

ASIA AND THE

| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- In May 2011, the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, together with UNHCR, initiated a new approach to discussing the Afghan refugee situation, which until then had been addressed through distinct tripartite processes. This quadripartite approach signifies that, for the first time, all three Governments are actively engaged with UNHCR in developing a multi-year regional road map on a common set of issues.
- The dialogue between UNHCR and concerned States on a regional approach to refugees and irregular movements in the Asia-Pacific region led to the endorsement by the Bali Process of a Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF). Discussions on making the RCF operational through the establishment of a Regional Support Office (RSO) continued throughout 2011.
- In March 2011, a Ministerial Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration in Central Asia was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Conference adopted the Almaty Declaration, as well as a set of recommendations, to serve as the basis for a Regional Cooperation Framework and Regional Action Plan.
- In Cambodia, UNHCR concluded its programme for Montagnard refugees from Viet Nam. Over the last seven years some 1,800 members of this group have been assisted. Of these, some 800 returned to Viet Nam and 1,000 were resettled in third countries.
- Combined efforts by UNHCR and a core group of resettlement countries have helped more than 40,000 refugees from Bhutan to leave Nepal for third countries since November 2007. In 2011, the Government of Nepal endorsed UNHCR's proposal for the consolidation or closure of the camps for refugees from Bhutan. The Government also approved the introduction of a Community-Based Development Programme in refugee-affected and hosting areas.
- The Republic of Korea adopted a Refugee Bill in December 2011, a significant milestone for the region, demonstrating a commitment to refugee protection. UNHCR also welcomed the adoption of a Resolution in the Japanese Diet, reaffirming international refugee protection principles and values enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention and the national laws, as well as its determination to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to people in need worldwide.



PACIFIC

A close-up, over-the-shoulder shot of a woman with a long, dark, wavy braid. She is wearing a yellow and white patterned top with a floral design. The background is a blurred passenger terminal with warm lighting.

Sri Lankan refugees returning from India disembark at the passenger terminal in Colombo.

| Working environment |

Some 9.6 million people, representing about a quarter of the total number of persons of concern to UNHCR, live in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Of these, fewer than 1.3 million are in refugee camps, with the overwhelming majority residing in urban environments. Displaced people living in urban settings face increased risks, particularly of exploitation and detention.

Disparities in asylum practices and conditions among countries in the region and the absence of predictable legal and normative frameworks on refugee protection present major challenges. These are exacerbated by the prevalence of irregular movements in Asia and the Pacific of different categories of migrants, including persons of concern to UNHCR, often involving criminal smuggling and trafficking rings.

Mixed migration movements by sea have been on the increase in the Asia and the Pacific region since 2008. Rising numbers of tragic maritime incidents in 2011 added urgency to calls for the development of cooperative regional approaches. The Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) agreed upon by the Bali Process provides a platform for practical cooperation to address refugee needs and irregular movements in the region. In the same vein, the new Almaty Process will establish a mechanism to address mixed-migration flows in Central Asia.

UNHCR welcomed Nauru's ratification of the 1951 Refugee Convention in June 2011. Countries that have not acceded to the 1951 Convention generally continued to provide protection and humanitarian space to refugees and asylum-seekers. In some situations, however, restrictions on access by humanitarian organizations to persons of concern posed difficulties.

The onset of sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran had a drastic effect on vulnerable refugees and UNHCR's ability to implement projects. The impact of the sanctions was felt in a number of ways, notably through high inflation, rising prices, the discontinuation of subsidies for energy and basic food items, a lack of essential imported commodities and a shortage of hard currency in the banking system.

Despite the major disasters experienced in the region in 2011, notably the massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the floods in South-East Asia and the devastation wreaked by Typhoon Sendong in the Philippines, UNHCR was able to make substantial progress towards addressing key thematic priorities.

| Achievements and impact |

○ *Safeguarding protection and asylum space, including in the context of mixed-migration and urban settings*

UNHCR worked with concerned States to develop comprehensive regional approaches in order to stabilize populations until more durable solutions can be found, thereby discouraging irregular secondary movements.

Following the Bali Process endorsement of the RCF in March 2011, UNHCR's proposal to establish a Regional Support Office (RSO) to serve as the focal point for practical cooperation on refugee protection and international migration among Bali Process Member States was accepted by the Bali Process Ad Hoc Group.

The RSO is expected to focus primarily on practical measures, such as information-sharing on refugee protection and international migration, capacity-building and exchange of best practices. In addition, it should help with the pooling of technical resources and the implementation of pilot projects or joint activities with a focus on specific caseloads or topics.

Following the Almaty Process Ministerial Conference, UNHCR presented a concept note for a regional cooperation framework to foster regional dialogue and practical cooperation on refugee protection and international migration in the Central Asia sub-region. The Bali and Almaty processes will be of critical importance for preserving asylum space in the context of mixed-migration flows in Asia.

While continuing to advocate for more predictable legal and normative frameworks in the region, UNHCR initiated additional measures to increase the protection and self-sufficiency of refugees living in urban centres. For instance, a landmark health insurance scheme for registered refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran was successfully introduced in 2011. In India, UNHCR began to issue new

identity cards with an encrypted smart chip for urban refugees.

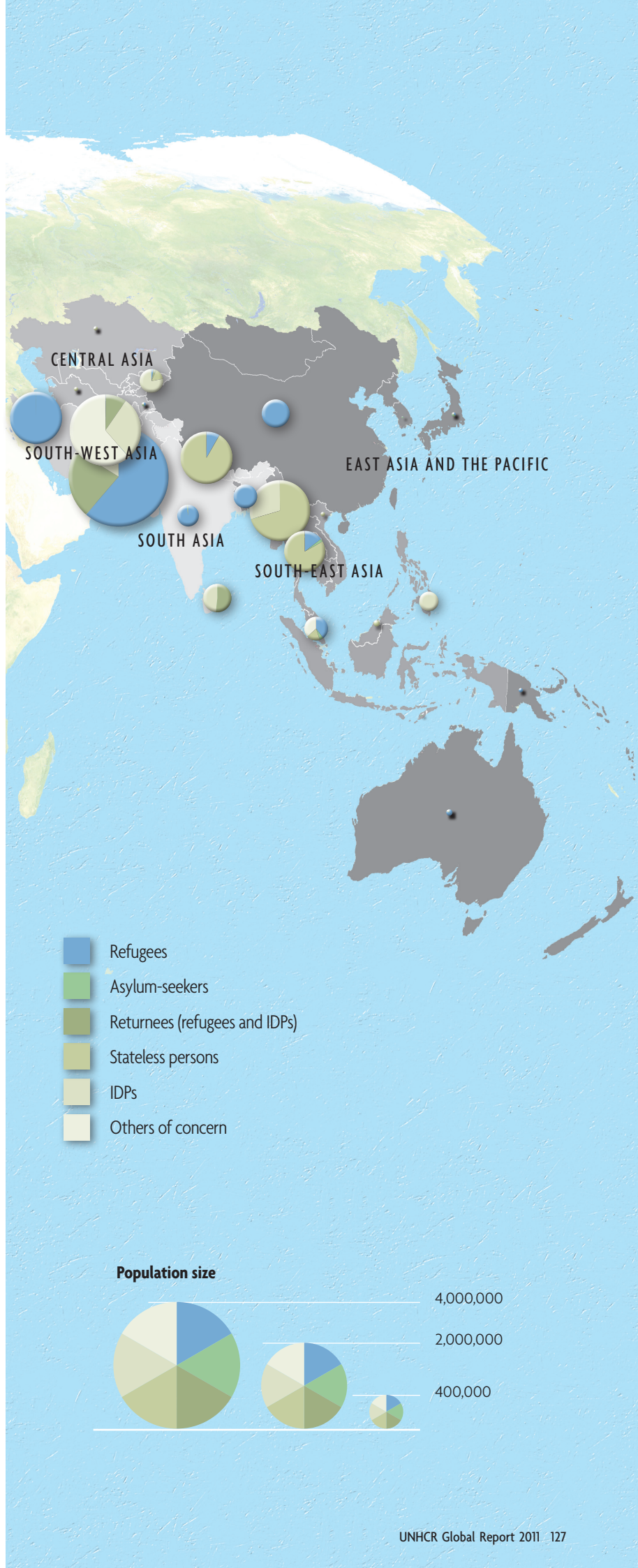
The number of children participating in UNHCR's education programmes increased significantly in 2011, particularly in Malaysia. UNHCR is moving towards a more strategic approach to education in the region in anticipation of the launch of its multi-year global strategy on education. Livelihood initiatives were introduced in several refugee operations.

Advocacy for alternatives to detention, as well as access to detainees, was high on UNHCR's agenda throughout the region, with positive results. In Malaysia, there was a reduction in the number of arrests of asylum-seekers and refugees. This was accompanied by an increase in the number of persons of concern released from detention following intervention by UNHCR.

In Australia, UNHCR and the International Detention Coalition co-hosted an Expert Round Table on Alternatives to Detention. Towards the end of the year, Australia changed its policy of mandatory detention of asylum-seekers who arrived by boat to one favouring their gradual release into the community, with access to work, health services and limited welfare benefits. Fewer asylum-seekers were detained in Japan in 2011 than in 2010, and no children were detained at all during the year. UNHCR welcomed the establishment of a detention monitoring committee in Japan.

○ Finding solutions for protracted refugee situations

The approximately 3 million registered Afghan refugees still residing in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, many of whom have lived in these countries for more than three decades, constitute the largest protracted refugee situation in the world. Measures to stabilize the displaced Afghan population, such as the provision of sustainable reintegration support for those who return to Afghanistan and the preservation of asylum space in neighbouring countries, are critical if regional stability is to be preserved and irregular migration addressed.



Through a unique consultative process, UNHCR and the Islamic Republics of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan have agreed on a *Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to support voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration and assistance to host countries*. This multi-year strategy aims to address future assistance needs for Afghan refugees and returnees. It also seeks to stabilize the displaced Afghan population through sustainable reintegration interventions in high-return areas, assist host countries through burden sharing, and support livelihood opportunities for Afghans in all three countries. An international stakeholders' conference to endorse the strategy is planned for May 2012 in Switzerland.

In Nepal, UNHCR facilitated the resettlement of some 18,100 refugees from Bhutan in 2011. In view of the substantially reduced numbers of refugees remaining in the country, with the Government's agreement, UNHCR was able to begin consolidating the various camps that had been set up for them. By the end of the year, only three of the original seven camps remained.

UNHCR worked with the Government of Nepal and the UN Country Team under the UN Development Assistance Framework to complete the groundwork for the five-year Community Based Development Programme (CBDP). The CBDP will benefit both the refugee and host communities and thereby help promote peaceful coexistence.

● *Ensuring protection and durable solutions for IDPs*

In Kyrgyzstan in 2011, a further 8,100 IDPs returned to their places of origin. UNHCR carried out protection and assistance programmes for IDPs and returnees in the south of the country to strengthen equal access to rights and services, and to the rule of law. The Office also sought to promote reconciliation between communities through peace-building projects.

Following the eruption of conflict in June in Myanmar's Kachin State, which displaced over 50,000 people, UNHCR provided emergency relief and assistance to the IDPs. The Office

led the protection, shelter, camp coordination and camp management and non-food item (NFI) sectors in order to assist the affected populations.

In August, a second wave of monsoon floods in Pakistan severely inundated vast tracts of Sindh and Balochistan provinces, affecting more than 7.4 million people. UNHCR responded to the disaster by providing emergency shelter and NFIs in the early recovery phase, and mainstreamed protection into all intersectoral activities. The Office ended its response to the flood disaster in December, but continued to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs displaced as a result of conflict in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas. UNHCR remained the inter-agency cluster lead for camp coordination and camp management, emergency shelter and protection.

As co-lead of the protection cluster in the Philippines for northern Mindanao, UNHCR extended the IDP programme to also address the displacement of thousands of people following the devastation inflicted by Typhoon Sendong; many had already fled their homes previously because of armed conflict in the region. The Office helped with the provision of civil documentation and the building of community relations so as to improve the protection of the displaced. It also implemented quick-impact projects (QIPs) to enable returnees to rebuild their lives. In addition, UNHCR piloted a displacement tracking and protection monitoring system for use by the Protection Cluster throughout Mindanao.

In Sri Lanka, the Office made the transition from an emergency operation to one focused on the return of IDPs and Sri Lankan refugees. During 2011, some 144,600 IDPs returned to their places of origin. UNHCR continued to coordinate humanitarian operations as the cluster lead for protection, shelter and NFIs. The comprehensive assistance and regular protection monitoring provided by UNHCR and its partners ensured the sustainable reintegration of IDP and refugee returnees in their villages of origin.

○ Preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless people

In 2011, UNHCR welcomed the Philippines and Turkmenistan as new signatories to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. The Government of Turkmenistan is now considering accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Through consistent advocacy, UNHCR garnered support for interventions on statelessness in the region from the Asian Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) under ASEAN. A workshop in the Philippines at the end of 2011 that saw the participation of 10 ASEAN countries led to recommendations for the AICHR to engage with international organizations and other stakeholders in a study on nationality laws, as well as to map stateless populations in the region. The Government of the Philippines initiated the development of a national statelessness determination procedure and regulations for implementing the rights of stateless people under the 1954 Statelessness Convention.

Viet Nam continued to give citizenship rights to large numbers of stateless people through naturalization. It is anticipated that more than 9,000 people, including Vietnamese women who lost their citizenship through marriage to foreigners, will benefit from this process in the coming years.

Central Asia also witnessed another year of progress towards the reduction and prevention of statelessness. In Kyrgyzstan, the National Action Plan to Prevent and Reduce Statelessness was reviewed with the support of UNHCR, and the Government expressed interest in acceding to the two Statelessness Conventions. In Turkmenistan, a Joint Action Plan on the Reduction and Prevention of Statelessness was implemented, with more than 13,000 undocumented individuals of 18 years and above identified and citizenship granted to more than 3,000 stateless persons in 2011.

In Myanmar, some 800,000 Muslim residents in northern Rakhine State (NRS), including more than 230,000 returnees from Bangladesh, continued to face serious difficulties in their daily lives as a result of their lack of citizenship. UNHCR's protection presence in NRS was strengthened through improved field monitoring and interventions with the authorities, as well as the provision of expanded support to vulnerable groups. Interventions on behalf of detainees, legal aid, and education projects aimed at promoting social integration, showed positive results during the year.

| Constraints |

National security concerns and irregular migration continued to impede efforts to enhance protection and asylum space in the region. The increasing use of detention facilities to hold asylum-seekers and refugees, including children and vulnerable individuals, remained a key concern for UNHCR.

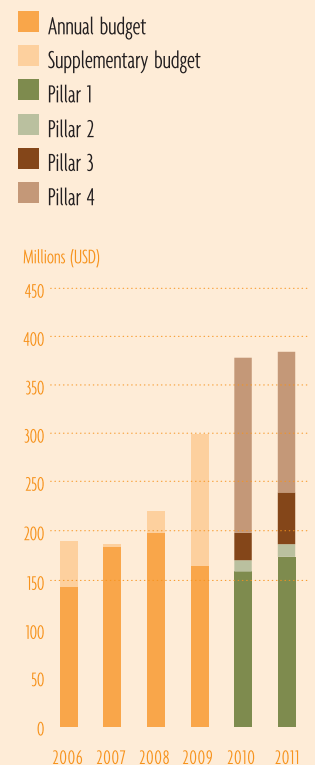
The absence of national legal and normative frameworks providing predictability in the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in many countries continued to impede UNHCR's work. Many urban refugees faced difficulties in their daily lives due to lack of legal status, limited livelihood opportunities and insufficient access to social services.

The security situation in various parts of Asia and the Pacific hampered UNHCR's work. In Afghanistan and Pakistan in particular, security continued to deteriorate in 2011, limiting the ability of UNHCR and its partners to gain access to people of concern. In Afghanistan, this led to secondary displacement and a reduction in the number of exiles returning to the country voluntarily. In Pakistan, the volatility of the operational environment was exacerbated by recurring natural disasters in 2011 which added to the effects of the floods of 2010. ■

Financial information

The initially approved budget for Asia and the Pacific of USD 470.8 million was increased to USD 559.4 million during the year, mainly due to the continuation of the supplementary budget in Pakistan for assistance to flood victims. The region continued to benefit from strong donor support in 2011. Operations in South-West Asia were relatively well funded by earmarked contributions, at both country and sub-regional levels, but other operations had to be supported from broadly earmarked or unearmarked funds.

Expenditure in Asia and the Pacific 2006-2011



Note: Includes South-West Asia and Central Asia, which were part of the Central Asia, South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East (CASWANAME) region through 2006.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC | USD

Country		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
SOUTH-WEST ASIA						
Afghanistan	Budget	32,108,113	0	45,070,681	23,326,335	100,505,129
	Expenditure	26,548,972	0	40,656,679	13,479,878	80,685,529
Islamic Republic of Iran	Budget	39,882,139	0	0	0	39,882,139
	Expenditure	30,878,132	0	0	0	30,878,132
Pakistan	Budget	57,877,611	815,199	22,373,910	152,286,455	233,353,175
	Expenditure	41,091,909	559,758	12,518,293	108,988,977	163,158,937
Subtotal	Budget	129,867,863	815,199	67,444,591	175,612,790	373,740,443
	Expenditure	98,519,013	559,758	53,174,972	122,468,855	274,722,598
CENTRAL ASIA						
Kazakhstan Regional Office ^e	Budget	4,834,197	1,493,119	0	682,291	7,009,607
	Expenditure	2,884,201	722,293	0	161,688	3,768,182
Kyrgyzstan	Budget	2,220,465	967,745	0	10,050,673	13,238,883
	Expenditure	2,215,104	930,168	0	4,360,179	7,505,451
Turkmenistan	Budget	319,680	723,608	0	0	1,043,288
	Expenditure	191,353	700,703	0	0	892,056
Tajikistan	Budget	1,696,957	175,041	0	0	1,871,998
	Expenditure	974,948	88,384	0	0	1,063,332
Subtotal	Budget	9,071,299	3,359,513	0	10,732,964	23,163,776
	Expenditure	6,265,606	2,441,548	0	4,521,867	13,229,021
SOUTH ASIA						
India	Budget	13,222,330	104,177	0	0	13,326,507
	Expenditure	7,474,121	102,048	0	0	7,576,169
Nepal	Budget	15,445,714	1,397,775	0	0	16,843,489
	Expenditure	11,701,053	765,719	0	0	12,466,772
Sri Lanka	Budget	7,627,840	0	0	17,498,959	25,126,799
	Expenditure	3,627,752	0	0	9,467,396	13,095,148
Subtotal	Budget	36,295,884	1,501,952	0	17,498,959	55,296,795
	Expenditure	22,802,926	867,767	0	9,467,396	33,138,089
SOUTH-EAST ASIA						
Bangladesh	Budget	10,321,295	27,322	0	0	10,348,617
	Expenditure	6,772,902	18,321	0	0	6,791,223
Cambodia	Budget	1,114,725	64,641	0	0	1,179,366
	Expenditure	666,810	28,108	0	0	694,918
Indonesia	Budget	6,810,351	387,019	0	0	7,197,370
	Expenditure	3,183,065	259,784	0	0	3,442,849
Malaysia	Budget	16,147,088	399,752	0	0	16,546,840
	Expenditure	8,049,633	135,852	0	0	8,185,485

Country		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
Myanmar	Budget	340,000	11,414,196	0	6,045,185	17,799,381
	Expenditure	0	6,713,780	0	4,848,273	11,562,053
Philippines	Budget	764,337	1,111,905	0	8,322,483	10,198,725
	Expenditure	760,194	313,747	0	3,026,240	4,100,181
Thailand Regional Office ²	Budget	24,592,481	988,878	0	0	25,581,359
	Expenditure	15,776,249	588,055	0	0	16,364,304
Timor-Leste	Budget	569,174	78,826	0	0	648,000
	Expenditure	357,818	57,502	0	0	415,320
Viet Nam	Budget	9,000	263,808	377,372	0	650,180
	Expenditure	0	239,614	153,242	0	392,856
Subtotal	Budget	60,668,451	14,736,347	377,372	14,367,668	90,149,838
	Expenditure	35,566,671	8,354,763	153,242	7,874,513	51,949,189
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC						
Australia Regional Office ³	Budget	1,873,700	0	0	0	1,873,700
	Expenditure	1,746,162	0	0	0	1,746,162
China Regional Office ⁴	Budget	4,735,766	200,275	0	0	4,936,041
	Expenditure	3,745,868	109,564	0	0	3,855,432
Japan	Budget	4,357,567	850,011	0	460,000	5,667,578
	Expenditure	3,544,760	592,237	0	444,056	4,581,053
Mongolia	Budget	170,108	38,614	0	0	208,722
	Expenditure	104,618	16,149	0	0	120,767
Papua New Guinea	Budget	2,474,307	0	0	0	2,474,307
	Expenditure	1,266,687	0	0	0	1,266,687
Republic of Korea	Budget	1,593,569	80,497	0	0	1,674,066
	Expenditure	1,255,510	80,294	0	0	1,335,804
Regional activities	Budget	200,000	0	0	0	200,000
	Expenditure	46,656	0	0	0	46,656
Subtotal	Budget	15,405,017	1,169,397	0	460,000	17,034,414
	Expenditure	11,710,261	798,244	0	444,056	12,952,561
Total	Budget	251,308,514	21,582,408	67,821,963	218,672,381	559,385,266
	Expenditure	174,864,477	13,022,080	53,328,214	144,776,687	385,991,458

¹ Includes the Office of the Regional Representative which provides support to countries in the subregion.

² Includes the Office of the Regional Coordinator which provides support to countries in the subregion.

³ Includes activities in New Zealand and Pacific Island countries as well as additional support to Papua New Guinea.

⁴ Provides support to Mongolia.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASIA AND THE PACIFIC | USD

Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
Australia	3,392,891		404,903	694,726	5,347,594	9,840,113
Australia for UNHCR				9,486	31,292	40,778
Belgium	2,046,385			682,128		2,728,513
Brazil	900,000					900,000
Canada	308,960				9,989,806	10,298,766
CERF	3,130,787			10,559,921		13,690,708
Charities Aid Foundation					15,132	15,132
Czech Republic	63,397					63,397
Denmark			4,039,250	466,459	252,000	4,757,709
España con ACNUR	22,753			3,691	55,717	82,162
European Commission	13,312,769	1,140,454	6,202,331	6,829,995	381,078	27,866,626
Finland					1,373,626	1,373,626
France	412,088			343,406		755,494
Lebara Foundation	424,328					424,328
Germany	1,424,501		10,387,782	2,985,661		14,797,944
HQ online donations					4,205	4,205
Iceland					100,000	100,000
International Organization for Migration	20,055					20,055
Italy				142,653		142,653
Japan	20,970,350		9,136,500	55,959,095	14,825,865	100,891,810
Japan Association for UNHCR	106,299			303,314	100,531	510,144
Luxembourg					459,921	459,921
Netherlands					3,750,000	3,750,000
Norway	436,019				5,283,720	5,719,739
OPEC Fund for International Development	60,000					60,000
Private donors in Canada				1,019	1,052	2,071
Private donors in China	151,594			2,569	38,339	192,503
Private donors in Italy				56,338	129,761	186,099
Private donors in Japan					13,415	13,415
Private donors in Jordan				5,810		5,810
Private donors in the Republic of Korea	5,826			608	2,850	9,285
Private donors in Malaysia	1,976					1,976
Private donors in Pakistan					65,562	65,562
Private donors in Switzerland				231	4,732	4,963

<i>Donor</i>	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
Private donors in Thailand					3,330,039	3,330,039
Romania				68,399		68,399
Russian Federation					250,000	250,000
Spain	107,296			493,827		601,123
IKEA Foundation	1,744,462					1,744,462
Sweden		1,678,342			2,362,205	4,040,547
Switzerland	268,817			1,214,099	430,108	1,913,023
UN Delivering as One	88,803					88,803
UN Peacebuilding Fund				676,107		676,107
UN Population Fund				23,314		23,314
UN Programme on HIV and AIDS	190,634					190,634
UN Trust Fund for Human Security	136,710	888,100				1,024,810
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. (UNIQLO)	479,017					479,017
United Kingdom	158,815					158,815
United States of America	900,000			32,400,000	75,999,000	109,299,000
<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe</i>				561,823		561,823
USA for UNHCR	15,000		160,000		195,423	370,423
Total	51,280,534	3,706,896	30,330,766	114,484,681	124,792,973	324,595,849