

THAILAND

| Operational highlights |

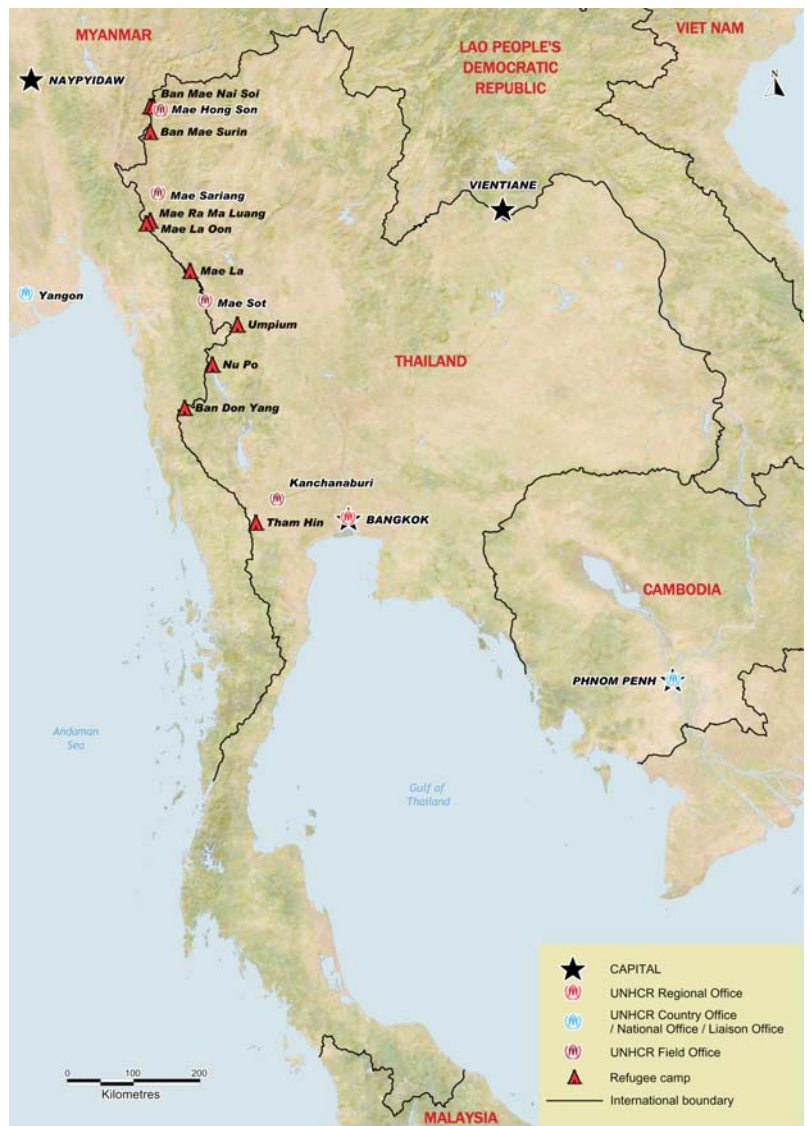
- In 2010, progress was made in ensuring that children born in refugee camps were registered at birth, in line with amendments to Thailand's Civil Registration Act. Some 800 newborn children were registered and 680 birth certificates issued during the year.
- Restructuring of the border operation improved UNHCR's border-monitoring presence and strengthened its role in protection coordination.
- More than 11,000 Myanmar refugees from the camps were submitted for resettlement. A notable development was the resettlement of 40 refugees in two new resettlement countries: the Czech Republic and Japan.
- UNHCR expanded social, legal and resettlement counselling programmes and began to offer psychological support to urban refugees and asylum-seekers. In 2010, some 2,200 people of concern living in urban areas benefited from these programmes.

| Working environment |

The year was marked by political unrest. Massive public protests against the Government in the first half of the year ended in violent confrontations and the declaration of a state of emergency, which remained in place for the rest of the year. With domestic issues dominating the political agenda, UNHCR faced challenges in advocating effectively for changes in national policy favourable to refugees.

An increase in tensions in Myanmar's south-eastern border area, following the country's general election in November, led to an escalation in the conflict between the army and ethnic rebel groups, forcing thousands to flee across the border into Thailand. The displacement was short-lived, and the majority of those who fled to Thailand

returned as soon as the fighting subsided. However, sporadic outbreaks of fighting led to the repeated flight and return of some groups and drove a steady flow of new arrivals into Thailand.



Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Myanmar	95,700	95,700	50	46
	Various	1,000	1,000	37	32
Asylum-seekers	Myanmar	9,000	250	40	24
	Pakistan	400	400	40	38
	Sri Lanka	360	360	38	28
	Viet Nam	150	150	40	33
	Various	380	380	36	21
Stateless ¹	Stateless	542,500	-	-	-
Total		649,490	98,240		

¹ The numbers are based on ongoing discussions between the Thai authorities and UNHCR and will be further verified in the course of the year.



A refugee woman from Myanmar sells fruits in Umpium camp.

UNHCR / T. FALLISE

Migration flows into Thailand continued to be of a mixed nature. An increase in new arrivals led to a doubling of the urban refugee and asylum-seeker population in 2010. As Thailand is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, UNHCR conducted refugee status determination (RSD), provided legal protection advice, met essential needs and ensured that urban asylum-seekers and refugees could enjoy basic services. Towards the end of the year there was a tightening of the protection space, with strict implementation of laws to prevent the smuggling of people. This resulted in a sharp increase in the number of arrests of people of concern to UNHCR in urban areas, including children.

| Achievements and impact |

• Main objectives and targets

In 2010, UNHCR aimed to ensure access to asylum, protection and physical security for all persons of concern. Other key objectives were to strengthen national bodies and procedures in support of a national protection regime and to streamline UNHCR's RSD procedures for non-Myanmar asylum-seekers. UNHCR also sought to improve the social and economic well-being of refugees and find durable solutions for them.

Favourable protection environment

- By increasing its presence on the Thai-Myanmar border, UNHCR was able to improve its access to refugee-camp residents, increase contact with newly arriving asylum-seekers from Myanmar and strengthen relationships with regional authorities. UNHCR continued to take the lead in protection; it established the

Protection Coordination Body in Mae Sot and directed protection working groups at the provincial level. UNHCR's prompt response to the influx of asylum-seekers towards the end of the year, made possible through coordination with the Government, NGOs and community-based organizations, helped reinforce its protection role at the border.

- There are no definitive official figures for the number of stateless people in Thailand, and non-governmental estimates vary. Although Thailand is not party to the Statelessness Conventions, amendments to the Civil Registration Act in 2008 provide for universal birth registration, helping to prevent statelessness. UNHCR raised awareness of statelessness among all stakeholders while building partnerships to address the issue with the Government, UN agencies, civil society, NGOs and academics.

Fair protection processes

- UNHCR worked with the Government to ensure that children born in refugee camps are registered at birth, in line with amendments to the Civil Registration Act. Close to 800 newborn children were registered and some 680 birth certificates were issued during the year.
- In addition, UNHCR conducted RSD under its mandate for non-Myanmar asylum-seekers. A review of the urban refugee programme showed that all people of concern were registered, processed and documented in line with the standards in UNHCR's Urban Refugee Policy.

Security from violence and exploitation

- In the border camps, UNHCR worked through its partners to visit and follow up on child-protection cases,

including those of unaccompanied and separated children. Some 7,600 unaccompanied and/or separated children (over 3,900 boys and almost 3,700 girls) were recorded in the nine camps, of whom 3,400 were identified in 2010. One positive development was the Government's growing involvement in the best interest determination (BID) process: some 640 BID assessments were conducted during the year.

- Camp-based legal-assistance centres helped 390 individuals in a variety of cases, 130 of whom were referred to the Thai judicial system. Three precedent-setting criminal-compensation suits were also pursued successfully on behalf of camp residents.
- In the urban context, UNHCR strengthened a hotline system to facilitate the reporting of protection incidents after working hours. Some 3,900 calls were received during the year. UNHCR successfully negotiated release in 63 per cent of the cases of arrest, almost double the rate for 2009. However, more rigorous implementation of immigration laws towards the end of the year hindered UNHCR's ability to intervene to prevent persons of concern from being detained. At the end of the year, some 260 refugees (23 per cent of the urban refugee population) were in detention. Among them were 75 children. These numbers and the indefinite nature of the detention remain of significant concern for UNHCR.
- Following a participatory assessment of needs conducted amongst urban refugees, UNHCR intensified social, legal and resettlement counselling for this group, and also began offering psychological support. More children had access to child care services while in detention, and UNHCR arranged free phone calls for minors and persons with specific needs. In 2010, some 2,200 individuals benefited from legal and social counselling. UNHCR-affiliated lawyers provided legal representation in five court cases.

Basic needs and services

- Most assistance activities for Myanmar refugees in the nine camps in Thailand are carried out by UNHCR's operational partners, who work closely with each other. Sanitary kits were distributed to over 37,000 refugee women and girls of reproductive age in the nine camps, covering 100 per cent of the targeted population. UNHCR provided voluntary counselling and testing services for refugees in five camps, with some 6,400 people benefiting from the service during the year. All pregnant women were tested for HIV and AIDS as part of the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission campaign.
- In the case of urban refugees who, lacking legal status, are unable to seek lawful employment and do not have access to basic services, UNHCR provided subsistence allowances to some 1,260 individuals (530 families). In addition, some 150 refugees in detention and five in prison received allowances for essential items. Emergency cash payments were offered to some 260 persons with specific needs (100 families). Some 370 refugee women and girls were provided with sanitary napkins, and supplementary food was given to over 1,200 refugees (550 families).

- Urban refugees and asylum-seekers were able to obtain primary health care services at a UNHCR-supported medical clinic, and close cooperation with national public health centres allowed for medical referrals. In 2010, the clinic received some 6,500 visits, approximately 40 per cent of which were then referred to Thai health facilities. Some 400 children benefited from free vaccinations for refugees and asylum-seekers who are under 15 years of age at public health centres.

Community participation and self-management

- Confined to camps for more than two decades, refugees from Myanmar face restrictions on their freedom of movement and are not allowed to obtain formal employment. As such, they are forced to rely on the international community for food, shelter, medical care, education and other basic needs. UNHCR sought to foster their self-reliance by increasing vocational training and developing livelihood capacities.
- In 2010, it was not possible to realize all planned livelihood activities owing to lack of funds, policy restrictions and the non-availability of partners with livelihoods expertise. Nonetheless, more than 350 refugees in three camps were able to participate in agricultural projects.
- To increase the participation of women, on-site child care services were established in two of the project sites. Three livelihood resource centres in the project sites were managed by camp committees. The project benefited from the expertise and technical assistance of Thai institutions.

Durable solutions

- Resettlement in third countries remained an important solution for many refugees. In 2010, UNHCR submitted some 11,000 Myanmar refugees from the camps to 12 resettlement countries. Over 11,200 refugees were accepted for resettlement and some 10,800 departed for third countries during the year. As a result, the number of officially registered individuals living in the camps was reduced from almost 104,000 at the beginning of 2010 to some 95,000 by the end of the year.
- A notable development in 2010, contributing to an overall increase in resettlement opportunities for refugees, was the resettlement of 40 refugees in the Czech Republic and Japan. Resettlement remains the only viable option for urban refugees. Some 750 non-Myanmar refugees departed for third countries in 2010, including a group of some 500 whose departure helped to resolve a long-standing asylum issue in Thailand.

| Constraints |

Despite large-scale resettlement, there was no significant reduction in the size of the camp population, as conditions in Myanmar did not improve and a steady flow of new arrivals continued. 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 56,000 at the end of 2010—lived in the camps but remained unregistered. Although granted

Thailand

access to food support and basic services, their lives were constrained by a lack of any legal status.

The emergency operation which started in late 2010 in response to the influx of new arrivals from Myanmar resulted in a diversion of resources originally marked for protection activities in the camps.

Financial information

The budget for Thailand has grown steadily over the past five years. The UNHCR Regional Office in Thailand has strengthened its capacity by consolidating regional posts in Bangkok, but this has resulted in a rise in costs.

Organization and implementation

In 2010, UNHCR had a total of 171 employees, including 24 international staff, of whom 11 have regional functions. Operations were managed by the Regional Office in Bangkok and four field offices—in Kanchanaburi, Mae Hong Son, Mae Sariang and Mae Sot. The field unit in Mae Sariang was upgraded to a field office at the beginning of 2010.

The Regional Office also managed activities in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam. The regional representative based in Bangkok served as Regional Coordinator, with overall management and oversight responsibilities for UNHCR operations in other ASEAN member countries as well as Bangladesh and Timor-Leste.

UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	5
□ Total staff	171
International	24
National	58
JPOs	3
UNVs	6
Others	80

Working with others

UNHCR worked with a number of implementing partners, including governmental agencies and international and national NGOs. It also cooperated closely with operational partners within the framework of the common cooperative arrangement for assistance to Myanmar refugees in the border camps.

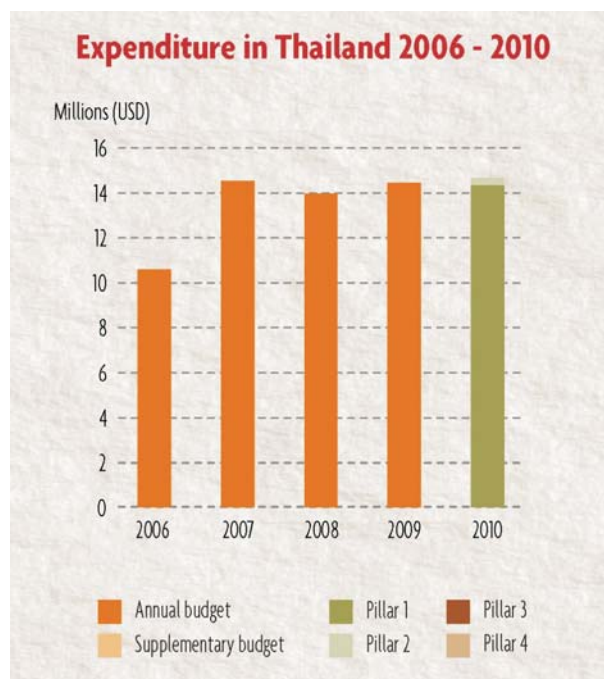
Overall assessment

The volatile political situation made it difficult for UNHCR to advocate with the Thai authorities for a tangible change in policy. Nevertheless, relations with government counterparts were strengthened through

bilateral contacts as well as a retreat which brought together officials from relevant ministries and government entities.

UNHCR and the Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT) continued to refine the mid-term strategy, which was re-titled "The Strategic Framework for Durable Solutions", to enhance the protection of Myanmar refugees in Thailand and seek durable solutions for them. The strategy calls for innovative approaches to address the protracted situation of the Myanmar refugees, such as promoting self-reliance by improving livelihood capacities and increasing employment opportunities. Meanwhile, resettlement continues to provide a positive solution for many refugees in Thailand.

Partners	
Implementing partners	
Government:	Ministries of Education and the Interior
NGOs:	<i>Aide Médicale Internationale</i> , American Refugee Committee, Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees, Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand, Forum Asia, Handicap International, International Rescue Committee, Malteser International, Right to Play, Shanti Volunteer Association, ZOA Refugee Care
Others:	UNOPS, UNV
Operational partners	
Government:	Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Social Development and Human Security; the National Security Council
NGOs:	Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Jesuit Refugee Service, <i>Solidarités Internationale</i> , Taipei Overseas Peace Service, Thailand Burma Border Consortium, Women's Education for Advancement and Empowerment, World Education
Others:	FAO, ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, IOM



Budget, income and expenditure in Thailand | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
FINAL BUDGET	20,044,525	340,000	20,384,525
Income from contributions ¹	5,342,961	0	5,342,961
Other funds available	8,988,089	329,953	9,318,042
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	14,331,049	329,953	14,661,002
EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN			
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>			
National and regional migration policy	136,878	0	136,878
Prevention of statelessness	0	307,432	307,432
Co-operation with partners	248,333	0	248,333
Access to territory	29,303	0	29,303
<i>Non-refoulement</i>	538,645	0	538,645
Subtotal	953,158	307,432	1,260,591
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>			
Registration and profiling	282,399	0	282,399
Access to asylum procedures	48,940	0	48,940
Fair and efficient status determination	610,849	0	610,849
Family reunification	16,203	0	16,203
Civil status documentation	165,745	0	165,745
Subtotal	1,124,136	0	1,124,136
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>			
Law enforcement	33,574	0	33,574
Community security management system	13,502	0	13,502
Gender-based violence	445,248	0	445,248
Protection of children	575,250	0	575,250
Non-arbitrary detention	36,002	0	36,002
Access to legal remedies	450,690	0	450,690
Subtotal	1,554,266	0	1,554,266
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>			
Nutrition	15,985	0	15,985
Shelter and other infrastructure	56,007	0	56,007
Basic domestic and hygiene items	638,854	0	638,854
Primary health care	374,845	0	374,845
HIV and AIDS	159,004	0	159,004
Education	578,304	0	578,304
Sanitation services	55,254	0	55,254
Services for groups with specific needs	309,271	0	309,271
Subtotal	2,187,524	0	2,187,524
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	98,432	0	98,432
Self-reliance and livelihoods	666,036	0	666,036
Subtotal	764,469	0	764,469

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
<i>Durable solutions</i>			
Durable solutions strategy	270,333	0	270,333
Voluntary return	61,708	0	61,708
Resettlement	1,573,442	0	1,573,442
Subtotal	1,905,484	0	1,905,484
<i>External relations</i>			
Public information	389,149	0	389,149
Subtotal	389,149	0	389,149
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>			
Supply chain and logistics	1,755,009	0	1,755,009
Programme management, coordination and support	1,729,502	22,520	1,752,022
Subtotal	3,484,510	22,520	3,507,031
Instalments to implementing partners	1,527,015	0	1,527,015
Other objectives	441,338	0	441,338
Total	14,331,049	329,953	14,661,002

¹ 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.