

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

Question No. 55

Senator Cash asked on notice

Is the funding provided to the UNHCR tied in any way to projects or outcomes? What are they?

Answer:

Australia's aid and immigration programs both contribute financially to UNHCR to support the protection of refugees and improve their conditions.

AusAID provides an annual core contribution. Annual and predictable core contributions allow UNHCR to allocate funding to achieve global strategic priorities identified in its annual Global Appeal.

The Global Appeal alerts donors and others to the plight of millions of displaced people. It also highlights challenges that UNHCR faces as it strives to protect, assist and find durable solutions for more than 34 million people – refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and the internally displaced.

AusAID also provides funding contributions broadly earmarked for specific UNHCR country and regional appeals in situations where there are chronic unmet needs and UNHCR's country appeals have been undersubscribed. In 2010 Australian funding to UNHCR country programs included Iraq, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Burma, Chad, West Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNHCR provides regular reporting to donors on the progress of its country operations.

DIAC's funding to UNHCR is provided through the Displaced Persons Program and the resettlement and capacity building programs. The Displaced Persons Program seeks to strengthen Australia's humanitarian profile and prevent irregular arrivals and people smuggling activities. DIAC also funds UNHCR to support resettlement and undertake capacity building programs that strengthen the refugee assessment and protection capabilities of governments in the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East.

For DIAC funding, UNHCR reporting includes information on finances, analysis of project progress, summary of activities and project evaluation. UNHCR is also required to keep DIAC informed on any emerging issues for the project as they arise.

Key Displaced Person Program projects delivered through UNHCR for 2011 calendar YTD include:

Region/Country	Project Description
Pacific Island Countries	Strengthening the understanding and national capacity to protect refugees
Pakistan	Assistance to Afghan refugees in camps
Bangladesh	Improving living conditions of Rohingya refugees and collecting baseline data of the host community
Iran	Medical Support on Primary and Secondary Health Services for Registered Refugees
Malaysia	Reinforcing UNHCR's registration and Refugee Status Determination processing capacity