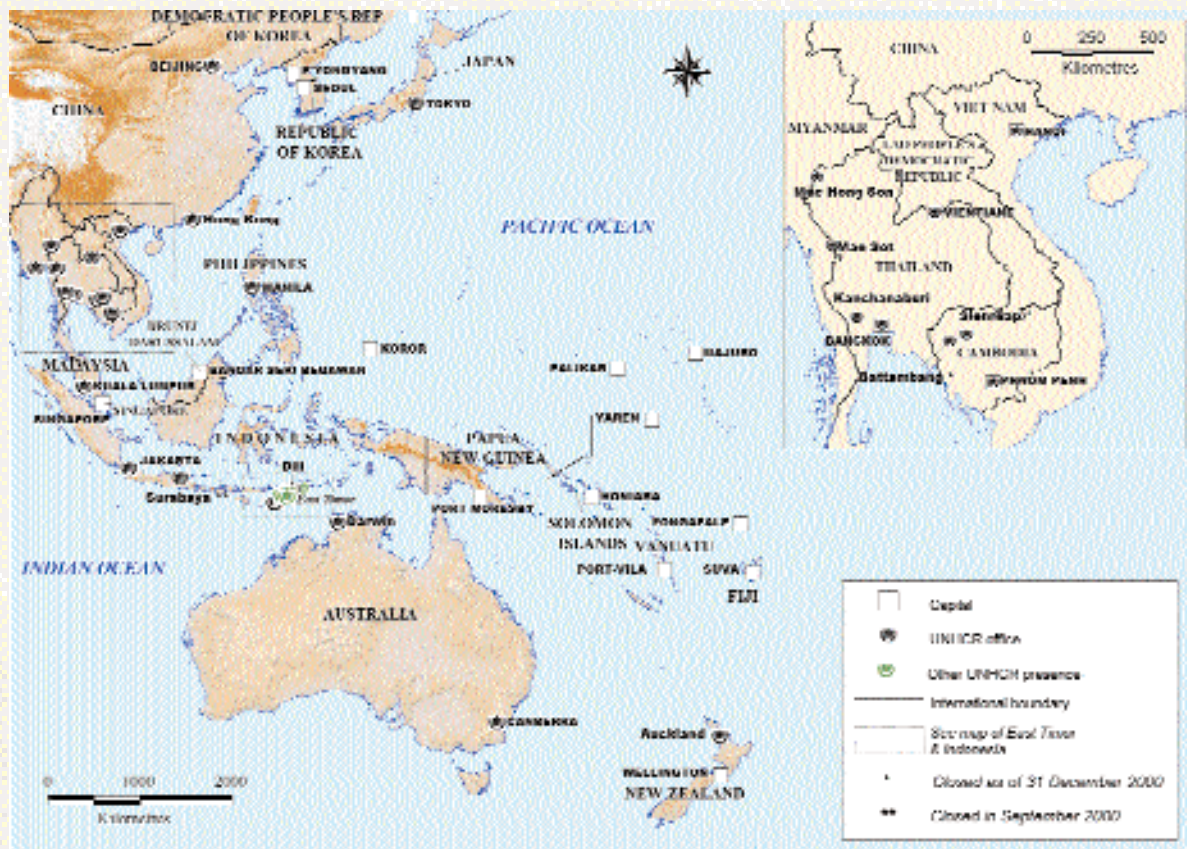


EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Regional Overview

- Australia • Brunei Darussalam • Cambodia • China
 • Democratic People's Republic of Korea • East Timor • Fiji
 • Indonesia • Japan • Lao People's Democratic Republic • Malaysia • Mongolia • New Zealand
 • Papua New Guinea • The Philippines • Republic of Korea • Singapore • Solomon Islands • Thailand • Viet Nam



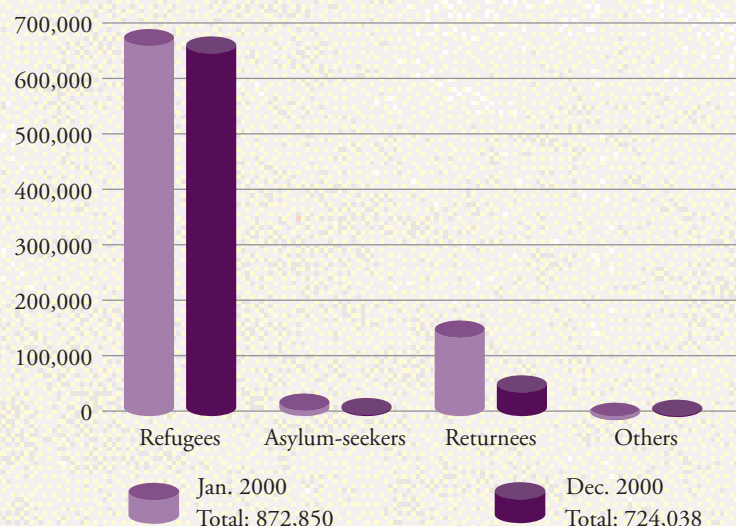
MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

UNHCR's operation in East Asia included both the successful phase down of activities in some countries and the search for durable solutions in others. UNHCR scaled down reintegration activities in Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic after forging linkages with various longer-term development agencies. On 17 July, the last centre for Indo-Chinese refugees in Hong Kong SAR (Special Administrative Region) was closed, ending the final chapter of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) for Indo-Chinese Refugees.

In Thailand, some 107,000 refugees from Myanmar remained in camps at the Thai/Myanmar border and UNHCR continued to advocate the admission, the grant

of temporary refuge and helped in their search for longer-term solutions. In Indonesia, security threats to refugees and humanitarian workers considerably hampered UNHCR's operations in West Timor, culminat-

Persons of Concern to UNHCR



ing in the brutal murder of three UNHCR colleagues on 6 September 2000. This led to the immediate evacuation of all UN staff from the territory of West Timor, which still remains in effect.

CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

The departure of all UN staff from West Timor created a vacuum. It resulted in the discontinuation of direct protection and assistance to the refugee population by the international community. In light of its commitment to resolve the refugee situation in West Timor, the Office continued to advise the Government of Indonesia on the promotion of durable solutions for this population, and to participate in ad hoc voluntary repatriation movements from West Timor.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTIONS

Now in its fifth year, the Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC) has become a region-wide forum for discussion of asylum and migration issues. In addition to the Annual Plenary Meeting in Hong Kong in November, various sub-regional meetings of the APC took place, notably in South Asia, Mekong and the Pacific, covering issues of refugee return and reintegration, capacity building, burden-sharing and emergency preparedness and response.

OPERATIONS

UNHCR's operations in **Cambodia** and **Thailand** and the **Timor Operation** are described in separate country chapters.

In **Australia**, UNHCR continued to work on the promotion of refugee law, resettlement and external relations in the South Pacific region. Activities included training on refugee law, seminars and lectures for government officials and civil society, as well as public awareness campaigns. Olympic Aid, a body established by Australian athletes to raise awareness of and funds for refugees and disadvantaged children around the world, was highly visible at the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Australia for UNHCR, the new National Association for UNHCR, was also established.

During the first half of the year, political tension in the **Solomon Islands** and **Fiji** aroused concern. The tension gradually eased, but UNHCR continued to monitor the situation.

In **China**, UNHCR is seeking naturalisation for the majority of the 230,000 Vietnamese refugees who want to settle in the country, as well as voluntary repatriation for a limited number who may wish to return. UNHCR is also advising the Government on the management of a revolving credit scheme that offers vulnerable refugees opportunities for self-reliance. UNHCR remained concerned by the situation of North Korean populations within the northern border provinces of China and continued to raise this issue with the Government and to seek access to them. In Hong Kong SAR, the Pillar Point Vietnamese Refugee Centre, the last refugee camp on the territory, ceased operations on 31 May 2000. The local settlement scheme devised by the Government has been extended to include the remaining 1,400 Vietnamese refugees and so-called non-nationals.

In addition to its activities on behalf of East Timorese refugees in West Timor, UNHCR also increased its efforts to encourage **Indonesia** to become a party to the 1951 Convention and supported the Government's attempts to deal with population movements and internally displaced persons (IDPs) by providing training in emergency management, refugee law and human rights. As a result of the growing numbers of illegal migrants (mainly Iraqis and Iranians) arriving in Australia via Indonesia, the Australian Government signed a regional co-operation agreement in early 2000 with Indonesia. The agreement provides for the interception of third country nationals (usually undocumented) attempting to leave Indonesia for Australia by boat and for their return to their countries of origin or provenance. In accordance with its statutory obligations, UNHCR determined the status of all illegal migrants requesting asylum in Indonesia. By year's end, over 1,000 had requested asylum after being apprehended in Indonesian waters; 415 of them were recognised as refugees.

A Regional Emergency Training Centre on International Humanitarian Response was established in August in **Japan** to help improve the region's capacity to respond to emergency situations. The Centre's activities benefit government officials, as well as NGO and UN staff, in the Asia-Pacific region. An emergency training workshop was held and distance education programmes were introduced; more of both are planned for 2001. As in previous years, in **Japan** and the **Republic of Korea**, UNHCR continued to raise public awareness of refugee issues and funding. UNHCR also advised both Governments on issues relating to refugee protection and provided training on procedures to determine refugee status.

In the **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, UNHCR continued to provide reintegration assistance to over 29,000 returnees from Thailand, China and other countries, including 1,185 screened-out Laotians, repatriated from Thailand and elsewhere during the last quarter of 1999. As in Cambodia, sustainable reintegration efforts have permitted the scaling-down of UNHCR's activities to the extent that UNHCR should be able to hand them over to the Government by the end of 2001.

emergency preparedness and capacity-building activities through training. In Malaysia, the Office assisted in the repatriation of 70 East Timorese who had arrived in Sabah in the 1980s. In the Philippines, in response to a request by the Government, UNHCR conducted an Emergency Management Training workshop for government officials, UN agencies and local NGOs in Davao to enhance the management of camps and assistance for IDPs in Mindanao. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Regional



In **Malaysia**, the **Philippines** and **Singapore**, UNHCR continued to focus on: providing protection and assistance directed at achieving durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers; monitoring potential population displacements; and providing support for

Office in Indonesia and the newly established Emergency Centre in Japan.

UNHCR was officially accredited to **Mongolia** in May and signed a Memorandum of Understanding on

future co-operation in the areas of refugee law, capacity-building and refugee status determination. The Government of Mongolia has indicated an interest in acceding to the 1951 Convention.

In **New Zealand**, UNHCR's work included resettlement, fund raising and the provision of advice on protection.

In **Papua New Guinea**, a total of 802 Papuans (from Irian Jaya, Indonesia) from the East Awin Settlement



Centre repatriated to Indonesia under the auspices of UNHCR, while 2,457 of the original 3,691 refugees were granted "permissive residency status", allowing refugees to enjoy rights similar to those of Papua New Guinea citizens. Those remaining have applied for the

same status and are awaiting approval from the Government. The celebration in December of the anniversary of the Papua Declaration of Independence, in Irian Jaya (Indonesia), led to violence between independence activists and the authorities. This resulted in the arrival in Papua New Guinea of over 400 people, mainly women and children. UNHCR provided basic assistance through the Government and church groups, and maintained a close dialogue with all concerned parties. A liaison office was to be re-established

in Port Moresby in January 2001. Through this presence, UNHCR will encourage the establishment of a formal refugee protection framework in Papua New Guinea and continue to closely monitor potential further displacements from Irian Jaya and other countries in the Pacific region.

In **Viet Nam**, UNHCR maintained a limited presence to monitor the 21 asylum-seekers who were screened out by the CPA and repatriated from Hong Kong SAR, Thailand and Indonesia during the year. UNHCR conducted two workshops for government officials on the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, as well as on statelessness and related nationality issues. UNHCR gave a modest amount of emergency financial assistance to the Government after the severe floods in the summer.

FUNDING

In 2000, UNHCR's programmes in East Asia and the Pacific continued to be funded almost exclusively by earmarked contributions from a limited number of interested donors as well as private donors. UNHCR's global funding shortfall, which resulted in repeated across-the-board budget cuts, had a negative impact on these programmes, resulting in the cancellation of planned activities as well as delays in implementation. For the Timor Operation, a lack of donor interest and late pledges delayed UNHCR's phase-down of activities in East Timor (initially envisaged for mid-2001).

Voluntary Contributions - Restricted (USD)					
Donor	Earmarking ¹	Annual Programme Budget		Supplementary Programme Budget	
		Income	Contribution	Income	Contribution
		Australia	Australia	8,257	8,257
	Indonesia/Timor Op.	389,950	389,950	819,449	819,449
Canada	Timor Op.	0	0	202,703	202,703
Denmark	Timor Op.	0	0	1,082,007	1,082,007
Finland	Timor Op.	0	0	310,596	310,596
France	Cambodia	145,051	145,051	0	0
	Timor Op.	0	0	145,051	145,051
Germany	Thailand	245,106	245,106	0	0
Ireland	Timor Op.	0	0	564,864	564,864
Italy	Timor Op.	0	0	193,429	193,429
Japan	Cambodia	850,000	850,000	0	0
	China	410,000	410,000	0	0
	Indonesia/Timor Op.	160,000	160,000	4,200,000	4,200,000
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	250,000	250,000	0	0
	Malaysia	160,000	160,000	0	0
	Philippines	80,000	80,000	0	0
	Papua New Guinea	10,000	10,000	0	0
	Singapore	10,000	10,000	0	0
	Viet Nam	30,000	30,000	0	0
	Thailand	1,470,000	1,470,000	0	0
Netherlands	Indonesia/Timor Op.	627,012	627,012	957,341	957,341
New Zealand	Australia	1,189	1,189	0	0
	Indonesia/Timor Op.	0	0	90,500	90,500
	Thailand	105,750	105,750	0	0
Norway	Timor Op.	0	0	797,022	797,022
Portugal	Timor Op.	0	0	1,750,000	1,750,000
Republic of Korea	Timor Op.	0	0	100,000	100,000
Sweden	East Asia and Pacific	281,532	281,532	0	0
	Timor Op.	0	0	2,459,721	2,459,721
Switzerland	Timor Op.	0	0	303,030	303,030
	Thailand	303,030	303,030	0	0
United Kingdom	Timor Op.	0	0	463,537	463,537
United States of America	East Asia and Pacific	3,100,000	3,100,000	0	0
	Cambodia	475,000	475,000	0	0
	China	474,000	474,000	0	0
	Indonesia	105,000	105,000	0	0
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	200,000	200,000	0	0
	Malaysia	103,000	103,000	0	0
	Thailand	900,000	900,000	0	0
European Commission	Cambodia	470,746	469,176	0	0
	Timor Op.	0	0	2,683,417	2,677,746
<i>Action Réfugiés (FRA)</i>	Timor Op.	0	0	35,590	35,590
<i>España con ACNUR (SPA)</i>	Timor Op.	0	0	172,641	257,952
UK for UNHCR (GBR)	Timor Op.	0	0	1,954	1,954
Parthenon Trust, UK	Cambodia	396,826	396,826	0	0
	Thailand	396,825	396,825	0	0
The Commission for Solidarity with Asian Underprivileged	Lao People's (JPN)Democratic Republic	33,818	33,818	0	0
Denryoku Soren (JPN)	Timor Op.	0	0	19,608	19,608
Japan Ladies Tennis Fed. (JPN)	Timor Op.	0	0	10,000	10,000
JTUC-RENGO (JPN)	Timor Op.	0	0	93,458	93,458
K. Fukuoka Prefect HQs (JPN)	Timor Op.	0	0	23,924	23,924
Soroptimist International (JPN)	Timor Op.	0	0	28,276	28,276
United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (Gov. of Japan)	Japan	1,906,340	1,906,340	0	0

Voluntary Contributions - Restricted (USD)					
Donor	Earmarking ¹	Annual Programme Budget		Supplementary Programme Budget	
		Income Income	Contribution Contribution	Income Income	Contribution Contribution
Private Donors Australia	Australia	4,902	4,902	0	0
Private Donors Canada	Timor Op.	0	0	212	212
Private Donors Italy	Timor Op.	0	0	13,996	13,996
Private Donors Japan	Cambodia	49	49	0	0
	Timor Op.	0	0	14,396	14,396
Total²		14,103,383	14,101,813	17,536,722	17,616,362

In UNHCR's Annual Accounts for 2000, the Supplementary Programme for the Timor Operation is reported under Indonesia.

¹For more information on the various earmarkings, please refer to the Donor Profiles.

²Total funds available for obligation in the region also included unearmarked voluntary contributions, broadly earmarked contributions, opening balances and adjustments.

Budget and Expenditure (USD)						
Country	Revised Budget			Expenditure		
	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget	Total
Australia and New Zealand	171,891	438,205	1,610,096	1,099,393	425,444	1,524,837
Cambodia	3,455,390	0	3,455,390	3,408,999	0	3,408,999
China	2,206,812	0	2,206,812	2,174,927	0	2,174,927
Indonesia (including East Timor)	1,833,342	36,782,173	38,615,515	1,497,285	28,891,510	30,388,795
Japan	3,280,164	0	3,280,164	3,066,503	0	3,066,503
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	1,224,120	0	1,224,120	1,196,503	0	1,196,503
Malaysia	615,800	0	615,800	525,673	0	525,673
Papua New Guinea	266,800	0	266,800	206,800	0	206,800
Philippines	389,014	0	389,014	357,820	0	357,820
Singapore	60,700	0	60,700	50,500	0	50,500
Thailand	5,389,786	0	5,389,786	5,142,019	0	5,142,019
Viet Nam	156,663	0	156,663	142,709	0	142,709
Regional Projects ¹	252,198	0	252,198	189,630	0	189,630
Bureau at Headquarters	840,991	0	840,991	652,277	241,442	893,719
Total	21,143,671	37,220,378	58,364,049	19,711,038	29,558,396	49,269,434

¹Covers assistance to victims in national disaster, general protection activities and dissemination of refugee law in Asia, assistance to refugees in the South Pacific, repatriation of Indochinese and scholarships for refugees students.