

People's Republic of China

November 2021

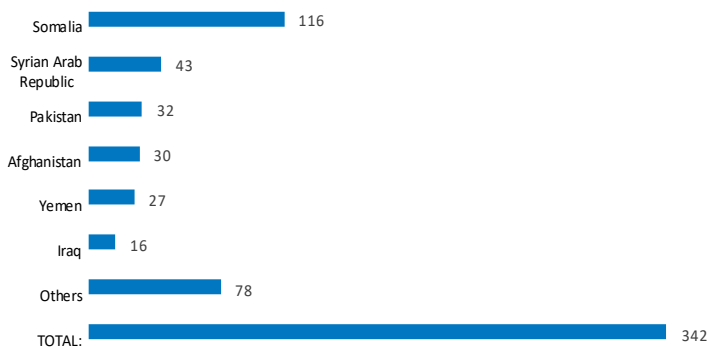
China settled 260,000 Indo-Chinese refugees in the late **1970s** and acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol in **1982**.

The **2013** Exit-Entry Administrative Law included provisions for refugees and asylum-seekers, pending implementation. Hong Kong SAR established the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in **2014**. China established the National Immigration Administration in **2018**.

Globally China has pledged support for refugees at the **2016** UN General Assembly, **2017** Belt & Road Forum, **2019** Global Refugee Forum and its **2020** Position Paper on the 75th Anniversary of the UN.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees* (by country of origin)



*Figures as of Oct 2021 covering urban refugees in China's mainland only. There are additionally 303,106 Indo-Chinese refugees de facto integrated pending Government regularization. There are also 272 Persons of Concern to UNHCR in Hong Kong SAR.

2020 FUNDRAISING RESULTS

USD 14.4 Million

Government: USD 1,765,630

Private: USD 12,606,346

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 27 National Staff
- 4 International Staff
- 12 Affiliate Staff

Offices:

- UNHCR China Country
 - Office in Beijing
- Hong Kong Sub-Office in Hong Kong SAR



© Basic Education and Employable Skills Training (BEST)/Ulfat Kazimi

Working with Partners

- In **China's mainland**, UNHCR works with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security and the National Immigration Administration, China International Development Cooperation Agency, China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges, Ministry of Emergency Management, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Ministry of Education and the China Scholarship Council. UNHCR is an active member of the UN China Country Team.
- In **Hong Kong SAR**, Government partners include the Security Bureau, Immigration Department and Social Welfare Department; operational partners include Christian Action Centre for Refugees, RUN HK, Branches of Hope, and Justice Centre Hong Kong as well as private partners including Daly & Associates and Clifford Chance LLP. In **Macao SAR**, Government partners include the Refugee Committee, Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice, and Education and Youth Development Bureau; operational partners include Refugee Welfare Association and Caritas Macau.

Main Activities

Protection, Advocacy & Solutions

- In China's mainland, UNHCR ensures access to the right to seek asylum through registration, documentation and by performing Refugee Status Determination (RSD) in the absence of a national system. In Hong Kong SAR, the authorities conduct the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) and UNHCR reviews substantiated claimants with a view to pursuing solutions for them, including resettlement, as well as other opportunities.
- In China's mainland, UNHCR actively engages with the National Immigration Administration on operational matters relating to refugee protection within China and offers its expertise in support of the development of relevant policies and laws. In Hong Kong SAR, UNHCR provides technical advice and training to support authorities' efforts in developing and implementing the USM in line with accepted international standards.
- In China's mainland, UNHCR provides limited direct financial support intended to cover essential food, shelter and health needs of nearly 80% of the refugee population in the absence of other providers of assistance. In Hong Kong SAR, the Social Welfare Department provides basic food and shelter to asylum-seekers and refugees delivered through a civil society organization and supplemented by private contributions. Asylum-seekers in Macao SAR are eligible for full social welfare assistance while their applications are pending, equal to Macao citizens. As UNHCR does not have a permanent physical presence in Macao, UNHCR partners with Caritas for practical assistance and signposting to asylum-seekers and refugees.
- UNHCR seeks solutions for refugees by pursuing opportunities for resettlement to third countries, while identifying and advocating for complementary pathways to access third countries through alternative safe and regulated avenues, including labour and education opportunities.

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR has established remote case management to ensure that persons in need of international protection are able to seek asylum and are protected against refoulement. The Office collaborates closely with Government counterparts in China's mainland and Hong Kong SAR on domestic issues relating to asylum as well as health and security of Persons of Concern (POC).
- As a result of UNHCR and civil society's advocacy for the inclusion of POCs in the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, the Hong Kong SAR Government offered free vaccinations to all POCs to UNHCR. Foreigners in China's mainland are included in the national vaccination campaign, and in most provinces POCs can register for the vaccine on a paid basis for CNY100 per shot as per Government's policy. UNHCR advocates with the authorities at central and local level to provide free access for POCs who have limited financial means.
- At the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, China co-sponsored the high-level dialogue on Jobs and Livelihoods and 3 partners from the Hong Kong private sector pledged support for refugee issues. Clifford Chance LLP have continued to work across the private sector, civil society and refugee community in order to deliver comprehensive solutions for refugees including offering jobs for refugees. UNHCR has worked with local law firm Daly & Associates to develop a guide for employing refugees in Hong Kong, as refugee employment continues to increase in the territory. The firm also continues to pursue strategic litigation and provide pro-bono legal services to refugees.

Awareness Raising & Resource Mobilisation

- UNHCR works through traditional media, online platforms, social media, events and influencers to raise awareness about its work among the Chinese public. UNHCR has over 500,000 followers across its Weibo account, two WeChat accounts on China's mainland and in Hong Kong SAR a Facebook page, Youtube channel and Instagram profile. For World Refugee Day the Office organises activities such as online awareness-raising campaigns, film festivals and photo exhibitions, and participates in major public events such as the Hong Kong book fair. UNHCR works with high-profile supporters in the arts and sports sectors. In addition, UNHCR introduces youth to refugee issues through school and university lectures and Model UN Conferences, virtual events and welcoming Chinese student groups to its offices to learn about UNHCR's work and career opportunities.
- At the 2016 UN General Assembly Summit on Refugees and Migrants, China pledged USD100 million under the China-UN Peace and Development Fund and USD300 million in bilateral and multilateral assistance at the Leaders' Summit to address the global refugee crisis. In its position paper on the 75th anniversary of the UN, China called on countries to support UNHCR and the effective implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. In addition to its USD800,000 annual contribution to UNHCR, the Chinese Government has supported UNHCR field projects through the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Two new projects are ongoing in 2021: to procure and deliver PPE to refugee-hosting areas in East Africa, and to support shelter and education in Afghanistan. China also funds the deployment of Junior

Professional Officers and has started a paid internship programme to UNHCR's global operations. Macao SAR also funds the deployment of paid interns.

- Over USD12 million in private funding was raised in China, including Hong Kong and Macao SARs through donations in 2020. UNHCR is also building support among the corporate sector, commercial chambers and foundations throughout China.
- UNHCR also conducts private sector outreach to publicize procurement opportunities and to further engage Chinese companies in its global supply and logistics operations.

CONTACTS

Liana Bianchi, Senior External Relations Officer China, bianchi@unhcr.org,
Tel: +86 10 6532 6806, ext. 6920

Philip Thorpe, Senior Protection Associate Hong Kong SAR, chiopro@unhcr.org,
Tel: +852 2780 9271

LINKS www.unhcr.org/cn | www.unhcr.org/hk |
<https://www.facebook.com/hkunhcr/> | reporting.unhcr.org/node/29



Follow us on Weibo



Follow us on WeChat
Official Account



Follow us on WeChat
Service Account



Follow us on Douyin