UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
REGIONAL FACTSHEET
November 2025

16.9 million people UNHCR protects/assists *as of mid-2025*

6.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers in the region *as of mid-2025*

6.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the region *as of mid-2025*

2.6 million **stateless** people in the region *as of mid-2025*

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The Asia and Pacific region faces a complex landscape of emergency and protracted humanitarian crises that call for greater responsibility-sharing and approaches that prioritize inclusive protection, sustainable responses, and lasting solutions. Although 20 countries in the region are signatories to the 1951 Refugee Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol, protection environments vary widely, making sustained advocacy essential to uphold rights and expand access to asylum and solutions. Today, the region hosts around 16.9 million forcibly displaced and stateless people, including 6.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers, 6.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 2.6 million stateless people.

In this context, UNHCR works closely with governments, partners, and communities to strengthen protection systems, foster inclusion, and advance sustainable and innovative solutions. However, with funding levels critically low, predictable and flexible support remains more urgent than ever to sustain life-saving assistance and advance protection and solutions across the region.

UNHCR PRESENCE

45 countries covered by UNHCR

13 Country Offices

3 Multi-Country Offices covering **25 countries**

7 countries covered by the Regional Bureau

FUNDING

In 2025, UNHCR requires $957.9 million to support responses across Asia and the Pacific. As of end-October 2025, the region is 40% funded.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

PROTECTION & SOLUTIONS

UNHCR supports protection and solutions, addressing barriers to asylum, movement restrictions, detention, and refoulement, particularly for refugees from Afghanistan and Myanmar. UNHCR advocates against involuntary returns, promotes alternatives to detention, and strengthens national asylum systems through technical advice, legislative support, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

UNHCR is focused on advancing solutions like resettlement, complementary pathways, labour mobility, and livelihoods, while facilitating voluntary return across the region where feasible. It supports IDPs with basic needs, protection, and sustainable solutions, and works with governments to prevent and reduce statelessness, exemplified by initiatives across Central Asia and Thailand.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSES

UNHCR promotes innovative and sustainable responses that present strategic opportunities to address urgent humanitarian and protection needs while advancing long-term solutions.

As long as refugees are unable to return home safely and voluntarily or access resettlement amid shrinking opportunities, responsibility must be shared with refugee-hosting countries through integration into national systems and expanded pathways for self-reliance.

This 'whole-of-society approach' requires coordinated engagement from governments, humanitarian and development actors, civil society, and displaced communities themselves, ensuring solutions are inclusive, practical, and durable.

ADVOCACY & POLICY CHANGE

Advocacy is central to shaping policies and services that improve the lives of displaced and stateless people. In countries of origin and asylum, UNHCR engages with national political, economic, and social systems to align policies, practices, and laws with international standards.

UNHCR brings together governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and civil society to advance practical solutions, such as promoting the voluntary nature of refugee returns to Afghanistan through the Support Platform of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), while supporting the implementation of Global Refugee Forum pledges and translating commitments into concrete action on protection, inclusion, and durable solutions.

DATA DRIVEN INSIGHTS

UNHCR gathers and maintains high-quality data on refugees and other forcibly displaced people through registration, household surveys, and needs assessments. This evidence drives planning, analysis, and policy development across the region, offering a detailed, disaggregated, and standards-based understanding of displacement dynamics to inform effective and evidence-based responses.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Regional Centre for Emergency Preparedness – eCentre enhances the capacity of nearly 8,000 partners across governments, UN agencies, and NGOs in the region, ensuring readiness for effective crise response. Within the first 72 hours of an emergency, UNHCR can mobilize supplies for 1 million people and deploy expert staff, providing life-saving assistance and protection, including shelter, clean water, food, healthcare, and family reunification, to safeguard displaced populations.

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Afghanistan faces a convergence of crises that threaten its fragile stability. Human rights violations, recurrent natural disasters, and a struggling economy continue to erode already limited coping mechanisms. These overlapping challenges disproportionately affect the most vulnerable, particularly women and girls, whose access to education, public spaces, work and services remains severely restricted under discriminatory policies imposed by the de facto authorities. Despite a non-return advisory, large-scale returns from neighbouring countries are adding pressure on communities and services in high return areas, where support is provided via the Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs) approach.

Against this backdrop of deepening hardship for Afghans in Iran and Pakistan, UNHCR is supporting as resources allow, while promoting longer-term solutions and strengthening host community assistance. Greater responsibility-sharing remains essential to improve conditions for voluntary, safe, and sustainable return and expand strategic investments in resilience and stabilization programmes, preventing further displacement and easing pressure on national systems. To support this, UNHCR is operationalizing a Panoramic/Route-Based Approach to bolster access to protection, assistance, and durable solutions for people on the move.

Building on these region-wide efforts, UNHCR is also advancing solutions and advocacy through the regional Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, the multi-stakeholder pledge, and the Regional Refugee Response Plan, while strengthening pathways for sustainable reintegration and livelihoods. However, funding is critically low, with only 36% of the requested $478 million received.

Conflict in Myanmar continues to intensify, driving new internal displacement and cross border movements, while placing immense strain on protection and humanitarian systems. Despite insecurity and access constraints, UNHCR and partners are responding across Myanmar as resources allow, including support for communities affected by the March 2025 earthquake. In line with its 2023 Guidance Note, UNHCR calls on States to provide access to territory, uphold the right to seek asylum, and respect the principle of non-refoulement for people fleeing Myanmar. Across the region, UNHCR advocates for sustainable solutions and greater self-reliance for those displaced from Myanmar, including Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, emphasizing that voluntary, safe return in conditions of dignity remains the most desirable outcome.

At the same time, rising irregular maritime movements put refugees and asylum-seekers at severe risk. In 2024 alone, around 11,300 attempted such journeys, with some 650 reported dead or missing at sea. UNHCR is operationalizing a Panoramic/Route-Based Approach prioritizing protection at sea, predictable disembarkation arrangements and safe, legal pathways. UNHCR is also working with the Bali Process, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the inter-agency Regional Protection Group to bolster regional coordination, protection, solutions, and resilience in host countries. Advancing commitments under the Rohingya multi-stakeholder pledge at the Global Refugee Forum through a 'whole-of-government' approach remains a key priority.

Within this broader regional context, positive policy shifts in Thailand are expanding opportunities for protection and inclusion: a historic Cabinet resolution is paving the way for lawful permanent residency for over 300,000 stateless people, citizenship for their children, and legal work rights for long-staying refugees from Myanmar. These measures mark significant progress in addressing statelessness and creating pathways to durable solutions in the region. However, funding remains low, with about 41% of the requested $383.1 million received.

PARTNERSHIPS & COORDINATION

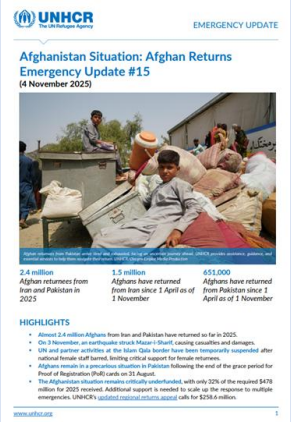
UNHCR aims to apply a strategic and coherent approach to partnerships and inter-agency coordination across Asia and the Pacific. The focus is on supporting governments to lead refugee responses while fostering collaboration with UN agencies, NGOs, development actors, and other stakeholders. UNHCR plays a central role supporting the coordination of responses to major displacement situations, while engaging with regional bodies such as ASEAN, sub-regional mechanisms, and other platforms to advance protection and solutions.

Working closely with stakeholders, UNHCR convenes regional consultations with civil society, government counterparts, and NGOs to discuss effective protection approaches and durable solutions. These major events provide an important forum for debate on global and regional themes and offer opportunities for innovative collaboration on advocacy, operational challenges, and policy development.

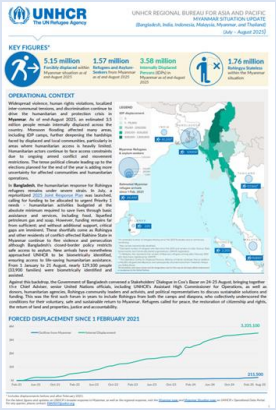
As part of this ongoing engagement, the 2025 Regional Consultation with NGOs took place on 17–18 September, co-hosted with the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network and the International Council for Voluntary Agencies. Held online, the consultation brought together over 250 civil society actors from 26 countries, including refugee-led, stateless-led, women-led, youth-led, disability-led, minority-led, and faith-based groups, to discuss effective protection and solutions. Co-developed with a 14-member Civil Society Advisory Board, discussions focused on the Panoramic/Route-Based Approach, localization, and meaningful participation of affected communities, reinforcing equitable partnerships as a prerequisite for sustainable, accountable, and impactful regional responses.

SPOTLIGHT ON REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS

UNHCR Asia & the Pacific Regional Trends 2024



UNHCR Afghanistan Situation: Afghan Returns Emergency Update #15



UNHCR Myanmar Situation Regional Update #4 (July - August 2025)

FUNDING SITUATION

Across the Asia and the Pacific region, UNHCR has been forced to reprioritize programmes due to constrained humanitarian funding. Many refugees, stateless people, and other forcibly displaced populations face reduced access to critical assistance, with women and children among the most affected.

UNHCR is deeply grateful to the following donors who have stepped forward with earmarked contributions and those providing flexible funding, enabling life-saving assistance and protection to reach those most in need. These contributions are vital to sustaining operations and supporting the most vulnerable across the region.

Austria | Australia | Belgium | Canada | China | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Islamic Development Bank | Italy | Japan | Republic of Korea | Luxembourg | the Netherlands (Kingdom of) | Norway | Poland | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | UN Central Emergency Response Fund | UN Country-based Pooled Funds | UN Joint Programmes | UN Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan

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To learn more about UNHCR's work in the region, visit the regional Operational Data Portal, website, X and Instagram.

UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (RBAP)

UNHCR ASIA & THE PACIFIC PRESENCE MAP

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties.

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