

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Senate Budget Estimates, June 2011
Questions on Notice: AusAID

Question No.54

Senator Cash asked on notice

Why have the Australian Government's contributions to the UNHCR almost trebled since 2007, from \$16.689m in 2007 to \$45.1m in 2010?

Answer:

UNHCR is a key partner of Australia's humanitarian and immigration programs. Australia recognises the unique protection mandate of UNHCR to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees.

UNHCR operates in a wide range of complex emergencies and protracted displacement situations. Armed conflicts in a number of regions of the world grew more intractable in 2010, with the number of persons of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees increasing from 21,018, 589 in 2007 to 34,462,330 in 2010. With the significant increase in the number of conflicts and persons of concern, the aid program has responded by channelling additional funds to UNHCR to meet critical humanitarian needs in these complex crises.