

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0287) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

How much has the department paid to the IOM and UNHCR in 2011-12 and how much will it pay them in 2012-13/ and the forward estimates? What are these payments for?

Answer:

- (1) In 2011–12, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) paid the International Organization for Migration (IOM) \$47.9 million, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) \$3.3 million for various activities.

The Department anticipates that it will pay approximately \$51.3 million to IOM and approximately \$2.4 million to UNHCR in 2012-13 for various activities.

The projected funding for the forward years is not yet finalised.

- (2) IOM activities that were funded by DIAC in 2011-12 include the following:
 - Providing care and maintenance to intercepted irregular migrants in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and East Timor. These activities will continue in 2012-13.
 - Providing assistance to Indonesian authorities to manage migration, including in relation to irregular migration flows. These activities will continue in 2012-13
 - Continuing to support the East Timorese Migration Service through the Enhanced Migration Management project. Elements of this project are continuing in 2012-13.
 - Continuing to provide advisory and technical support services to the Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Service Authority.
 - Providing assistance for a border management capacity building project to enhance the capacity of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Governments to control their borders through drafting legislation and assisting introduce new visa types.

- Facilitating refugee travel, medical screening and related services for humanitarian applicants under Australia's Humanitarian Program globally, including through the Australian Cultural Orientation Program. These activities will continue in 2012-13.
- Providing logistical and administrative support to the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (the Bali Process), including assisting organise DIAC-led meetings and workshops.
- A number of projects related to the work of the Bali Process Regional Support Office including those looking at Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of migrants within Bali Process countries and data management. which will continue in 2012-13.
- Providing assistance through the Displaced Persons Program (DPP), including for projects supporting and assisting Rohingyas in Thailand, Afghans returning from Pakistan, internally displaced Sri Lankans and upgrading Afghan border reception and transit centres. Decisions relating to funding recipients for the DPP in 2012-13 are yet to be finalised.

Further to those activities continuing above, other activities for which DIAC anticipates funding IOM in 2012-13 include the following:

- Working with the Afghan Government on improvements to the Afghan passport and visa documents to bring them up to international standards.
- Placement of an IOM expert consultant for the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations to build expertise in that portfolio.
- Implementing a public information campaign on the dangers of people smuggling and irregular migration in Afghanistan, targeting at-risk populations.
- Providing assistance to the Sri Lankan Integrated Enquiry Management Unit which assists with identity verification of Sri Lankan nationals.

UNHCR activities that were funded by DIAC in 2011-12 included the following:

- A range of activities in Indonesia relating to registration of asylum seekers, refugee status determinations and training. These activities will continue in 2012-13.

- Providing assistance through the DPP, including for projects to support and assist Iraqis in Jordan and reinforcing capacity for registrations and refugee status determination for asylum seekers in Malaysia. Decisions relating to funding recipients for the DPP in 2012-13 are yet to be finalised.
- Supporting the strategy for protection capacity building in the Pacific which will continue in 2012-13.

There are currently no further activities beyond those mentioned as continuing above for which DIAC anticipates funding UNHCR in 2012-13.