



**UNHCR**

**GLOBAL APPEAL 2015  
UPDATE**

# THAILAND



## | Overview |

### Working environment

- Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a formal national asylum framework. The Thai Government currently hosts refugees from Myanmar in nine temporary shelters along the border.

#### Planned presence

<b>Number of offices</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total personnel</b>	<b>204</b>
International staff	16
National staff	58
JPOs	4
UN Volunteers	8
Others	118

#### 2015 plan at a glance\*

<b>107,900</b>	People of concern (PoC)
<b>37.2 million</b>	Overall funding requirements
<b>20,000</b>	Myanmar refugees targeted to depart through assisted voluntary repatriation
<b>4,500</b>	Refugees targeted to depart for resettlement countries
<b>11,300</b>	Registered asylum-seekers targeted in urban areas in the process of refugee status determination

\* All PoC figures refer to projected 2015 end-year information at time of planning (mid-2014)

- Since early 2012, ceasefires signed between the Myanmar Government and the main non-state armed groups have led to a decrease in security incidents in south-east Myanmar. While conditions are not yet fully conducive for UNHCR to promote voluntary repatriation, it is possible that spontaneous returns might increase in 2015.
- In the wake of the May 2014 military coup, immigration measures in the country were tightened and the policy restricting the movement of undocumented people in border areas was implemented more strictly.
- Rohingya people continue to flee by sea due to communal violence in Myanmar and reach the Thai coast. Men are placed in immigration detention centres and women and children in social community centres.
- The Government continues to assume primary responsibility for addressing statelessness and risks thereof in Thailand. UNHCR supports implementation of the nationality legislation and strategy that deals with people without clear legal status.

# People of concern

Refugees from Myanmar of mostly Kayin and Kayah origin fled armed conflict and have sought refuge in Thailand for more than three decades in temporary shelters administered by the host country.

Refugees and asylum-seekers of more than 40 nationalities are coming to Thailand in increasing numbers. Many live in Bangkok and the surrounding urban areas with no legal means to sustain their livelihoods. Close to 200 are held in immigration detention centres. Those not detained risk arrest and detention, as well as deportation, if found without valid visas.

Rohingya people fleeing communal violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State have been allowed to stay temporarily in Thailand.

Stateless people and people at risk of statelessness in Thailand have either never registered as Thai or lost their connection with former countries of origin due to legislative changes. Others, being habitual residents who had previously lost their citizenship due to legislative changes are now able, through new amendments, to regularize their Thai nationality.

## Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2015		Dec 2015	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Sri Lanka	300	300	500	500
	Myanmar	72,900	72,900	53,600	53,600
	Pakistan	400	400	700	700
	Various	1,800	1,800	2,600	2,600
People in refugee-like situations	Myanmar	51,500	-	32,600	32,600
	Various	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Asylum-seekers	Palestinian	900	900	1,300	1,300
	Pakistan	7,600	7,600	11,500	11,500
	Various	2,800	2,800	4,100	4,100
Stateless	Stateless	506,200	-	506,200	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>645,400</b>	<b>87,700</b>	<b>614,100</b>	<b>107,900</b>

## | Response |

### Needs and strategies

In 2015, UNHCR will continue to focus on core protection activities and developing durable solutions strategies in the face of decreasing funds and reduced services in temporary shelters. Self-reliance and occupational skills development will be prioritized, in addition to reconciliation and peacebuilding activities within communities.

UNHCR will support repatriation, if conditions become conducive in the home countries for voluntary returns to take place in safety and dignity. The organization is leading the overall humanitarian preparedness through activities such as information dissemination, consultations, and enhanced coordination and planning forums.

In urban areas, an ongoing surge of new arrivals continues to delay case processing and may increase risks of arrest and deportation for people of concern, as well as possible exploitation and abuse as they engage in informal work. UNHCR will continue to conduct urgent protection interventions, advocate detention alternatives and seek enhanced access to basic public services, such as health and education, while seeking to raise awareness so that people of concern may fully benefit from existing protection mechanisms.

UNHCR will support the Government in tackling statelessness and risks thereof, through a pilot project aimed at addressing challenges, such as a lack of awareness among populations in remote areas and bottlenecks in local processing of nationality-related applications.

# Main objectives and targets for 2015

The following matrix contains examples of some of the main activities planned in 2015.

Using a selection of objectives from UNHCR's programme plans for the 2014-2015 biennium, it is designed to illustrate:

- what - under the global needs assessment planning and prioritization process - has been planned (**Planned activities**) for particular groups of people of concern (**People of concern**);
- the identified needs that can be covered if full and flexible funding is made available (**2015 comprehensive target**); and
- the needs that may not be met if funding falls short of the ExCom-approved budget (**Potential gap**). The estimation of a potential gap is based on the country operation's own assessment of the likely impact of a global funding shortfall. Calculations are based on various criteria, including the particular context,

strategic priorities and experience of resource availability for the respective area of activity in previous years.

Activities under objectives on child protection (including best interest determination), education and prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are core areas which are given priority in the allocation of funding (priority area). In order to ensure the necessary flexibility in the allocation of funds, UNHCR relies on unrestricted contributions from its donors.

It should be understood that in some cases, targets for activities or delivery of services may not be reached for reasons other than a funding shortfall, e.g. lack of access to people of concern, cases not reported, changing circumstances, security problems, insufficient capacity to implement all programmes planned, etc. In the Global Report 2015, an explanation of why any target may not have been reached will be provided.

Planned activities	People of concern (PoC)	2015 comprehensive target	Potential gap
<b>DURABLE SOLUTIONS</b>			
<b>Potential for resettlement realized</b>			
UNHCR will utilize resettlement to preserve family unity and assist individuals in need of additional protection, such as women and children who may be at risk and refugees for whom return may not be an option.			
<b>Number of cases identified, including women and girls at risk</b>	<b>Myanmar refugees in border camps</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0 gap</b>
<b>Number of PoC provided with information on comprehensive solutions, including resettlement</b>	<b>Myanmar refugees in border camps</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Potential for voluntary return realized</b>			
Under its mandate to lead and coordinate such humanitarian assistance, UNHCR will continue to develop a comprehensive solutions strategy. The Office will also provide support for the development of a voluntary repatriation framework including an information management strategy. UNHCR will advocate, with the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand, the importance and value of a tripartite agreement in the event that voluntary repatriation can take place under safe and dignified conditions.			
<b>Number of people reached by mass information campaigns</b>	<b>Myanmar refugees in border camps</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>Number of go and see visits conducted</b>	<b>Myanmar refugees in border camps</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>

Planned activities	People of concern (PoC)	2015 comprehensive target	Potential gap
<b>FAIR PROTECTION PROCESSES AND DOCUMENTATION</b>			
<b>Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved</b>			
<p>UNHCR will continue conducting registration and refugee status determination for asylum-seekers in Bangkok and endeavour to expand the protection and asylum space for urban asylum-seekers and refugees.</p> <p>The number of asylum-seekers at the end of 2014 is estimated to reach 11,300, leading to a significant increase in the overall waiting period. The Office aims to gradually reduce the average number of days in 2015 from registration to first instance interview, and from first instance interview to notification of first instance decision.</p>			
Number of events, workshops and seminars organized	Refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas	6	3
Number of UNHCR status determination staff trained	Refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas	40	20
<b>SECURITY FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION</b>			
<b>Risks related to detention reduced and freedom of movement increased</b>			
<p>UNHCR will closely work with the Thai Government regarding the situation of Rohingya individuals, who may be at risk of indefinite detention or of <i>refoulement</i>.</p> <p>UNHCR will promote alternatives to the detention of refugees and asylum-seekers while, in the meantime, advocating improved conditions of stay and release of detained children.</p>			
Number of events, workshops and seminars organized	Refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas	2	1
Number of monitoring visits to detention centres conducted and recorded	Refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas	80	10
<b>DURABLE SOLUTIONS</b>			
<b>Greater reduction of statelessness achieved</b>			
<p>UNHCR will support the Government in implementing its national strategy to address statelessness and enhance access to nationality-related application processes for stateless people and those at risk of statelessness who meet government criteria to apply for Thai nationality.</p>			
Extent to which the strategy to address protracted statelessness is developed and implemented	Stateless people in Thailand	100%	20%

## | Implementation |

### Coordination

UNHCR chairs the Donor Humanitarian Agencies Working Group, bringing together donors and international organizations (including IOM and NGOs) for strategic and operational discussions related to refugee protection and durable solutions in the nine temporary shelters. It also chairs the Voluntary Repatriation Coordination Group, comprising refugee leaders from camps, humanitarian organizations and donors.

The Office coordinates the inter-agency Detention Task Force to advocate alternatives to detaining refugees and actively participates in the UN Country Team. UNHCR also leads the Statelessness Support Group, an inter-agency network of national and international organizations that aims to support the Government in implementing its strategy on nationality.

## Partners

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministry of Interior

#### NGOs:

Adventist Development and Relief Agency, American Refugee Committee, Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees, Handicap International, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Service, *Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale*, *The Border Consortium*

#### Others:

UNOPS, UNV

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, National Security Council

#### NGOs:

Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, Asylum Access, DARE Network, Malteser International, Plan International, Right To Play, Save the Children, *Shanti* Volunteer Association, *Solidarités Internationale*, Taipei Overseas Peace Service, Women's Education for Advancement and Empowerment, World Education

#### Others:

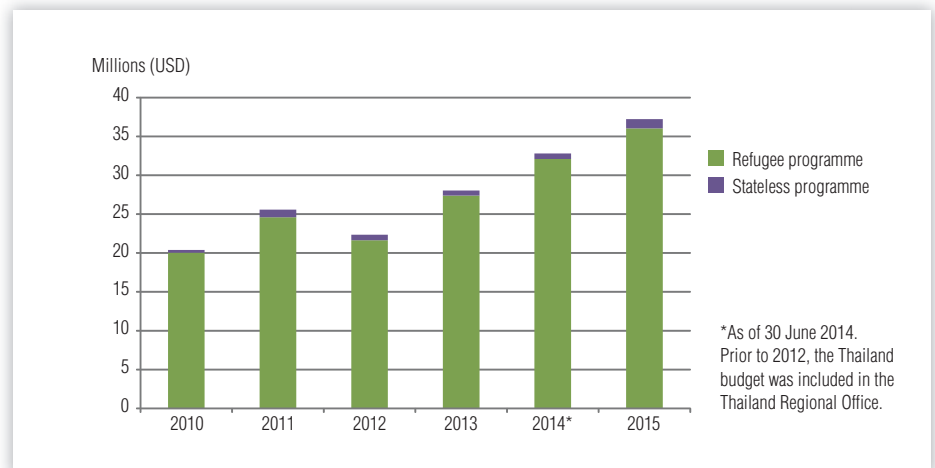
Finish Refugee Council, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

## | Financial information |

For the past five years, UNHCR's budget evolved in response to emerging challenges and opportunities, such as: the surge of new arrivals in urban areas; Rohingya people found to be in need of protection; the growing prospect of voluntary repatriation becoming a genuine durable solution for refugees from Myanmar on the border; and an opportunity to strengthen national civil registration processes for stateless people.

The Office's comprehensive needs for 2015 are set at USD 37.2 million. Without the necessary resources, UNHCR will not be able to reach all people of concern and activities will be prioritized for the most vulnerable.

### Budgets for Thailand | 2010–2015



## 2015 budget for Thailand | USD

Budget breakdown	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
<b>2014 revised budget (as of 30 June 2014)</b>	<b>32,093,244</b>	<b>710,059</b>	<b>32,803,303</b>
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
Law and policy	0	387,167	<b>387,167</b>
Access to legal assistance and remedies	1,756,401	0	<b>1,756,401</b>
Access to territory and <i>refoulement</i> risk reduced	590,307	0	<b>590,307</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,346,708</b>	<b>387,167</b>	<b>2,733,874</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Registration and profiling	1,267,147	0	<b>1,267,147</b>
Status determination procedures	2,128,599	0	<b>2,128,599</b>
Civil registration and status documentation	491,288	0	<b>491,288</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,887,034</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,887,034</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Prevention and response to SGBV	964,147	0	<b>964,147</b>
Freedom of movement and detention risk reduced	1,143,502	0	<b>1,143,502</b>
Protection of children	1,865,553	0	<b>1,865,553</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,973,202</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,973,202</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Health	2,707,846	0	<b>2,707,846</b>
Reproductive health and HIV services	337,735	0	<b>337,735</b>
Shelter and infrastructure	2,027,783	0	<b>2,027,783</b>
Basic and domestic items	3,276,162	0	<b>3,276,162</b>
Services for people with specific needs	173,924	0	<b>173,924</b>
Education	953,216	0	<b>953,216</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9,476,666</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,476,666</b>
<b>Community empowerment and self-reliance</b>			
Natural resources and shared environment	2,027,783	0	<b>2,027,783</b>
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	1,027,783	0	<b>1,027,783</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,055,567</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,055,567</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Comprehensive solutions strategy	849,096	0	<b>849,096</b>
Voluntary return	7,947,103	0	<b>7,947,103</b>
Resettlement	1,530,981	0	<b>1,530,981</b>
Reduction of statelessness	0	534,583	<b>534,583</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10,327,179</b>	<b>534,583</b>	<b>10,861,763</b>
<b>Leadership, coordination and partnerships</b>			
Coordination and partnerships	872,136	149,583	<b>1,021,719</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>872,136</b>	<b>149,583</b>	<b>1,021,719</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Logistics and supply	202,458	0	<b>202,458</b>
Operations management, coordination and support	1,894,593	126,583	<b>2,021,176</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,097,051</b>	<b>126,583</b>	<b>2,223,634</b>
<b>2015 total budget</b>	<b>36,035,542</b>	<b>1,197,917</b>	<b>37,233,459</b>