

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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

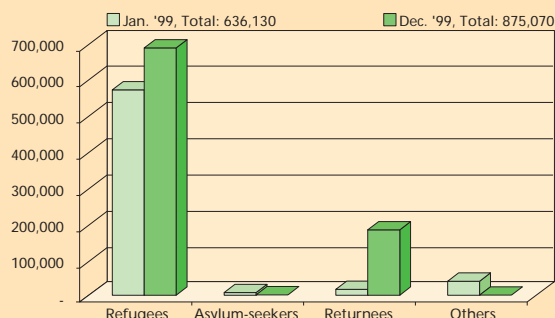


MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The year 1999 was marked by the outbreak of violence in East Timor in the aftermath of the UN-sponsored referendum on 30 August. As a result of the violence, three quarters of the population were displaced and a large number of houses, public buildings and services destroyed. UNHCR provided emergency relief, transportation and fuel for internally displaced persons in East Timor and refugees in camps in West Timor. From October 1999, UNHCR conducted a large-scale voluntary repatriation of refugees, in spite of constant intimidation and violent opposition from militia

groups in West Timor. By the end of 1999, some 130,000 persons had returned to East Timor from Indonesia and elsewhere, the majority of them through UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme with the assistance of IOM.

Persons of Concern to UNHCR



CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

During the first half of 1999, UNHCR's principal concerns were to promote asylum throughout the region, achieve lasting solutions for refugees, provide sustainable reintegration assistance to returnees, and to develop improved ways to anticipate and respond to new refugee outflows. In the second half of the year, developments in East Timor presented a major challenge and UNHCR's emergency response and contingency planning mechanisms were activated. As of September 1999, considerable resources were deployed: virtually all the offices in the region were mobilised. In order to address other potential flash-points in the region, training was arranged and planning meetings were held with interested governments and regional forums such as the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Consultations on Regional Approaches to Refugees and Displaced Persons (APC).

PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTIONS

The APC, initiated in 1996, has become a self-sustaining process, whereby countries in the Asia-Pacific region discuss refugee and migration issues. The fourth meeting of the APC, co-hosted by UNHCR and the Government of Nepal, was held in June 1999. The meeting recommended that, due to the diversity of the region, sub-regional and expert meetings should be convened between plenary sessions. The first sub-regional meeting of the Mekong countries was held in Cambodia in December 1999. The issues discussed related to returnee reintegration and capacity building. The second sub-regional meeting, with participation of officials from countries in the Pacific, was held in February 2000 in New Zealand.

OPERATIONS

UNHCR **Australia** continued to work on the promotion of refugee law, resettlement and external relations throughout the South Pacific region. Activities include training, seminars, lectures, the publication of a quarterly newsletter, public awareness campaigns and the sponsoring of UNHCR Goodwill Sporting Representatives in the lead up to the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

In **China**, UNHCR phased out its local settlement assistance to 292,000 Vietnamese refugees at the end of the year, as planned. A revolving credit scheme will con-

tinue to foster self-reliance for refugees. The scheme also offers employment opportunities for both refugees and the host community. UNHCR carried out activities to determine refugee status and consulted with the Government regarding the protection of individual urban refugees and persons of concern of various nationalities. Public awareness activities were also conducted.

In **Hong Kong, (China)**, UNHCR continued its efforts to promote durable solutions through self-reliance and local integration for the remaining 1,400 Vietnamese refugees and so-called "non-nationals" in Hong Kong.

In Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore, UNHCR provided protection to individual asylum-seekers from various countries and continued to search for lasting solutions on their behalf. Refugee rights were promoted through public awareness, constituency building and training initiatives.

In October 1999, UNHCR concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of **Indonesia**, which set forth a framework for the protection of refugees from East Timor and affirmed the voluntary nature of the repatriation programme to East Timor. Despite this agreement, access to refugees in West Timor has remained problematic, and it has been difficult to determine the number of refugees remaining. UNHCR has however continued to pursue its mandated functions in West Timor, despite persistent threats and intimidation by militias. In order to counteract the militias' misinformation and psychological intimidation of the refugee population, UNHCR launched an active mass information campaign. At the same time, plans are being drawn up with the Government to assist the local integration of those refugees who wish to remain in Indonesia.

In **Malaysia**, two contingency planning and emergency preparedness workshops were held in co-operation with the authorities, in light of regional developments that could lead to future population displacements. Fund-raising activities continued for the Kosovo Emergency.

In the **Philippines**, besides actively pursuing and implementing lasting solutions for 177 urban refugees, through resettlement, repatriation and local integration, UNHCR also trained immigration officials to determine refugee status in accordance with international standards.

In **East Timor**, UNHCR is facilitating the reintegration of returnees by giving shelter materials to those whose houses were destroyed. UNHCR has worked closely with international and local NGOs in the purchase and distribution of 35,000 housing units for 200,000 persons. Discussions with the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), other UN agencies and the World Bank are underway to ensure an effective transition from initial reintegration activities to long-term community rehabilitation, reconciliation and development.

In **Japan** and the **Republic of Korea**, UNHCR's main activities were the protection of persons of concern; raising public awareness on refugee issues; and resource mobilisation. UNHCR's web site in Japanese, for example, continued to generate widespread public interest in UNHCR's work, especially with regard to the Kosovo and Timor emergencies. UNHCR continued to advise government officials in Japan and the Republic of Korea on the development of refugee legislation and provided training on procedures to determine refugee status.

In May 1999, UNHCR **Thailand** completed the registration of 99,700 refugees, mainly Karen and Karenni from Myanmar, located in 11 camps along the border. More than 15,000 refugees from two camps at risk of cross-border incursions were relocated to a safer site inland. UNHCR continued to work closely with the Government of Thailand on the admission of new arrivals into the camps. Despite the hostage-taking incident at the Myanmar Embassy in October 1999 in Bangkok, Thailand reiterated its policy of providing temporary asylum to Myanmar refugees.

The year 1999 also witnessed the successful repatriation of 1,162 Laotians from Ban Napho refugee camp in Thailand. An individual status review in 1998 found that these persons no longer met internationally recognised refugee criteria. Their organised return was the fruit of a tripartite consultative meeting between Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and UNHCR. This repatriation concludes the final chapter of the former Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) in Thailand. UNHCR continues to seek resettlement solutions for the remaining 116 refugees in the Ban Napho camp.

The repatriation of the remaining 47,000 Cambodian refugees in camps in Thailand was completed in March 1999. UNHCR continued to monitor their progress in **Cambodia** and to promote their reintegration through community-based projects.

In the **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, UNHCR assisted more than 29,000 returnees from Thailand, China, and other countries. In September 1999, a transit centre was built to accommodate the 1,162 Laotians who returned from Ban Napho camp in Thailand. UNHCR continued to ensure the well being of all returnees and their integration through its protection and programme activities. Of the 36 rural settlements assisted by UNHCR, 28 can now be considered self-sufficient and efforts are being made to find and implement appropriate solutions in the remaining eight. UNHCR strengthened links with the Government and development agencies in preparation for the gradual phasing down of its activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. UNHCR sponsored the participation of government officials in courses and meetings related to international law, immigration law and internal displacement. It also funded the translation of various documents such as the 1951 Convention, UNHCR's Statute and the Guidelines on Determination of Refugee Status.

UNHCR's presence in **Viet Nam** has been downgraded to a liaison office. Monitoring of the repatriation and reintegration of returnees was conducted on a smaller scale than in previous years. The year 1999 was marked by the worst flood of the century. It affected returnee areas in the central provinces, destroying or damaging many UNHCR-funded projects. UNHCR disbursed limited funds from its operational reserve in response to an emergency appeal from the Government. During the year, 89 Vietnamese repatriated from Hong Kong, the Philippines and Malaysia. By the end of the year, 109,894 screened-out Vietnamese asylum-seekers had returned from the countries covered by the CPA since 1989 (Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore).

FUNDING

Compared to other regions, the programme in the East Asia and the Pacific region has traditionally been relatively well funded, partially because of the diminishing size of respective operations after the completion of CPA. The year 1999 was no exception. However, heavy earmarking in Cambodia and late contributions to the Thai/Myanmar border operation did have a negative impact on the quality and flexibility of implementation of planned activities. The East Timor crisis, the region's biggest challenge in the recent years, was fully funded thanks to the generous and timely response of a number of donors.

Voluntary Contributions - Earmarked (USD)

Donor	Earmarking*	General Programmes		Special Programmes/OTF	
		Income	Contribution	Income	Contribution
AUSTRALIA					
	Repat./Reint. Cambodian Ref.	0	0	325,521	325,521
	Timor Op.	0	0	5,223,248	5,223,248
	Thailand	0	0	48,242	48,242
CANADA					
	Timor Op.	0	0	204,082	204,082
CHINA					
	Thailand	0	0	14,900	14,900
DENMARK					
	Timor Op.	0	0	1,709,813	1,709,813
FINLAND					
	Timor Op.	0	0	365,003	365,003
FRANCE					
	Repat./Reint. Cambodian Ref.	0	0	163,222	163,222
	Timor Op.	0	0	267,603	267,603
	THA/MYA Border Op.	0	0	81,436	81,436
GERMANY					
	Timor Op.	0	0	830,486	830,486
	THA/MYA Border Op.	0	0	300,000	300,000
IRELAND					
	Timor Op.	0	0	269,012	269,012
JAPAN					
	Repat./Reint. Cambodian Ref.	0	0	1,530,000	1,530,000
	Cambodia	20,000	20,000	0	0
	Japan	0	0	536,723	536,723
	Indonesia	120,000	120,000	0	0
	Timor Op.	0	0	7,636,887	7,636,887
	Malaysia	110,000	110,000	0	0
	Philippines	70,000	70,000	0	0
	Singapore	10,000	10,000	0	0
	THA/MYA Border Op.	0	0	900,000	900,000
	Thailand	640,000	640,000	40,000	40,000
LUXEMBOURG					
	Timor Op.	0	0	260,392	260,392
THE NETHERLANDS					
	Timor Op.	0	0	2,284,900	2,284,900
NEW ZEALAND					
	Timor Op.	0	0	549,123	549,123
	THA/MYA Border Op.	0	0	80,175	80,175
NORWAY					
	Repat./Reint. Cambodian Ref.	0	0	381,340	381,340
	Timor Op.	0	0	639,706	639,706
PHILIPPINES					
	Repat./Reint. Cambodian Ref.	0	0	1,350	1,350
PORTUGAL					
	Timor Op.	0	0	400,000	400,000
REPUBLIC OF KOREA					
	Timor Op.	0	0	100,000	100,000
SPAIN					
	Timor Op.	0	0	465,905	465,905

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Donor	Earmarking*	General Programmes		Special Programmes/OTF	
		Income	Contribution	Income	Contribution
SWEDEN					
	Timor Op.	0	0	319,290	319,290
	THA/MYA Border Op.	0	0	330,253	330,253
SWITZERLAND					
	Timor Op.	0	0	328,947	328,947
	THA/MYA Border Op.	0	0	324,675	324,675
UNITED KINGDOM					
	Repat./Reint. Cambodian Ref.	0	0	640,000	640,000
	Timor Op.	0	0	323,934	323,934
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA					
	Repat./Reint. Cambodian Ref.	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
	Timor Op.	0	0	12,000,000	12,000,000
	THA/MYA Border Op.	0	0	850,000	850,000
	CPA	0	0	1,643,634	1,643,634
	East Asia	2,600,000	2,600,000	0	0
EUROPEAN COMMISSION					
	Repat./Reint. Cambodian Ref.	0	0	540,326	528,055
	Timor Op.	0	0	961,735	1,007,049
ESPAÑA CON ACNUR (SPA)					
	Timor Op.	0	0	32,231	64,462
UK FOR UNHCR (GBR)					
	Thailand	1,429	1,429	0	0
	China	357	357	0	0
MAINICHI SHIMBUN SOCIAL WELFARE FOUND. (JPN)					
	Repat./Reint. Cambodian Ref.	0	0	1,667	1,667
THE COMMISSION FOR SOLIDARITY WITH ASIAN UNDERPRIVILEGED (JPN)					
	CPA	0	0	142,109	142,109
THE KADOORIE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION (CHINA)					
	Repat./Reint. Cambodian Ref.	0	0	100,000	100,000
RÉFUGIÉS DU MONDE (FRA)					
	Timor Op.	0	0	9,768	9,768
PRIVATE DONORS AUSTRALIA					
	Timor Op.	0	0	654	654
PRIVATE DONORS FRANCE					
	Timor Op.	0	0	8	7
PRIVATE DONORS JAPAN					
	Timor Op.	0	0	4,450	4,450
PRIVATE DONORS THAILAND					
	THA/MYA Border Op.	0	0	13	13
TOTAL **		3,571,786	3,571,786	45,162,763	45,228,036

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

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



Budget and Expenditure (USD)

Country	Working Budget*		Expenditure*	
	General Programmes	Special Programmes	General Programmes	Special Programmes
Australia and New Zealand	942,280	324,633	922,035	206,365
Cambodia	110,200	4,494,573	110,200	4,376,203
China	2,217,878	1,741,870	2,090,752	1,622,838
Indonesia	6,594,757	21,681,157	3,469,640	23,974,183
Japan	2,772,864	758,827	2,746,888	675,218
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	0	1,729,250	0	1,724,435
Malaysia	598,927	0	590,416	0
Papua New Guinea	128,081	0	110,000	0
The Philippines	358,676	0	343,845	0
Singapore	62,557	0	56,300	0
Thailand	2,618,574	5,280,224	2,334,437	4,790,870
Viet Nam	25,000	620,160	25,000	620,159
Regional Projects	156,250	116,040	121,600	106,568
TOTAL	16,586,044	36,746,734	12,921,113	38,096,838

* Figures do not include costs at Headquarters.