

# Annual Results Report

**2022**

**Thailand Multi Country**

## Acknowledgements

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

The Royal Thai Government (RTG) reported that some 6,500 Myanmar refugees have crossed into Thailand since the events of February 2021. The RTG continued to manage new arrivals from Myanmar separately from those already residing in the nine camps. Refugees arriving in Thailand after February 2021 continued to be received in the Temporary Safety Areas (TSAs) managed by the Royal Thai Army and would sometimes return to Myanmar once fighting subsided. In addition to this group, some refugees also reportedly reside outside the TSAs although no official numbers are available for this group. UNHCR was unable to conduct protection assessments and verify the circumstances of returns because of a lack of access to both sites.

The number of new asylum-seekers approaching UNHCR returned to pre-COVID-19 levels. Besides, there was an increase in the number of Rohingya refugees arriving and detained in Thailand – UNHCR registered 439 individuals in 2022. The implementation of the National Screening Mechanism (NSM) is still pending. Cambodia's Refugee Department resumed operation after a two-year hiatus because of COVID-19.

In 2022, the number of registered stateless in Thailand increased by 13,000 to 574,000, with 6,000 individuals obtaining Thai nationality and 300 receiving permanent residency. Improvements in the legal framework, particularly regarding access to permanent residency, are yet to achieve significant results. In Cambodia, capacity building on civil registration continued while Viet Nam prioritized efforts to strengthen the legal framework and address statelessness.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

**Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to territory, are protected from refoulement, and are able to seek asylum and enjoy full range of rights through strengthened national protection frameworks**

**Statelessness is identified, prevented and reduced through effective implementation of improved law and policy frameworks, including those related to civil registration and vital statistics, legal identity and nationality procedures**

| Country  | Indicators   | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 1.1 Proportion of individuals seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures. | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100.00%         | 100.00%       |
| Thailand | 1.2 Proportion of PoC who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence. [GCR 2.1.2]  | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 0.21%           | 0.21%         |

#### Impact Statement 1a

UNHCR continued to advocate with the RTG to ensure access to territory for newly arriving refugees, adherence to the non-refoulement principle, and refugees' access to humanitarian assistance during their stay in Thailand. The RTG generally kept the border open for those fleeing from Myanmar and accommodated them in TSAs. UNHCR maintained the refugee coordination structure with NGO and community-based organisation and civil society partners in Bangkok and field locations to promote a coordinated response, strategic advocacy, and enhanced information sharing. UNHCR advocated for access to livelihood opportunities outside the camps for refugees residing in the camps. In this regard, UNHCR prepared a non-paper outlining the strategy shared with relevant actors at the national and field levels. Although this triggered high-level discussions among RTG agencies, the issue is still being discussed by the relevant RTG agencies.

In 2022, some progress was made on the National Screening Mechanism (NSM), a mechanism that aims to distinguish people who need international protection from economic migrants. The Thai Cabinet approved the NSM Criteria which are still pending final approval and publication in the Royal Gazette. UNHCR continued to carry out capacity building initiatives, participate in committee and sub-committee meetings and provide technical support to the RTG. In addition, UNHCR observed reduced detention amongst urban asylum-seekers and refugees (non-Rohingya). By year end, 57 asylum-seekers and refugees were in detention.

In Cambodia, UNHCR provided capacity-building training to newly recruited officers in the Refugee Department after a two-year hiatus because of COVID-19 restrictions.

#### Impact Statement 1b

6,000 individuals obtained Thai nationality and 300 permanent residency and 13,000 stateless individuals were identified and registered by year end. A project with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Chiang Rai provided legal assistance to 7,100 stateless individuals and supported 800 individuals to access nationality and permanent residency in 2022.

In 2022, the RTG moved to enforce the 2021 Cabinet Resolution on the legal status and rights of people who had migrated and stayed in Thailand for a long period of time. An electronic application process was introduced and training to government officials provided by the RTG. Although implementation remains slow, the Cabinet Resolution has the potential to improve the legal status for approximately 400,000 stateless people.

In Cambodia, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, with support from UNHCR, conducted Training of Trainer (ToT) workshops for 60 selected civil registrars on legislation and procedures. In addition, 131 officials in charge of civil and birth registration in four provinces were trained on how to complete and issue civil registration documentation.

Vietnam saw legal status issues resolved for 6,000 individuals in 2022. With UNHCR's support, the Ministry of Justice conducted guidance workshops for local registrars. Assessment missions were carried out to support local level efforts to resolve outstanding issues related to the legal status of vulnerable groups. The Department of Civil Registration, Nationality and Authentication under the Ministry of Justice also conducted research and developed detailed guidance documents on civil registration and nationality procedures.

## 2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

**Refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and stateless persons enjoy improved access to basic rights and essential services through strengthened law and policy, improved understanding, capacity and coordination amongst service providers, and greater awareness of persons of concern as rights holders.**

| Country  | Indicators   | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 98.17%          | 100.00%       |

UNHCR continued to coordinate inter-agency preparedness and response to the Myanmar Emergency although humanitarian access to new arrivals was not always granted despite UNHCR's sustained advocacy.

UNHCR focused on protection in the nine refugee camps, including through raising awareness on children's physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, and material assistance to people with specific needs (PSNs). The distribution of sanitary materials enabled the uninterrupted participation of women and girls in school and community life while the installation of solar panels and streetlights in several camps expanded the use of clean energy and enhanced security.

UNHCR also expanded activities to raise GBV awareness in camps and urban settings and initiated the Engaging Men in Accountable Practice (EMAP) project to enhance GBV prevention and response. Under the project's framework, UNHCR delivered various workshops on psychosocial support and positive parenting.

In urban areas, UNHCR implemented best interest procedures for 15 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), 23 children at heightened risk and seven cases pending resettlement consideration. Internal capacity building activities were undertaken to strengthen the identification of protection issues.

In 2022, 69 per cent of urban refugees received multi-purpose cash grants. This was a decrease of 8 per cent from 2021 and was largely due to the improved post-COVID-19 situation which enhanced access to informal livelihood opportunities. The number of healthcare referrals made by the Bangkok Refugee Centre for non-urgent care increased by 20 per cent or similar reasons.

The Thailand National Health Commission Office also developed a policy recommendation to facilitate access to healthcare for stateless people approved by the cabinet.

### 3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons are able to become self-reliant and benefit from access to inclusive and equitable quality education, meaningful livelihood opportunities and increased community empowerment and engagement, in a safe and discrimination-free environment, including on gender-related grounds.

| Country  | Indicators   | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1] | Stateless Persons           | 84.82%          | 82.18%        |
| Thailand | 3.2a Proportion of PoC enrolled in primary education                 | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 58.69%          | 64.06%        |
| Thailand | 3.2a Proportion of PoC enrolled in primary education                 | Stateless Persons           | 71.87%          | 78.41%        |
| Thailand | 3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education               | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 65.22%          | 87.29%        |
| Thailand | 3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education               | Stateless Persons           | 23.64%          | 22.90%        |

Improving access to meaningful feedback mechanisms to better respond to refugees needs in the border camps was one of the ways UNHCR sought to bolster its engagement with refugee communities throughout the operation's management cycle.

By year end, more women were involved in the camps' leadership which helped ensure women's voices were represented. Through the work of Humanity and Inclusion, the social inclusion, well-being and functional rehabilitation of people with disabilities was further enhanced with community members demonstrating a better understanding of how to identify people with disabilities as well as the appropriate referral pathways. Moreover, some people with disabilities demonstrated increased self-reliance and improved mental health after receiving more targeted support.

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, UNHCR was able to conduct a comprehensive participatory assessment amongst the urban asylum-seeker and refugee population. UNHCR also expanded its community outreach via a range of interventions and feedback mechanisms. A reduction in the level of support provided to urban refugees through cash-based interventions indicated an improvement in access to informal livelihood opportunities amongst the urban refugee population.

UNHCR, in partnership with COERR Foundation, provided Thai language classes and equipped 22 children with the required skills to ease their integration into Thai public schools. Referrals to the formal education system saw 541 children study at the primary education level and 118 at the secondary level by year end.

### 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Refugees and stateless persons have improved access to a range of durable solutions, including local integration, third-country solutions, facilitated voluntary return and acquisition of nationality.

| Country  | Indicators   | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin. [RF/GCR 4.2.1] | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 5               | 8             |

|          |  |                             |       |       |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Thailand | 4.2a Number of PoC who departed on resettlement. [GCR 3.1.1]                   | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 523   | 874   |
| Thailand | 4.2b Number of PoC who departed through complementary pathways                 | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 121   | 754   |
| Thailand | 4.3a Number of stateless persons for whom nationality is granted or confirmed. | Stateless Persons           | 4,639 | 6,212 |
| Thailand | 4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed.     | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 0     | 0     |

In 2022, UNHCR facilitated the departure of 874 refugees for resettlement. UNHCR stepped up efforts to enable refugees and asylum-seekers to benefit from other third-country solutions through complementary pathways for admission and family reunification for urban and camp-based refugees. UNHCR facilitated 754 departures mostly under the family reunification programme.

In close collaboration with IOM, UNHCR supported the Voluntary Return Support and Reintegration Assistance Project as a mechanism to support refugees and asylum-seekers expressing a desire to return to their home country. Through this, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of eight refugees and asylum-seekers in 2022.

Thailand made some progress in offering solutions for stateless people with 6,000 individuals obtaining Thai nationality and 300 acquiring permanent residency. 13,000 individuals were also formally registered as stateless, providing them with legal status – an essential step on the pathway to resolving statelessness.

The RTG moved to enforce the 2021 Cabinet Resolution on the Determination Criteria on Legal Status and Rights of Persons who had Migrated and Stayed in Thailand and its underlying legislation. Despite its slow implementation, this reform has the potential to improve the legal status of approximately 400,000 stateless people.

In Vietnam, nationality was confirmed for 8,000 individuals in 2022. In addition, the Department of Civil Registration, Nationality and Authentication (under the Ministry of Justice) conducted research and developed detailed guidance documents on civil registration and nationality procedures.

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Movement restrictions and limited access to formal and higher education were some of the challenges Thailand's camp population faced. No progress was made on the 2019 Global Refugee Forum pledge to deliver education certificates. Moreover, access to health, justice, GBV support, and child protection services was only granted in exceptional cases. Joint advocacy by UNHCR and NGOs to enable refugees' to work outside the camps did not yield tangible results while reduced funding saw some NGOs either scale back their activities or completely withdrew from the camps.

In 2022, the implementation of the National Screening Mechanism was further delayed, reducing opportunities to strengthen the protection space for those seeking asylum in Thailand. There was also a significant increase in the number of Rohingya refugees arriving and detained in Thailand. Limited Government resources deferred implementation of alternatives to detention for Rohingya children.

The COVID-19 situation caused some disruption and impacted UNHCR's engagement with the refugee community and the provision of services. It also significantly affected the operation of Cambodia's Refugee Department, which was closed for most of the year.

In Thailand, the COVID-19 situation negatively impacted the RTG's ability to process cases involving legal identity and nationality procedures. Complex administrative procedures and resourcing constraints were also the sources of ongoing challenges to resolve statelessness.



In Cambodia, UNHCR's partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation ended in 2022. UNHCR intends to explore the possibility of continuing to work with Cambodian authorities to strengthen the technical capacity of civil registration officials in 2023.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

The number of Best Interest Procedures (BIPs) conducted by UNHCR's implementing partner, COERR, increased by 45 per cent. UNHCR's partner, Humanity and Inclusion, increased the provision of rehabilitation and social inclusion services to people with disabilities by 32 per cent. Through COERR, UNHCR maintained core services in urban areas during the COVID-19 pandemic, granted internet allowances to ensure access to online classes, provided medical care to COVID-19 cases as well as cash assistance to 69 per cent of urban refugees. UNHCR's partner for statelessness in Thailand, ADRA, finalized 5,234 civil registration applications and submitted 4,454 applications to district offices. UNHCR also trained 987 civil registration officials in Vietnam and Cambodia.

In line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR collaborated closely with partners in urban areas – including IOM, UNICEF, and the Department of Children and Youth – to foster the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Alternatives to Detention for Children. UNHCR worked with the RTG to support capacity-building for immigration officials who will be involved in implementing the National Screening Mechanism.

The abovementioned work with ADRA on statelessness was geared to support Thailand's efforts to fulfil a range of high-level segment pledges. UNHCR also worked with UNICEF to develop a joint strategy to address childhood statelessness between 2022 and 2024 and collaborated on an e-learning course on legal identity and nationality procedures. UNHCR continued to coordinate with UN Country Teams across Thailand, Vietnam, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) and with UNCT in Cambodia on developing an inclusive UNSDCF.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

#### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

**Stateless persons have access to civil registration and civil status documentation**

**Refugees and asylum seekers have access to the territory and are profiled and registered**

| Plan     | Indicators  | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis.  | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100.00%         | 100.00%       | 100.00%       |
| Thailand | 1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority. [SDG 16.9.1 - Tier 1] | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 86.88%          | 100.00%       | 100.00%       |
| Thailand | 1.3 Proportion of PoC with legally recognized identity documents or credentials [GCR 4.2.2].                                    | Stateless Persons           | 100.00%         | 100.00%       | 100.00%       |

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

**Outcome Statement of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers**

The RTG continued to conduct birth and continuous registration in the camps in accordance with Thailand's 2008 Civil Registration Act, which assured the right to birth registration and documentation for every child born in Thailand. According to the Ministry of Interior, 1,629 birth certificates were issued in 2022. Despite access restrictions because of COVID-19 in the first quarter of the year, efforts to maintain a regular presence in the camps by the RTG continued.

For newly arriving refugees to Thailand, UNHCR and its operational partners focused on three advocacy points with the RTG: access to territory for those fleeing Myanmar, adherence to the principle of non-refoulement, and refugees' access to humanitarian assistance during their stay in Thailand. The RTG received some 6,500 refugees in the TSAs in 2022 although most reportedly returned to Myanmar once fighting subsided.

In the urban context, asylum-seekers and refugees relied on UNHCR registration and documentation services. The anticipated number of asylum-seekers and refugees registered with UNHCR was exceeded by 3 per cent due to a substantive increase in new arrivals in the last quarter after the lifting of COVID-19 related restrictions. There were 826 new arrivals in 2022 with 69 individuals on average approaching UNHCR for registration each month compared to 68 in 2019. In 2022, 267 cases (592 people) were registered in Thailand, mainly originating from Pakistan, Vietnam and Cambodia. Birth registration continued normally after a lockdown-related backlog clean-up with 81 birth registrations by year end – an increase of 42 per cent compared to 2021.

UNHCR worked closely with Thai Immigration to bolster the capacity of relevant government staff on matters related to registration and operational data management. The RTG continued to prepare the National Screening Mechanism through intra-ministerial and multi-lateral exchanges on a range of issues, including on technical aspects of registration and the issuance of identity cards. UNHCR's advocacy continued to focus on protection-sensitive access to procedures, registration and data protection standards, as well as the development of standard operating procedures to support implementation of the National

## Screening Mechanism.

### Outcome Statement of Stateless

In 2022, the number of registered stateless people in Thailand stood at 573,898 individuals – an increase of 12,569 compared to 2021. Although efforts to reduce statelessness have not had significant impact, progress were made by Thailand to identify and register newly identified stateless people and include them in the national civil registration system.

In 2022, 6,212 people obtained Thai nationality and 333 received permanent residency. UNHCR and ADRA implemented a project aimed at reducing statelessness and sensitizing the community in Chiang Rai which assisted 768 individuals out of the 1,759 people registered as stateless in the province. ADRA also legally assisted 7,084 people and prepared 4,187 new citizenship applications and helped the Mae Suay District Office register 600 students – of whom 400 received identity cards.

To strengthen access to civil registration and civil status documentation, UNHCR maintained close ties with the Department of Provincial Administration and provided IT equipment support to the Bureau of Registration Administration to assist officials in applying civil registration and nationality procedures. Jointly with the Internal Security Affairs Bureau, UNHCR delivered a workshop for 87 local registrars on legal immigration status regulations, civil registration and nationality.

In Cambodia, efforts to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity and understanding of officials on legal identity, including registration and access to identity documentation and nationality, continued. In partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and under the framework of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, Training of Trainer workshops on legislation and registration procedures were conducted for 60 civil registrars. In addition, 160 officials in charge of civil and birth registration were trained on completing and issuing civil registration documentation. UNHCR also supported revisions to the civil registration manual to assist the trainees in their daily work.

By year end, there were 26,811 people UNHCR considered stateless in Viet Nam – a decrease of 8,000 compared to 2021. With UNHCR's support, the Ministry of Justice conducted workshops to provide guidance for the local registrars. Assessment missions were conducted to support local level efforts to resolve outstanding issues relating to the legal status of vulnerable groups.

UNHCR partnered with Vietnam's Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to host a regional ASEAN workshop on eliminating gender-based discrimination and exploring the issue of child rights as it pertains to nationality in ASEAN countries.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

### Outcome Statement of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

The RTG continued to close registration for newly arriving individuals from Myanmar in the camps. In some remote camps, the RTG reduced the frequency of visits to conduct birth registration largely due to COVID-19 restrictions and connectivity issues. UNHCR and NGOs were not given access to new Myanmar arrivals in the TSAs. Consequently, UNHCR was unable to assess their protection needs nor verify the voluntariness of their return to Myanmar.

The large volume of calls received by UNHCR reception and staff rotation impacted the office's response capacities. 2022 continued to be marked by COVID-19-related constraints on registration and reception. However, the gradual and eventual return to normal work modalities enabled the team to address backlogs.

### Outcome Statement of Stateless

In Thailand, case processing at the local level was still slow due to local registrars' limited understanding of relevant laws. The COVID-19 situation also affected the implementation of the joint UNHCR and ADRA Community Sensitization Project by impacting evidence gathering and reducing processing capacities, making it difficult to meet the submission target.

Although UNHCR's partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation in Cambodia ended in 2022, opportunities to support efforts by Cambodian authorities to strengthen civil registration standards will continue in 2023.

## 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

### Asylum seekers have access to quality status determination procedures

| Plan     | Indicators   | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision (disaggregated by individual and group procedures).              | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 640.71          | 160.00        | 491.25        |
| Thailand | 2.2 Proportion of individuals undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal advice or representation.  | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100.00%         | 100.00%       | 100.00%       |
| Thailand | 2.3 Proportion of individuals undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim. | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100.00%         | 100.00%       | 100.00%       |

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

There was a substantive increase in the number of cases submitted to and approved by the Fast-Track Provincial Admission Board (FT-PAB) in 2022 compared to 2021. In 2022, UNHCR's field offices in Mae Sot and Mae Hong Son submitted 11 cases that were approved by the FT-PAB panel. As a result, 49 individuals were registered and granted status for resettlement consideration to a third country. These cases were identified due to compelling medical or protection concerns and were assessed by UNHCR before being submitted to authorities for further assessment. UNHCR attended FT-PAB panel meetings in Mae Sot and Mae Hong Son to present and advocate for the cases. The number of refugees granted status because of FT-PAB procedures exceeded initial targets as several urgent cases with larger family compositions were identified in Mae Hong Son and prioritized for submission and subsequently granted status. Furthermore, UNHCR's three field offices in Thailand worked closely to harmonize case submissions across all three provinces.

The cabinet approved the NSM criteria although its official announcement in the Royal Gazette is still pending. Nevertheless, UNHCR continued to engage extensively with government counterparts, providing capacity building support related to case processing to 40 staff in close collaboration with the Immigration Bureau and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Staff also participated in bi- and multi-lateral fora, advocating for the adoption of protection-oriented policies and SOPs in the NSM.

Urban asylum-seekers increased substantively in the last quarter of 2022 with the largest groups of asylum-seekers coming from Pakistan, Viet Nam and Cambodia. UNHCR continued to work closely with legal aid providers and held regular meetings in this regard. All applicants were able access to legal aid provided by CSOs and cases with identified specific needs were prioritized for urgent RSD processing.

In Cambodia, UNHCR focused its advocacy efforts on promoting a national asylum framework in line with international standards. UNHCR conceptualized and conducted an introductory workshop on RSD standards with 40 Refugee Department staff from various units.

### Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Restrictions and limitations related to the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2022, including reduced access to the camps, prevented cases from being assessed and submitted for FT-PAB. After initial submission to the authorities, cases were re-assessed by district authorities and this would sometimes take a significant amount of time, resulting in fewer FT-PAB panels and approved cases.

In addition, access to asylum-seekers in detention was restricted for much of the year. Human resources, remote work modalities and a shortage of interpreters fluent in key languages were other challenges.

### 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

#### Law and policy strengthened, and Administrative institutions and practice developed/strengthened

#### Law and policy strengthened, and Administrative institutions and practice developed/strengthened

| Plan     | Indicators   | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol.          | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | Not Adequate    | Not Adequate  | Not Adequate  |
| Thailand | 3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. | Stateless Persons           | Not Adequate    | Not Adequate  | Not Adequate  |

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

#### Outcome Statement of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

Efforts were made to enhance refugees' inclusion and access to Thai institutions on several fronts. In response to the limited access to livelihood opportunities in the camps due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR and partners advocated at the national and provincial levels with the RTG for refugees' access to work outside the camps to enhance their self-reliance. The Ministry of Interior continued to support birth registration and issued birth certificates in line with Thailand's 2008 Civil Registration Act. For the first time, the RTG also shared its individualized dataset with UNHCR after their headcount exercise in 2019/2020.

IRC and Malteser International continued to facilitate the referral of serious medical cases to hospitals outside the camps. IRC also led the revision process of the Mediation and Dispute Resolution Guidelines to reflect changes in Thailand's criminal law. IRC and UNHCR conducted a series of joint consultations and capacity development sessions aimed at improving the application of Thai laws in the camps. UNHCR and IRC continued to ensure refugees' access to the justice system for serious criminal cases. Survivors of serious GBV regularly received response services from the One Stop Crisis Centre under the Ministry of Public Health.

UNHCR held various workshops aimed at increasing state authorities' understanding of the Rohingya refugee protection context and strengthening inter-governmental coordination on the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on alternatives to detention for children and their mothers to ensure children are not detained in immigration facilities. In 2022, UNHCR trained over 30 authorities from the Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and the Department of Children and Youth. The objective of this workshop was to sensitize officials on the Rohingya context to improve their ability to identify vulnerabilities and provide assistance. Moreover, UNHCR worked closely with the Department of Children and Youth, IOM and UNICEF to deliver a workshop on "Alternatives to Detention Standard Operating Procedures and Child Protection in the context of Irregular Migration" to 71 Thai officials aimed at encouraging a more consistent application of these measures for mothers and children.

In addition, three other workshops were carried out in the context of UNHCR's ongoing engagement with government officials on the NSM to advocate for the adoption of registration and adjudication systems in line with international standards. UNHCR provided input to developing the draft NSM criteria in 2022, which was approved by Cabinet but is yet to be published in the Royal Gazette.

#### Outcome Statement of Stateless

Civil registration legislation and practices across multi-country office (MCO) countries varied significantly. In Thailand, the RTG moved to enforce the 2021 Cabinet Resolution intended to determine the criteria on the legal status and rights of people who had migrated and stayed in Thailand for a long period of time. Although this has the potential to improve legal status for approximately 400,000 stateless people,

implementation remains slow. UNHCR agreed to conduct joint activities with the Internal Security Affairs Bureau to resolve statelessness and legal status problems for stateless people in Thailand. These included capacity-building initiatives for government officials.

UNHCR funded a study conducted by Chiang Mai University to assess progress and challenges related to implementing nationality and civil registration legislation and procedures. The findings of this study will be utilized to support the RTG resolve processing bottlenecks and reduce statelessness. UNHCR also worked with UNICEF to develop a statelessness e-learning course to be implemented in 2023 with the aim of strengthening understanding of statelessness and related legislation in Thailand for public users, including stateless people, students, NGO workers and government officials.

UNHCR took part in the technical working group of the National Health Commission Office to develop policy recommendations on the right to health for stateless children and youth. UNHCR raised concerns regarding the lack of legal status and documentation of stateless people and how this affects their access to healthcare. As a result of this initiative, the Cabinet approved the policy recommendation to facilitate access to healthcare for stateless people and assigned relevant government entities to implement these recommendations.

In Viet Nam, the Department of Civil Registration, Nationality and Authentication – under the Ministry of Justice – researched and developed detailed guidance documents on civil registration and nationality procedures. The research considers the possibility of Viet Nam acceding to the 1961 Statelessness Convention and has been presented to senior policy-level officials.

UNHCR supported a national workshop organized by the Cambodian government to address common challenges and share good practices from ASEAN Member States on the protection of legal identity, particularly for women and children, and support the government's efforts to strengthen law and policy with respect to access to civil registration and legal identity.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

### Outcome Statement of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

Advocacy efforts to promote refugees' access to work outside the camps failed to trigger changes in Thailand's policy. COVID-19 restrictions, by limiting access to the camps, affected UNHCR's capacity to identify and facilitate cases to Thai justice. Only serious protection cases could be referred to other Thai institutional services outside the camps. The government continued to assume limited responsibility on the implementation of Thai law and provision of social services in the camps. Similarly, UNHCR was also unable to organize planned workshops with immigration and police officials

Because of COVID-19 restrictions. These sessions were meant to encourage a more humanitarian approach to asylum-seekers and refugees. Several advocacy interventions on health, employment and other social safety services were also not possible because of the pending implementation of the NSM.

### Outcome Statement of Stateless

COVID-19 travel restrictions also prevented the implementation of some activities designed to strengthen law and policy, particularly in countries other than Thailand. This challenge meant some activities were postponed, including a seminar with the Royal Thai Government on ending childhood statelessness and a study to assess access to education for stateless children.

Despite the reforms and efforts made to simplify procedures, Thailand continues to have a complex, centralized nationality process which has impacted the efficiency of resolving statelessness. Gaps in the capacity of government officials to implement laws and policies at the local level remain although some progress was made in this regard.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

**Risk of GBV is reduced and quality of response improved and PSEA mainstreamed in all areas**

| Plan     | Indicators  | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 4.1 Proportion of PoC who know where to access available GBV services | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | Unknown         | 50.00%        | 46.55%        |

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR provided legal counselling to GBV survivors, facilitated the referral to the Thai justice system, provided interpretation support, coordinated with the authorities to ensure case processing in the Thai justice system, and identified durable solutions when required. In Tak province, UNHCR built the capacity of the GBV committees to improve the provision of services available to GBV survivors and assessments to identify needs. The GBV committees developed action plans together with the survivors and referred cases to other service providers when deemed appropriate. UNHCR ensured all services and referrals were done in a swift and timely manner. In 2022, 28,689 refugees participated in GBV related sessions organized by UNHCR. Tailored messages about the general concepts of GBV and LGBTQI+, available services, PSEA, reporting and referral pathways, and the safe disclosure of GBV incidents were covered. UNHCR initiated the EMAP project in five camps. In addition, UNHCR conducted PSEA workshops for camp-based refugees, camp leaders, and governmental officials to promote compliance.

UNHCR provided counselling and individual case management for GBV survivors and those at risk of GBV. These services included emergency medical care, temporary emergency shelter and mental health referrals. UNHCR counselled GBV survivors on criminal complaint processes and accompanied them to the police to lodge formal complaints. All staff involved in the GBV response were trained to identify GBV survivors and safe referrals mechanisms. UNHCR increased psychological counselling to address acute mental health needs among GBV survivors. In addition, UNHCR implemented an EMAP project which created opportunities to better engage directly with communities. These projects offered a safe space for women and UNHCR noted an increase in women reporting GBV. UNHCR staff conducted intensive capacity training on MHPSS with a GBV focus on positive parenting for partner staff, EMAP and PSEA. UNHCR also fostered partners' response capacity with a dedicated section on GBV during UNHCR-led Protection Working Group meetings.

### Challenges to Achieving Outcome

UNHCR observed that the community did not always implement the appropriate GBV referral pathways. Some cases were reported to camp leaders and addressed through mediation where the survivor was not adequately protected. Such scenarios explained the hesitancy among survivors to report GBV. In 2022, UNHCR noted the lack of participation of men and boys in GBV related activities due to cultural norms on traditional gender roles.

With the absence cohesive community structures, it was also difficult to effectively identify and consolidate outreach on GBV-related issues. The lack of any specialized services among partners for GBV survivors further complicated UNHCR's case management capacity.

## 5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

### Protection of children strengthened through effective structures and response services

| Plan     | Indicators  | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure.                | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 26.97%          | 34.54%        | 32.11%        |
| Thailand | 5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes                     | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 76.28%          | 90.87%        | 74.68%        |
| Thailand | 5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an appropriate alternative care arrangement | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 98.28%          | 100.00%       | 99.37%        |

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR, in close collaboration with COERR, strengthened the child protection system in the refugee camps and conducted Best-Interest Assessments (BIA) and Best Interest Determination (BID) based on UNHCR's Best Interest Procedures (BIPs) for 1,140 children residing in border camps. COERR also adopted UNHCR's BIA form to streamline case referrals and management between the two organizations.

UNHCR monitored COERR's file management system and shadowed community-based refugee staff trained by COERR when conducting home visits to ensure appropriate support was given to newly trained teams. In parallel, COERR supported the establishment of youth clubs which served as representative bodies. These clubs organized activities with children such as "clean the camps" drives to raise environmental awareness.

Moreover, COERR organized child protection referral system workshops to enhance the coordination of child protection among all stakeholders in the refugee camps. The workshops provided a timely platform to address child protection concerns in the camps, raise awareness of Thai laws protecting children and highlight the roles and responsibilities of different service providers inside and outside the camps.

UNHCR's Protection Unit provided individual case management for medium and high-risk child protection cases, and conducted assessments, referrals and follow ups in line with BIPs. In 2022, BIPs were conducted for 15 UASC and 23 non-UASC identified as being at heightened risk. UNHCR staff were trained to identify child protection issues and immediately refer UASC for BIPs. The Protection Unit chaired the BID Panel for the urban population and child protection caseworkers conducted 7 BIDs primarily for UASC under resettlement consideration, including Rohingya children in state shelter facilities.

UNHCR prioritized group activities and discussions to reach a larger number of vulnerable children. UNHCR partnered with a local sustainable toy company, PlanToys, to offer six structured play activities for children with protection issues or vulnerabilities. The activities reached over 230 children and their parents and enabled protection staff to interact with both children and parents for assessment and monitoring purposes. Parents and children were also included in six FGDs as part of the 2022 Participatory Assessment.

To increase coordination with partner organizations on child protection issues, child protection was included this year as a component of the urban Protection Working Group to share general updates on services, child protection trends, risks and activities while case conferences were convened with relevant partners for individual case coordination.



## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

A need to bolster information dissemination on existing child protection referral systems among the community remains. 2022 saw an increase in the number of identified UASC which overstretched UNHCR and COERR's capacity. As such, engaging Thai authorities in the child protection response to ensure refugee children benefit from this type of targeted assistance remains imperative.

With high out-of-school rates and a dispersed urban population, identifying children at risk continued to be a challenge. Additionally, UNHCR's capacity to provide comprehensive case management for medium to high-risk urban cases and BIPs for Rohingya children is limited due to limited staffing. The absence of dedicated urban refugee child protection service providers also resulted in a lack of basic services such as mental health support.

## 6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

**Refugees and asylum seekers have access to legal assistance and legal remedies**

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR provided legal counselling and legal services to 2,521 and 845 refugees respectively and ensured refugees had access to the Thai justice system via direct interventions and with the support of operational partners. Most referred cases were mainly related to GBV, immigration charges and drug-related offences.

UNHCR intervened in individual cases of detention of camp residents both inside and outside camps and continuously monitored camp detention facilities. As COVID-19 restrictions eased in the camps, there was a significant decrease in the number of detention cases related to irregular movement outside the camps.

UNHCR also identified several cases of arbitrary and long-term detention and engaged with camp authorities and operational partners to revise the camp-based justice system to tackle this.

UNHCR continued to provide individual protection counselling sessions on a weekly basis to registered asylum-seekers on legal rights and status in Thailand. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, in-person protection counselling resumed in September 2022 and 733 protection counselling sessions were held at the Bangkok Refugee Centre which were attended by some 500 asylum-seekers and refugees. Moreover, UNHCR conducted some 150 protection monitoring visits at the central Immigration Detention Centre in Bangkok.

UNHCR continued to hold a protection hotline after office hours to assist refugees and asylum-seekers who encountered various emergencies such as arrest, evictions, assaults and detention. UNHCR counselled 959 refugees and asylum-seekers via the hotline. In addition, UNHCR conducted 34 monitoring visits to Rohingya held in detention. UNHCR also individually counselled 420 Rohingya refugees.

UNHCR regularly coordinated with legal NGOs to establish query and referral mechanisms and share monthly information via the Protection Working Group and ad hoc meetings to leverage support to cover refugees and asylum-seekers' bails from Immigration Detention Centre. UNHCR trained Thai lawyers became part of a newly formed network which offered pro bono advice and legal representation.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

In 2022, limited human resources remained a major challenge given the need to reinforce the capacity of Thai officials and operational partners so as to reduce the delays observed in case processing when

referred to the Thai justice system.

Most asylum-seekers and refugees have no legal status and were feared arrest if they presented themselves at police stations. As such, none of the refugees or asylum-seekers consented to filing a criminal complaint. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, UNHCR conducted 18 online protection monitoring missions online for Rohingya held in detention.

## 7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

### Community mobilization strengthened and expanded

| Plan     | Indicators   | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 7.1 Proportion of PoC who participate meaningfully across all phases of the OMC.               | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 61.05%          | 91.56%        | 89.79%        |
| Thailand | 7.2 Proportion of PoC who have access to effective feedback and response mechanisms.           | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100.00%         | 100.00%       | 100.00%       |
| Thailand | 7.3 Proportion (and number) of active female participants on leadership/management structures. | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 24.05%          | 29.48%        | 28.77%        |

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

All three field offices operating on the border scaled up communication with communities. In Tak province, UNHCR conducted regular protection counselling sessions in all four camps to allow individuals to directly raise any issues with UNHCR staff. In the second half of 2022, UNHCR started a series of FGDs targeting women refugees to assess bathing facilities in Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp and access to and the disposal of female hygiene materials Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon camps. In all these three camps, 1,150 refugees accessed protection counselling, 68 per cent of whom were female.

In Tham Hin and Ban Don Yang camps, UNHCR introduced in-person counselling sessions in July 2022. 140 people approached counselling sessions – 68 per cent of whom were women. In both camps, UNHCR organized FGDs with 58 women and girls to inform them about services available to GBV survivors.

The office collaborated with Humanity and Inclusion to provide assistance to people with disabilities. Humanity and Inclusion delivered rehabilitation, disability and social inclusion, and mental health and psychosocial support to 1,089 people with disabilities and 536 caregivers and family members. Camp-based staff and members of the self-help group were trained to support and empower people with disabilities in their communities.

In addition, UNHCR put in place several robust feedback and response mechanisms (email, reception line, emergency hotline, weekly in-person counselling) and established partner referrals. In 2022, 5,134 urban refugees, asylum-seekers, and Rohingya engaged with UNHCR.

UNHCR expanded its community outreach by sending 16 messages translated to all the major urban refugee languages to 4,000 subscribers through the Line messaging platform. The information shared included updates on UNHCR card renewals, security warnings, and new service announcements for refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR held a Participatory Assessment and carried out over 30 mainly in-person FGDs with different communities and in line with the Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) principles and policy.

The UNHCR-led EMAP project deepened the office's engagement with communities. UNHCR trained eight refugees community facilitators to work alongside UNHCR to conduct activities to address issues of GBV in the communities. The six-week series discussion reached over 80 regular attendees.

UNHCR led the urban Protection Working Group and organized monthly meetings with over ten

implementing and operational partners. The meetings were an opportunity to share information on services, security issues, trends and collect relevant information to be passed on to refugees and asylum-seekers.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

COVID-19 restrictions limited opportunities to engage directly with communities. In Kanchanaburi, insufficient staffing impeded the implementation of all planned activities. UNHCR continued to engage with refugees on different feedback mechanisms to bolster trust. In addition, more connectivity in refugee camps was needed to strategically amplify UNHCR's communication with communities.

In early 2022, ongoing COVID-19 restrictions prevented the implementation of various in-person activities. The dispersed nature of the urban refugee population was also another challenge which made it difficult to engage with the communities. Due to fears of arrest, urban refugees and asylum-seekers generally preferred to remain in their neighborhood rather than visit UNHCR partner offices.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

**All refugees can sufficiently cover their basic needs**

| Plan     | Indicators   | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 8.1 Proportion of PoC in need that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance. | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 75.71%          | 100.00%       | 85.47%        |

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In early 2022, UNHCR provided CRIs to refugees in nine camps to mitigate COVID-19 health risks and alleviate the challenges refugees face in meeting their basic needs. 20,730 cloth masks, 6,844 hand sanitizers, 65,824 soap bars, 129,164 sanitary napkin packs, 23,221 blankets, and 32 kitchen sets were provided to 54,038 refugees. Additionally, blankets were provided to refugees in all refugee camps located in Mae Hong Son province, where the temperature was much lower in the winter compared to other camps. Cloth masks donated by UNIQLO were also distributed. Distributions were carried out as needs emerged.

The RTG reported that some 6,500 Myanmar refugees crossed into Thailand. As of 31 December 2022, according to official RTG sources, no refugees remained in the TSAs. The delivery of assistance was coordinated by district offices since direct access by humanitarian actors was not granted. UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies provided various CRIs to displaced people, including 370 tarpaulins, 2,675 blankets, 1,909 mats, 1,381 mosquito nets, 3,444 soap bars, 5,065 sanitary napkin packs, 744 pillows, 1,587 pieces of education materials and 150 hygiene kits to 5,992 new arrivals.

UNHCR and COERR also conducted CBI assessments for 3,453 urban refugees requiring financial assistance. Additionally, the office conducted vulnerability assessments for 238 Rohingya refugees.

UNHCR distributed cash grant to 87 per cent of refugees with specific vulnerabilities and 69 per cent of urban refugees. In Immigration Detention Centres, 32 urban refugees and 196 Rohingya received financial assistance.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

UNHCR was unable to assess or respond to the protection needs of the newly arrived refugees because of

access restrictions. Nevertheless, UNHCR continued to work closely with the inter-sector working groups to produce regular donor updates on the response and advocate for access to refugees.

Ongoing COVID-19 measures prevented UNHCR and partners from conducting in-person CBI home visits and disbursing monthly financial assistance to urban refugees and Rohingya refugees and asylum-seekers in Immigration Detention Centres every month. Cash grants were also insufficient to cover basic needs with most of the money going toward rent and food.

## 9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

**Population has sufficient access to clean energy**

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, the transition to solar-generated power continued in the refugee camps still not benefiting from this energy. Solar panels were installed in the UNHCR workstations in seven camps and in the Camp Committee office in Ban Mai Nai Soi. Solar streetlights were also installed in the three camps in Tak province, i.e., Umpium, NuPo, and Mae La camps. Besides, operational partners expanded the use of clean energy by installing solar streetlights in public areas. By the end of 2022, UNHCR and partners took lead in the installation of solar energy in 19 locations in all border camps.

### Challenges to Achieving Outcome

UNHCR did not install streetlights in all targeted locations due to budgetary constraints. Besides, the operational partners covering charcoal distribution for household-level cooking fuel was not able to distribute sufficient quantity to answer the energy needs of the camp residents. Consequently, some refugees collected wood in the surrounding forests, exposing them to protection risks.

## 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

**Health status of the refugees improved**

| Plan     | Indicators   | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination. | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 19.40%          | 100.00%       | 27.46%        |

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continued to work closely with IRC and Malteser International to cover all nine refugee camps. In 2022, both partners offered inpatient and outpatient services, including mental health and psychosocial support, antenatal care for pregnant women, and treatment for acute malnutrition.

Furthermore, UNHCR co-chaired the national COVID-19 coordination meetings, which brought together officials from the RTG, the Centre for Disease Control, governmental donors, and INGOs. This coordination mechanism successfully secured COVID-19 vaccinations and certificates for the refugee camps. As of 31 December 2022, more than half of the population above 18 years was fully vaccinated. Vaccination

campaigns were also conducted for younger population: 42 per cent of 12-17 years and 30 per cent of 5-11 years were fully vaccinated. Most vaccinated individuals were either provided with a vaccine record card or an official certificate issued by health authorities to keep in their personal medical records.

In 2022, UNHCR partnered with COERR to operate the Bangkok Refugee Centre (BRC) as an entry point for medical referrals to secondary and tertiary care. UNHCR and partners provided information to refugees and asylum-seekers regarding access to medical services, including referrals to the Tzu Chi Foundation Clinic, which offered free primary healthcare to urban refugees and asylum-seekers.

In 2022, 353 refugees and asylum-seekers were reported COVID-19 positive. UNHCR observed a 15 per cent increase in the number of services provided by the Health Information and Referral Desk at BRC from 2,640 in 2021 to 3,027 in 2022. The number of referrals for secondary and tertiary care also increased by 20 per cent from 257 in 2021 to 308 in 2022.

UNHCR, through COERR, provided psychosocial counselling and activities to 332 refugees and asylum-seekers. COERR medical staff accompanied refugees and asylum-seekers seeking psychiatric care and also provided interpretation. A UNHCR psychologist also gave psychological counselling and conducted assessments for 62 refugees and asylum-seekers who required urgent assistance. UNHCR facilitated phone calls for 211 Rohingya refugees held in detention facilities to relieve stress and improve their mental well-being by providing them an opportunity to talk to their loved ones.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Some refugees in Mae La Oon and Mae Ra Ma Luang refugee camps were anxious about getting vaccinated. To increase awareness and tackle misinformation, the working risk communication and community engagement working group developed strategic messaging, although camp residents remained reluctant.

Due to limited resources, UNHCR was unable to cover all the medical needs of all displaced people. The scope of unmet needs was also much more difficult to quantify as refugees and asylum-seekers relied on alternative support either from the community or from external organizations. In this regard, the work of Tzu Chi Clinic and Jesuit Refugee Service was instrumental in addressing some of these needs.

## 11. Outcome Area: Education

**People we serve have optimal access to inclusive and equitable education and learning opportunities within the national education system**

| Plan     | Indicators  | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 11.2 Proportion of PoC enrolled in the national education system. [GCR 2.2.1] | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 53.80%          | 72.80%        | 51.36%        |
| Thailand | 11.2 Proportion of PoC enrolled in the national education system. [GCR 2.2.1] | Stateless Persons           | 53.98%          | 53.97%        | 57.00%        |

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR, continued to provide Thai language classes in partnership with COERR through the Good Shepherd Sisters School in urban areas. The programme equipped 22 children with the skills required to integrate into Thai public schools. Onsite classes resumed after a one year closure due to the improved COVID-19 situation

Referrals to the formal education system saw 541 children enrolled at the primary education level – a decrease of 4 per cent from 2021 while the number of students at secondary education level increased by 7 per cent from 110 in 2021 to 118 in 2022. This increase can be attributed to many students at the primary level moving to the secondary level when the new academic year started in June 2022. Of the 659 refugees and asylum-seekers enrolled in the national education system, 4 per cent were over 17 years old and accepted on an exceptional basis based on excellent academic performance and steady attendance.

Despite efforts to include Rohingya children in the national education system, none were enrolled in local Thai schools in 2022. UNHCR organized small classes for 22 Rohingya children in the government shelter to ensure some continuity in their education. UNHCR provided educational materials and the subjects taught included Thai, English, Mathematics, and Social Studies.

Stateless people in Thailand benefit from the RTG’s “Education for All Policy” and the 2005 Cabinet Resolution on Education for Unregistered Persons and associated procedures on the enrollment of persons without civil registration documentation or Thai nationality have been implemented to facilitate equal access to education for stateless persons. In 2022, the number of students enrolled in the national education system increased although there are gaps in accessing this right, particularly for those seeking higher and tertiary education. One of the main factors is the ineligibility of stateless people to apply for the government’s education loan due to their lack of nationality and legal status.

Although Thailand pledged to promote access to education for stateless children at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness, there has been limited progress to strengthen access to education in 2022. To redouble efforts to support the RTG, UNHCR and UNICEF agreed for Thailand to become a prioritized country under the UNHCR-UNICEF coalition to end childhood statelessness. In this regard, a Joint Strategy for Addressing Childhood Statelessness was developed for implementation in 2022-24. Activities include a national stocktaking seminar on ending childhood statelessness intended to address some education-related issues and a study on access to education for stateless children. Both activities were planned for 2022 but postponed to 2023 due to budget-related issues.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The travel allowance was not sufficient to cover the cost to send the children to Thai public schools. With additional resources, the Office could have provided an appropriate amount of financial assistance to allow children to get to school.

Education-related 2022 activities under the Joint UNHCR-UNICEF Strategy for Addressing Childhood Statelessness were postponed to 2023. COVID-19 as well as difficulties in securing additional donor support to expand access to higher and tertiary education for stateless people were also noted. This activity will be pursued in conjunction with the education-focused initiatives under the joint UNHCR-UNICEF strategy in 2023.

## 13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

### Stateless persons are self-reliant through access to means of livelihoods

| Plan     | Indicators  | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 13.1. Proportion of PoC with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider [SDG 8.10.2 Tier 1]. | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 0.00%           | 100.00%       | 0.00%         |

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Stateless people in Thailand have been able to access some levels of basic rights, including the right to work. In 2022, the number of stateless people holding work permits increased although freedom of movement continued to pose a challenge. This, coupled with the lack of government COVID-19 social protection subsidies, has made it difficult for stateless people living in remote and mountainous areas to meet their basic needs and access livelihood opportunities. Further, stateless persons were not able to obtain government COVID-19 social protection subsidies.

UNHCR engaged with the Community Development Department, which is part of the Ministry of Interior, in Mae Fah Luang District to conduct a pilot livelihood skills training activity for stateless people. This activity enabled 40 stateless villagers to develop sustainable livelihood and practical skills to support income generation. The results of this pilot exercise will be monitored in 2023.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Although efforts to establish a joint pilot project with UNDP to strengthen access to livelihoods in Thailand stalled due to technical issues, this will be explored further in 2023 under the UNSDCF.

In view of the improved post-COVID-19 outlook, UNHCR will seek opportunities to provide professional livelihood training to stateless people through private enterprises and conduct a study on access to livelihoods in Thailand in 2023.

## 14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

### Potential for voluntary return realized

| Plan     | Indicators  | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 14.2 Proportion of PoC who wants to receive the CoO information actually receives it. | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100.00%         | 100.00%       | 100.00%       |

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The volatile situation in Myanmar continues to limit any prospects for return. While UNHCR did not promote or facilitate voluntary repatriation among refugees residing in the refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, it continued to monitor the situation on the border and maintained regular dialogue with refugees to gain a better understanding of their needs and concerns.

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) for urban refugees is an indispensable part of a comprehensive approach to assist return and reintegration of refugees and asylum-seekers who are unable or unwilling to remain in host or transit countries and wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin. In this regard, UNHCR made formal AVRR referrals to IOM, provided counselling and facilitated exit procedures for individuals who wish to return. Eight asylum-seekers and refugees in urban areas returned voluntarily to the country of origin from Thailand by year end.

While resettlement will remain an important protection tool for refugees at heightened risk, it will not be the solution for the majority of Thailand's urban refugee population. As such, UNHCR monitored changing conditions in the countries of origin to ensure appropriate solutions were identified and opportunities for

refugees and asylum-seekers expressing interest in return were seized.

Rejected asylum-seekers, refugees with no prospect of resettlement and those considering return received information on the conditions in the country of origin so that they can make an informed decision regarding return. UNHCR also responded to case-by-case queries on voluntary return and offered and distributed informational materials.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The Facilitated Voluntary Repatriation Programme was suspended during the onset of COVID-19 pandemic and came to a halt after February 2021.

COVID-19 restrictions continued to impact the Voluntary Return Support and Reintegration Assistance case processing resulting in lower number of asylum-seekers and refugees returning to the country of origin. The gradual lifting of travel restrictions in the second half of 2022 enabled refugees and asylum-seekers to explore return to their country of origin if they wished.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

### Potential for resettlement and complementary pathways realized

| Plan     | Indicators  | Population Type             | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement.                                  | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 472             | 825           | 860           |
| Thailand | 15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority. | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 2,086.00        | 730.00        | 2,058.00      |

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The multi-year solutions strategy for the camp and urban refugee population was aligned with the regional strategy and underpinned by the pursuit of a range of solutions, including facilitated voluntary return for camp refugees, AVRR for urban refugees, local opportunities, resettlement and complementary pathways of admission to third countries. However, the events in Myanmar in February 2021 halted and hindered its implementation.

Nevertheless, UNHCR continued to identify the most vulnerable refugees for resettlement consideration. The FT-PAB met to register vulnerable camp-based refugees for resettlement as well as those who were still unregistered. In total, UNHCR submitted 860 urban and camp-based refugees for resettlement consideration to third countries.

In 2022, UNHCR supported 1,002 refugees and asylum-seekers in Thailand to access complementary pathways to achieve durable solutions – of whom 754 departed by year end. UNHCR also facilitated exit clearances, upon request, with the RTG, provided pre-departure counselling, and coordinated with partners and embassies on the logistics.

Refugees in the camps and in urban areas were also encouraged to access complementary pathways of admission to third countries. UNHCR accompanied refugees during the immigration process with different embassies and facilitated communication between refugees and embassy personnel. UNHCR also provided interpreters, notified refugees and asylum-seekers of their interview dates, counselled and assisted with exit procedures for refugees travelling to third countries. Most individuals applied and/or



travelled to Canada and Australia through private sponsorship and family reunification schemes.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Although large-scale US resettlement ended in January 2014, processing for more than 3,000 refugees who were already submitted under this programme and are at various stages, continues.

Delays in security vetting persisted and generated a larger backlog of cases. UNHCR's limited or lack of access to refugees in some immigration detention facilities also adversely affected resettlement interviews and case processing. External constraints, such as travel restrictions, closure of borders, COVID-19, and changes in policy, were other challenges.

## 16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

### Potential for integration realized

| Plan     | Indicators   | Population Type   | Baseline (2022) | Target (2022) | Actual (2022) |
|----------|--|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Thailand | 16.2. Proportion of PoC covered by social protection floors/systems [SDG 1.3.1]. | Stateless Persons | 100.00%         | 100.00%       | 100.00%       |

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The number of registered stateless people in Thailand stood at 573,898 individuals by year end – an increase of 12,569 compared to 2021. 6,212 individuals were granted nationality by the RTG.

In Chiang Rai Province, UNHCR and ADRA continued to implement the Statelessness Reduction and Community Sensitization Project. In 2022, 1,738 people obtained Thai nationality and 21 people received permanent residency. Of the 1,738 people granted nationality in Chiang Rai province, 768 people received assistance from ADRA and other associated NGOs. In addition to this, 4,187 new applications were prepared for both elderly and non-elderly stateless people and 3,697 applications were submitted for consideration by District Officials.

To support efforts to resolve statelessness, UNHCR, in collaboration with Chiang Mai University, conducted some a study on the nationality procedures in Thailand. UNHCR plans to organize a roundtable discussion in 2023 to share the findings with the RTG. UNHCR also worked with UNICEF to develop an e-learning course for practitioners involved in resolving statelessness to be rolled out in 2023.

By year end, there were 26,811 people under UNHCR's statelessness mandate in Viet Nam – a decrease of 8,000 since the end of 2021. With UNHCR support, the Ministry of Justice conducted some workshops to provide guidance to local registrars and conducted assessment missions to support local level efforts to resolve the legal status of vulnerable groups.

Throughout the year, UNHCR and partners conducted and supported various workshops to provide basic knowledge on statelessness and strengthen the technical capacity of key community members as well as government officials at the district and provincial level in Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam. By year end, 1,775 community members and civil registration officials were equipped with necessary knowledge to identify people with legal identity issues and facilitate the review of civil registration applications.

## Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Thailand's complex and centralized nationality processes and gaps in the capacity of government officials to implement laws and policies at the local level remained key challenges. Further, there were gaps in the capacity of government officials to implement laws and policies at the local level. There were some delays in completing the bottlenecks analysis and e-learning course on statelessness as participating focal points withdrew their commitments due to competing priorities.

UNHCR was also unable to organize planned study visits for government officials from countries under the UNHCR's Multi-Country Office because of COVID-19 travel restrictions and strict travel requirements.

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

Data collected on the Thailand-Myanmar border was disaggregated by age and sex and other diversity elements wherever possible. As COVID-19 restrictions eased, UNHCR field offices focused on ensuring the participation of refugees to include women, men, girls and boys into programming. FGDs addressing child protection and GBV were also held. Regular protection counselling resumed in all nine border camps with the aim of getting feedback on individual concerns and providing adequate responses. Women and girls continued to increasingly participate in community leadership structures in all refugee camps.

UNHCR conducted a Participatory Assessment in Thailand reaching close to 10 per cent of the urban population. UNHCR mapped the diverse refugee and asylum-seeker urban population to ensure the exercise was inclusive and conducted separate FGDs and individual consultations with men, women, girls, and boys, as well as persons with diverse identities, backgrounds, and specific needs.

UNHCR's prioritized efforts to support populations affected by the pandemic, such as structured play events for out-of-school children and their parents. In parallel, UNHCR carried out a large-scale survey of these families to better address the reasons for not accessing formal education. The office also provided community-led discussions on GBV, workshops on mental health, and developed materials to help the urban population navigate available healthcare services.

ADRA implemented various activities aimed at strengthening access to legal identity and resolving statelessness for the elderly. ADRA's programme involved the use of mobile legal support activities and a range of awareness-raising media to ensure that a diverse range of stateless individuals, including those hard to reach and less mobile, would receive assistance.

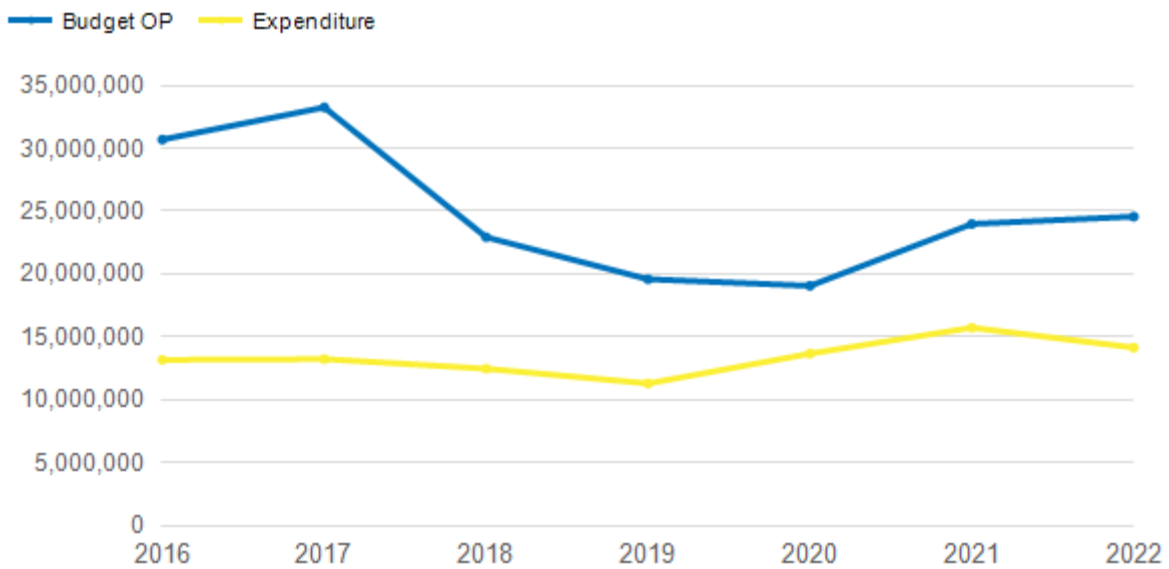
## Section 3: Resources

### 3.1 Financial Data

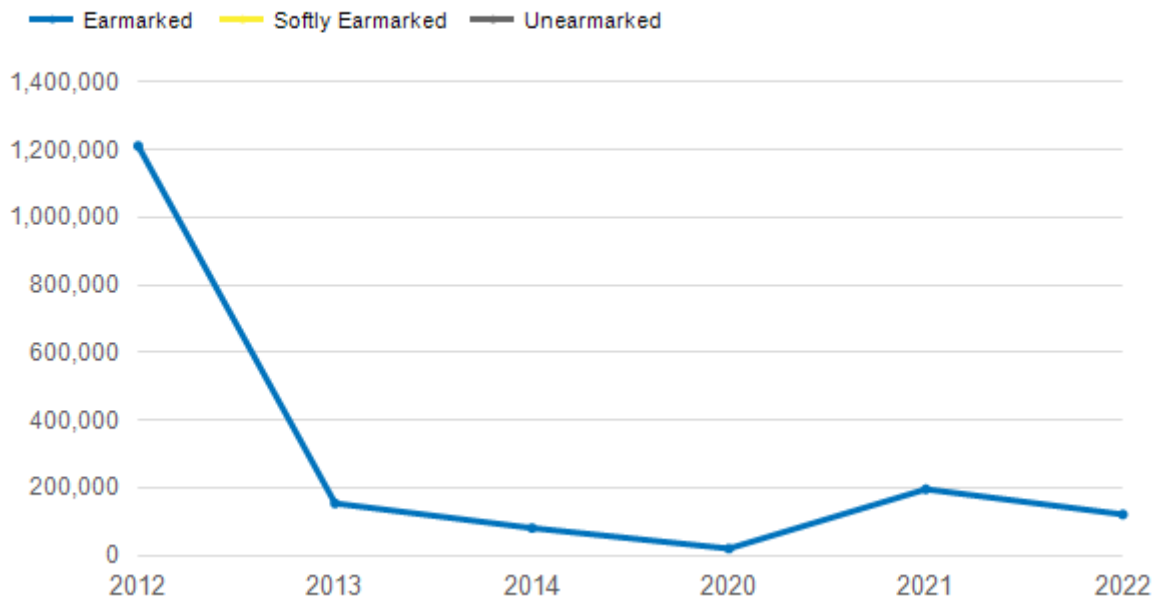
| Impact Area      | Final Budget      | Funds Available   | Funds Available as % of Budget | Expenditure       | Expenditure as % of Funds Available |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| IA1: Protect     | 7,806,447         | 4,240,254         | 54.32%                         | 4,285,254         | 101.06%                             |
| IA2: Respond     | 10,025,890        | 6,688,381         | 66.71%                         | 6,688,381         | 100.00%                             |
| IA3: Empower     | 3,974,732         | 2,070,690         | 52.10%                         | 2,070,690         | 100.00%                             |
| IA4: Solve       | 2,766,900         | 1,113,493         | 40.24%                         | 1,113,493         | 100.00%                             |
| All Impact Areas |                   | 45,000            | 0.00%                          |                   | 0.00%                               |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>24,573,969</b> | <b>14,157,818</b> | <b>57.61%</b>                  | <b>14,157,818</b> | <b>100.00%</b>                      |

| Outcome Area      | Final Budget      | Funds Available   | Funds Available as % of Budget | Expenditure       | Expenditure as % of Funds Available |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| OA1: Access/Doc   | 4,224,380         | 2,104,252         | 49.81%                         | 2,149,252         | 102.14%                             |
| OA2: Status       | 1,437,304         | 931,859           | 64.83%                         | 931,859           | 100.00%                             |
| OA3: Policy/Law   | 1,022,194         | 703,116           | 68.78%                         | 703,116           | 100.00%                             |
| OA4: GBV          | 2,136,156         | 1,322,910         | 61.93%                         | 1,322,910         | 100.00%                             |
| OA5: Children     | 1,649,661         | 771,038           | 46.74%                         | 771,038           | 100.00%                             |
| OA6: Justice      | 1,122,570         | 500,891           | 44.62%                         | 500,891           | 100.00%                             |
| OA7: Community    | 1,360,006         | 1,079,271         | 79.36%                         | 1,079,271         | 100.00%                             |
| OA8: Well-being   | 3,521,785         | 2,729,274         | 77.50%                         | 2,729,274         | 100.00%                             |
| OA9: Housing      | 377,900           | 285,878           | 75.65%                         | 285,878           | 100.00%                             |
| OA10: Health      | 1,124,776         | 601,428           | 53.47%                         | 601,428           | 100.00%                             |
| OA11: Education   | 2,391,759         | 951,893           | 39.80%                         | 951,893           | 100.00%                             |
| OA13 Livelihood   | 222,967           | 39,438            | 17.69%                         | 39,438            | 100.00%                             |
| OA14: Return      | 1,084,020         | 411,582           | 37.97%                         | 411,582           | 100.00%                             |
| OA15: Resettle    | 556,800           | 324,736           | 58.32%                         | 324,736           | 100.00%                             |
| OA16: Integrate   | 1,126,081         | 377,119           | 33.49%                         | 377,119           | 100.00%                             |
| EA17: Systems     | 279,237           | 226,573           | 81.14%                         | 226,573           | 100.00%                             |
| EA18: Support     | 377,900           | 298,211           | 78.91%                         | 298,211           | 100.00%                             |
| EA19: People      | 279,237           | 226,433           | 81.09%                         | 226,433           | 100.00%                             |
| EA20: External    | 279,237           | 226,916           | 81.26%                         | 226,916           | 100.00%                             |
| All Outcome Areas |                   | 45,000            | 0.00%                          |                   | 0.00%                               |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>24,573,969</b> | <b>14,157,818</b> | <b>57.61%</b>                  | <b>14,157,818</b> | <b>100.00%</b>                      |

### Budget and Expenditure Trend



### Contributions Trend by Type



## 3.2. Resources Overview

UNHCR prioritized protection activities and basic needs for refugees GBV, child protection, refugee status determination, legal assistance, health, CBI and education for refugees. For the stateless programme, resources were focused on building the capacity of civil registration officials and government agencies to process civil registration/legal identity documents.

As the economy had not fully recovered, refugees and asylum-seekers still suffered from the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR continued to provide material assistance to camps refugees. Besides, the office provided and cash grants to urban refugees. However, despite this, the amount distributed was not sufficient to all the needs.



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