

# People's Republic of China

March 2020

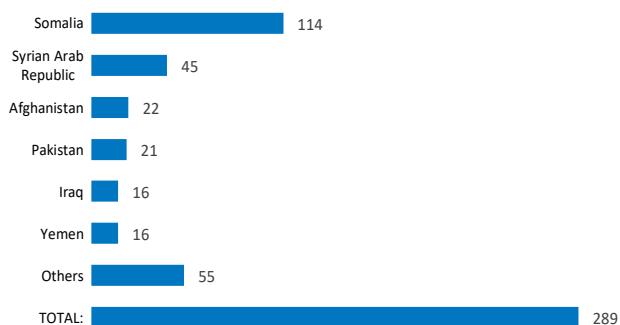
China settled 260,000 Indo-Chinese refugees in the late **1970s** and acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol in **1982**.

The **2013** Exit-Entry Administrative Law included provisions for refugees and asylum-seekers. 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 and **2019** Global Refugee Forum.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Refugees\* (by country of origin)



\*Figures as of February 2020 covering urban refugees in mainland China only. There are additionally 303,095 Indo-Chinese in refugee-like situations de facto integrated pending Government regularization. There are also 200 Persons of Concern to UNHCR in Hong Kong SAR.

## 2019 FUNDRAISING RESULTS

**USD 13.6 Million\***

**Government: USD 1,924,229**

**Private: USD 11,668,092**

\*Includes Hong Kong SAR

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 24 National Staff
- 4 International Staff
- 22 Affiliate Staff

### Offices:

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



## Working with Partners

- In **mainland China**, UNHCR works with 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 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 Talents Development Committee; operational partners include Refugee Welfare Association and Caritas Macau.

## Main Activities

### Protection, Advocacy & Solutions

- In mainland China, UNHCR registers and conducts individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD) to provide access to asylum and documentation 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 mainland China, 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 mainland China, UNHCR provides limited direct financial support intended to cover essential food, shelter and health needs of nearly 85% 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.
- In the absence of solutions for refugees within China, UNHCR pursues resettlement opportunities for refugees while also identifying and advocating for complementary pathways to access a third country as a safe and regulated avenue, including labour opportunities and education.

- In December China co-sponsored the high-level dialogue on Jobs and Livelihoods at the Global Refugee Forum and 3 partners from the Hong Kong private sector pledged to enhance labour opportunities and legal aid to persons of concern.

### 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 nearly 500,000 followers across its Weibo account, two WeChat accounts and a Hong Kong SAR Facebook account. For World Refugee Day the office organises activities including film festivals in Beijing and Hong Kong SAR, photo exhibitions and participates in major public events such as the Hong Kong SAR book fair. UNHCR works with National Goodwill Ambassador, actress Yao Chen to raise awareness and generate empathy. Since 2013, she has undertaken field missions to the Philippines, Thailand, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Pakistan. In addition, UNHCR introduces youth to refugee issues through school and university lectures 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 addition to its USD800,000 annual contribution to UNHCR, the Chinese Government has supported UNHCR field projects in Africa, Asia and the Middle East through China Aid. China also funds the deployment of 10 Junior Professional Officers to UNHCR's global operations and Macao SAR funds the deployment of 3 paid interns. UNHCR's Hong Kong office space is generously provided by the government.
- Over USD11 million in private funding was raised in Hong Kong and Macao SARs through donations in 2019. UNHCR is also exploring partnerships with 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.

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