies in Indonesia.

## **REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY - DECEMBER 2002**

### **East Timorese refugees**

During the second semester UNHCR will continue to support repatriation efforts. It is expected that in the last quarter a higher priority will be placed on local settlement efforts outside of West Timor

In view of the High Commissioner's announcement of the cessation of refugee status for East Timorese refugees, effective on 31 December 2002, no East Timorese in Indonesia (or elsewhere) will be considered a refugee after that date. This requires the refugees to chose before the end of the year to either repatriate to East Timor or settle in Indonesia. Government of Indonesia repatriation incentives will continue to be paid until the end of August, and logistical and transport assistance until the end of December 2002.

### **Individual asylum-seekers and refugees**

It is anticipated that the current backlog of status determinations will be cleared in the second half of 2002. It is also expected that many Afghans will chose to repatriate to Afghanistan, especially rejected cases.

### **Capacity-building**

The Indonesian Government has requested UNHCR to extend the Refugee and Human Rights Training project. The project which was scheduled to be completed in the second half of the year may be continued until mid-2003 subject to the availability of funds, the identification of a successor organisation which could assume responsibility for the project, and the development of an administrative structure which could efficiently and effectively implement the project. Progress has been reached on the first two conditions. The Dutch Government, through its Embassy in Jakarta, has confirmed its willingness to continue to provide the project with financial support. The Partnership for Governance Reform, a multilateral body with Indonesian, UN and donor-country participation, has shown its agreement, in principle to take over the project at the end of June 2003 with the hand over process starting in September 2002. Regarding the administrative structure, negotiations have already started with the Police, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to find an agreement on the new implementation structure required to increase the efficiency and effectiveness with which the programme is being implemented.

Due to a shortage of funds, a number of the activities under the Emergency Management Training and Contingency Planning project may have to be cancelled. The project which

is due to continue up to mid-2003 will seek to institutionalise the management training and contingency planning procedures.

### Financial Data (USD)

Annual Programme Budget				Supplementary Programme Budget			
Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available	Obligation Level	Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available	Obligation Level
3,638,213	5,701,353	4,398,835	3,050,324	0	5,000,555	3,489,866	1,250,000