7 August 2015

Southeast Asia
Rohingya

Crisis Overview

- One million Rohingya in Myanmar and between 300,000 and 500,000 Rohingya in Bangladesh are facing protracted crisis and dire living conditions, with restrictions on basic freedoms, access to healthcare and food assistance.

- Rohingya make up the vast majority of the more than 150,000 people who have fled across the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea over the past three years, according to UNHCR estimates. In the first three months of 2015, 27,000 people left Myanmar and Bangladesh by boat. About 300 died of starvation, dehydration, or beating by smugglers.

- Upon arrival in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, people face detention, lack of assistance and protection concerns.

Key Findings

### Anticipated scope and scale

- General elections in Myanmar in November are likely to increase internal tensions and discrimination against Rohingya.

- Floods and landslides in Bangladesh and Myanmar during the monsoon season until the end of October.

### Priorities for humanitarian intervention

- **Food and water:** People are in need of food and water assistance in countries of departure, at sea and in host countries.

- **Shelter** and shelter repair in countries of departure and host countries.

- **Health:** Only life-threatening emergencies are being addressed. Health assistance is needed in countries of departure and host countries.

- **Protection:** Statelessness makes Rohingya vulnerable to abuse in all settings and countries.

### Humanitarian constraints

- Access to vulnerable populations in Myanmar and Bangladesh is limited. Many who are living in host countries are undocumented and hard to reach.

- None of the countries in South Asia have signed the 1951 Refugee Convention, leaving asylum seekers without official protection from international agencies.

- Fewer people are expected to reach host countries in South Asia as more attention and funding have been dedicated to the fight against human trafficking in the region.

### Limitations

Limited information on humanitarian needs in destination countries.

As a lot of asylum seekers or migrants are undocumented, most data covers those who are in detention or in camps; little is known about the situation of migrants or asylum seekers living outside detention centres or camps.
Humanitarian Situation in Myanmar and Bangladesh

Myanmar

About one million Rohingya live in Myanmar, the majority in Rakhine state, close to the border with Bangladesh. Over 120,000 Rohingya have fled religious persecution in Myanmar in the last three years (IOM, UN, 29/05/2015).

The Rohingya are a religious and linguistic minority who are perceived as foreigners and subject to discrimination. They make up the majority of some 810,000 stateless people in Myanmar. Rohingya are excluded from citizenship under a 1982 Citizenship Law, and subject to other restrictions (Simon Skjodt Centre, 05/05/2015; Refugee Council of Australia, 25/05/2015). Recently, Myanmar has portrayed Rohingya leaving the country as Bangladeshi economic migrants (AFP, 31/05/2015).

140,000 Rohingya who fled inter-communal violence in Rakhine state in 2012 remain in internment camps along the Thai border (The Diplomat, 17/06/2015).

Health

- Malnutrition, diarrhoea, and skin diseases are common among Rohingya (Malteser, 01/06/2015). In one unofficial camp, malnutrition rates are twice the emergency threshold (Refugee International, 2015).
- Regular seasonal flooding poses significant health risks for residents (CNN, 29/10/2014; USAID, 30/03/2015).
- Extreme access restrictions have prevented organisations from meeting the health needs of Rohingya (Simon Skjodt Centre, 05/05/2015).

Food security: Most Rohingya in camps are entirely dependent on assistance. Livelihood opportunities are extremely limited. Officially, Rohingya who are not registered as camp residents are not eligible for UN food rations. Until April 2015, the Rakhine state government provided rations to the unregistered. These distributions then stopped suddenly, leaving thousands without access to food assistance (New York Times, 13/06/2015).

Shelter: Most Rohingya live in makeshift shelters. In Nget Chaung camp, Rakhine state, 6,000 Rohingya are reportedly living in conditions far from meeting basic humanitarian standards. Shelters are in very poor condition and urgently require repair or reconstruction after more than two years of use (CNN, 29/10/2014; USAID, 30/03/2015).

Protection

- About 140,000 Rohingya are in internment camps in Rakhine state (Simon Skjodt Centre, 05/05/2015). Rohingya registered in camps are not allowed to work or leave the camps (Refugee International, 2015).
- The lack of assistance for unregistered asylum seekers and host communities has increased tensions over scarce resources, such as water and firewood, leading to physical and sexual violence against Rohingya, particularly women and girls.
- Rohingya living outside camps, along the border with Bangladesh, are closely monitored by authorities and enrolled into forced labour (New York Times, 13/06/2015).
- Rohingya are excluded from citizenship, preventing them from accessing basic services (Simon Skjodt Centre, 05/05/2015; AFP, 29/05/2015). In February 2015, parliament gave white-card holders the right to vote. Many Rohingya held these temporary identity cards, but after violent riots against the law, the Government did not renew the cards for people without full citizenship (Simon Skjodt Centre for the Prevention of Genocide, 05/05/2015). In June, the Government started distributing two-year identification papers, green cards, to replace the white cards, to some Rohingya, on condition that they renounce their Rohingya identity and provide documentation, which most Rohingya do not have (local media, 18/06/2015).
- The Rohingya are the only ethnic group in Myanmar facing marriage, travel, and religious restrictions. They need official permission to repair their buildings. A two-child policy has been enforced in Maungdaw and Buthidaung camps near the Bangladesh border (Simon Skjodt Centre, 05/05/2015).
### Education
More than 60% of Rohingya children aged 5–17 have never been to school, due to poverty and a lack of facilities, according to NGO Arakan Project. The Government has banned Rohingya from earning degrees in certain subjects, including engineering and medicine. Travel restrictions across Rakhine state further restrain students’ access to high school and university (Al Jazeera, 04/08/2014).

### Humanitarian Constraints
Administrative barriers have hindered the provision of humanitarian assistance. Extremist groups’ hostility and violence towards aid organisations have further restricted access. In March 2014, armed attacks forced organisations to suspend their work in Rakhine state. Médecins Sans Frontières, the largest non-governmental healthcare provider in the area, was expelled from Rakhine state for much of 2014 (Simon Skjodt Centre, 05/05/2015; MSF, 28/02/2014; MSF, 20/07/2015).

### Aggravating Factors
#### Conflict in Myanmar
Conflicts in Karen, Shan, and Kachin states have frequently involved targeted attacks on civilians, including sexual violence and torture. Even in parts of the country where no active conflict is occurring, ethnic minority groups have reported violence by and impunity of the military or security forces (Simon Skjodt Centre, 05/05/2015). 662,400 IDPs were reported in Myanmar in March 2015 (IDMC, 03/2015).

#### Elections
Myanmar’s first democratic elections in 25 years are scheduled for 8 November (Myanmar Times, 10/07/2015). There are no current indications of an escalation of violence in the run-up to the elections. However, given decades of conflict, and recent use of a military veto to block the results of a referendum which would restrict military dominance in government, tensions remain. An increase in violent conflict cannot be ruled out (ICG, 01/07/2015). Rakhine state may be particularly vulnerable to electoral violence, as the Rakhine National Party is a predominantly ethno-nationalist party, which might exploit anti-Rohingya sentiment (Peace Research Institute Oslo, 06/2014).

#### Disaster
Myanmar is exposed to multiple natural hazards including cyclone, earthquake, floods and fire. It has been periodically hit by natural disasters. Monsoon season in Myanmar typically runs from May until October, though tropical storms can be expected until November (HEWS). In late July 2015, six days of torrential rains caused flooding and landslides in 14 provinces, affecting between 156,000 and 216,000 people (ECHO, 01/08/2015; Al Jazeera, 03/08/2015). The 140,000 Rohingya displaced in Rakhine are particularly vulnerable, as their shelter is already inadequate (BBC, 02/08/2015; OHCA, 01/08/2015).

### Response Capacity
Less attention from the media and donor fatigue have characterised the response to the Rohingya’s crisis (ECHO, 22/10/2014). UNHCR, MSF and WFP are the main responders on the ground.

### Bangladesh
Between 300,000 and 500,000 Rohingya live in Bangladesh, in conditions far from meeting basic humanitarian standards. About 230,000 live in and around refugee camps. 30,000 are recognised as refugees by Bangladesh and live in two government–UNHCR camps in Chittagong, in the southeastern district of Cox’s Bazar (UNHCR, 12/06/2015; AFP, 06/06/2015; AFP, 29/05/2015). Others live in two unofficial makeshift sites, Kutupalong (also known as Lewa 2011) and Leda sites, and received limited assistance from humanitarian agencies (WFP and AUSAID, 19/02/2014). Many Rohingya live with inadequate food availability, few livelihood opportunities and limited access to education and healthcare (ECHO, 04/2015). Rohingya make up the vast majority of the more than 150,000 people who have fled across the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea over the past three years, according to UNHCR estimates. Some 120,000 of them left Myanmar, but thousands are also through to have left Bangladesh (Refugee Council of Australia, 25/05/2015).


### Nutrition
Global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates in official and makeshift camps and host communities in Ukhia and Teknaf districts have been above the emergency threshold of 15% since 2011 (ECHO, 22/10/2014). In Kutupalong makeshift camp, it was...
last reported at 18.5%, a significant decrease compared to 30.4% in 2011, with moderate acute malnutrition at 16.9% and severe acute malnutrition at 1.6% (MSF, ACF, 2011, 2014).

**Livelihoods:** Over 65% of refugee households have no regular income or assistance from humanitarian agencies (WFP and AUSAID, 19/02/2014).

**Shelter:** In Kutupalong camp, most shelters are made of dried mud (Reuters, 03/06/2015). Mosques and religious schools are the only buildings allowed by the Government to have tin roofs. During the rainy season, houses collapse (ADM Capital Foundation, 2014). In Leda and Kutupalong makeshift camps, temporary shelters are poorly constructed and seriously degraded (ECHO, 22/10/2014).

**WASH:** Water supply and sanitation for Rohingya and host communities in Leda site, Kutupalong, and surrounding areas needs repair. Sanitation problems poses a serious health risk to residents and Rohingya (ECHO, 22/10/2014).

**Protection**

- Since June 2015, there have been discussions around the relocation of the 30,000 Rohingya registered refugees to a remote island, Thengar Char, because they are allegedly hampering tourism in the coastal district. The island, around two hours away from the mainland, is in an area frequently hit by cyclones. It is completely flooded at high tide, and has no roads or flood defences (international media, 14/06/2015). The island is completely cut off from June to September, during the monsoon season. UN agencies and NGOs have warned about the risks to refugees during the journey and relocation (AFP, 14/06/2015). In July 2015, Cyclone Komen crossed Hatia island and cut off seven villages (local media, 30/07/2015).
- Rohingya living outside official camps cannot be registered at birth or obtain marriage certificates, preventing them from accessing humanitarian assistance. In 2014, the Government acknowledged the humanitarian needs of undocumented Rohingya living in Leda site and Kutupalong camps, but still did not provide legal status (ECHO, 04/2015). Lack of documentation makes Rohingya vulnerable to police persecution and forced repatriation (WFP and AUSAID, 19/02/2014). Extortion and wage exploitation is routine in Cox’s Bazar (WFP and AUSAID, 19/02/2014).
- Rohingya women and girls are subject to sexual harassment, rape, and sexual trafficking (WFP and AUSAID, 19/02/2014).
- Rohingya are not permitted access to higher education opportunities. Undocumented migrants or asylum seekers cannot work officially or access to the education system. Officially, the government does not allow refugees to be employed and integrated within society (WFP and AUSAID, 19/02/2014).

**Vulnerable Groups**

Many households are female-headed, increasing their exposure to exploitation and gender-based violence (ECHO, 04/2015).

**Humanitarian Constraints**

In Cox’s Bazar and Bandarban districts, the Government does not authorise humanitarian agencies to cover the required level of assistance and activities are kept to a minimum life-saving level. The Government would like to see the Rohingya move to Myanmar and feared that services represent a pull factor for refugees to come to Bangladesh (ECHO, 22/10/2014).

**Aggravating Factors**

**Disaster:** Bangladesh faces frequent natural disasters. Most Rohingya live in flood-prone areas. Around 230,000 people were affected by floods in Pekua, Maheshkhalai, Ramu and Chakaria areas in Cox’s Bazar district, as of 3 July, according to Government reports. An estimated 60%–90% of Cox’s Bazar residents have been affected (Government, 03/07/2015). Both natural and manmade shocks have a significant impact on the very poor due to their dependence on agriculture, limited savings, and economic coping mechanisms (WFP, 31/03/2015). Priority hazards in Cox’s Bazar district are cyclones, bank erosion, water logging, salinity, and flash floods (Government, 2014).

In Chittagong district, the main hazards are cyclones, floods, river erosion, landslides and salinity (Government, 2014).
Host population: Bangladesh faces high poverty, aggravated by frequent natural disasters and high population density. The country remains highly food insecure. Six to seven million children (41%) below five years of age are chronically malnourished. The global acute undernutrition rate is 15.6%. An estimated 3.3 million out of 20 million primary school age children remain out of school (WFP, 31/03/2015).

The coastal belt, including Chittagong division, has the greatest prevalence of underweight children, including acute malnutrition (FSNSP 2013). Moderate/severe underweight, stunting, and wasting prevalence rates in Chittagong division reach 32.2%, 43%, and 9.2% respectively (UNICEF/Government, 2014). Cox’s Bazar and Bandarban districts are the worst affected in the division, and have among the highest prevalence rates in the country (WFP/IFAD, 2012).

Response Capacity

The needs of the displaced and host populations are assumed to be significant but no updated assessment provides an overview of specific needs.

Local and national response capacity: The Government has had a national strategy to address needs since 2014. Among its measures is to privilege national actors over international agencies in the response (PI, 07/2015).

International response capacity: The Government allows some UN agencies and NGOs to address some needs, with a focus on health, sanitation, hygiene, and water (PI, 06/2015). WFP and UNHCR are the main UN agencies responding to the needs of the Rohingya and distributing aid in camps. IOM, ECHO, MSF, Solidarités Internationales, Muslim Aid, and ACF are also present in the country.

A Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) was finalised in July in Cox’s Bazar, Bandarban and Chittagong districts after the floods in July (OCHA, 06/07/2015).

Humanitarian Situation at Sea

Over 120,000 Rohingya have fled religious persecution in Myanmar in the last three years. The scale of movement has tripled since 2012: an estimated 63,000 people are believed to have travelled by boat in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea in 2014 (IOM, UN, 29/05/2015). Another 27,000 people did the same journey in the first quarter of 2015. Most were Rohingya (IOM, 16/06/2015).

The most commonly described route has been to disembark in the Ranong area of southern Thailand, then take a day-long road trip to smugglers’ camps near the border with Malaysia (UNHCR, 08/05/2015; AFP, 30/05/2015). An average of one–two months is spent at sea (IOM, 26/05/2015). See map of routes at the end of this document.

Up to 8,000 people were stranded at sea at mid-May 2015. 4,500 were known to have have returned to shore (Deutsche Welle, 14/05/2015; AFP, 08/06/2015; IOM, 16/07/2015). The number of deaths at sea is unknown, but likely higher than the 1.2% estimated for migrants who die from disease or mistreatment at sea or in clandestine smuggling camps (IOM, 21/05/2015).

Nutrition: 1.9% of migrants who undertook the sesa journey are estimated to suffer from ‘beriberi’, a life-threatening vitamin B1 deficiency. Beriberi is reversible, but requires immediate treatment and follow-up (IOM, 26/05/2015). An assessment of over 2,800 people who had migrated since 2013 found that 40% were malnourished and 7% severely malnourished (IOM, 26/05/2015).

Food security and WASH: During the months at sea, Rohingya and migrants have limited access to food and water. Very poor sanitation conditions have been reported (Human Rights Watch, 27/05/2015). When Thai counter-trafficking operations were strengthened, traffickers abandoned boats in fear, leaving migrants and asylum seekers stranded at sea without sufficient food and water (Mercy Malaysia, 28/05/2015).

Protection

- Migrants and asylum seekers are detained for ransom offshore in large boats, or in smugglers’ camps, charging families about USD 200 to free their loved ones (IRIN, 29/05/2015). Non-payment results in death. The scale of deaths is unknown but likely to be higher than the 1.2% that is estimated for migrants who die from disease or mistreatment at sea or in clandestine smuggling camps (IOM, UN, 29/05/2015).
than half of the survivors interviewed by UNHCR since October reported that someone had died in the smuggler’s camp while they were there (UNHCR, 08/05/2015)

- According to testimonies, women on the ships are often sexually abused by crew members (Guardian, 29/05/2015).
- When traffickers abandoned the boats in fear of Thai counter-trafficking, the dire conditions on the boats led to increased tensions and physical fights among migrants, with some reportedly killed and thrown overboard (PI, 06/2015)
- Families are often separated during the journey and are not reunited after their release (AlertNet, 15/05/2015)

Humanitarian Constraints

Countries decide whether to receive people stranded at sea. The UN has pleaded for countries in the region to keep their borders open but Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand have pushed some boats away (New York Times, 12/05/2015). Thailand pledged to provide humanitarian assistance to people on ships and not to push back boats stranded in its waters (Amnesty International, 20/05/2015).

International Response Capacity

The Arakan project monitors maritime movements in the region. IOM and UNHCR are the main providers of humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian Situation in Destination Countries

Approximately 3,600 migrants and asylum seekers have arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand by boat in 2015, as of 22 May (IOM, 21/05/2015). Indonesia and Malaysia have requested support from the international community (Joint Statement on Irregular Movement of People in Southeast Asia, 20/05/2015).

Thailand

2.3 million migrants and asylum seekers from Myanmar are believed to live in Thailand. In addition, around 120,000 refugees who fled conflict in Myanmar in the 1980s are still living in refugee camps in Thailand, on the Thailand–Myanmar border (Partners World, 06/2015). It is unclear how many of these are Rohingya.

Nutrition: 40% of migrants and asylum seekers were malnourished and 1.9% showed signs and symptoms of beriberi, a life-threatening vitamin B1 deficiency, in an assessment of 2,800 people who had arrived since 2013 (IOM, 26/05/2015). 3,000 people who had departed from Myanmar and Bangladesh and who had been temporarily detained in Thailand since 2013 have received nutrition assistance (PI, 06/2015).

Shelter: Migrants and asylum seekers, when intercepted by the authorities, are temporarily accommodated in provincial or national immigration detention centres (IDC). The provincial IDCs hold a smaller number of people for up to a week. They are often overcrowded, lack access to natural light, and detainees do not have adequate nutrition. Women and children are most often placed in different shelters, which have better living conditions as well as access to social services (PI, 07/07/2015).

Protection: Migrants and asylum seekers are often held and tortured by traffickers in overcrowded camps until their family can pay a ransom (Human Rights Watch, 27/05/2015). Detainees spend their days in confined spaces (UNHCR, 10/06/2015).

Other migrants and asylum seekers in Thailand face imprisonment. Some 3,000 Rohingya have been arrested and detained by Thai authorities since 2013, after they were arrested trying to cross Thailand and enter Malaysia (ECHO, 04/2015).
Malaysia

Since November 2014, 40,000 Rohingya have been registered in Malaysia by UNHCR. It is estimated that an equal number have arrived and not been registered (Mercy Malaysia, 28/05/2015; New York Times, 03/06/2015). The majority live in and around Kuala Lumpur. The rest live around the state of Penang, in Kelatan, Terengganu, Johor, and Melaka states (The Equal Rights Trust, 01/2010). At least 1,107 previously stranded-at-sea migrants and asylum seekers reportedly remain in immigration detention centres (PI, 07/07/2015).

Education: Children of irregular migrants are barred from state schools (The Equal Rights Trust, 01/2010). A local NGO has been providing basic education programmes to some 404 children at Belantik Detention Camp in Sik, Kedah (local media, 27/05/2015).

Protection: Migrants and asylum seekers are often held and tortured by traffickers in overcrowded camps until their family can pay a ransom (Human Rights Watch, 27/05/2015). Detainees spend their days in confined spaces (UNHCR, 10/06/2015).

Camps and mass graves most probably of Rohingya asylum seekers and migrants have been discovered at the Thailand–Malaysia border (Mercy Malaysia, 29/05/2015). Malaysian authorities found 139 graves in 28 camps on 25 May (Human Rights Watch, 27/05/2015).

Refugees and unregistered migrants or asylum seekers also face discrimination: their children cannot attend government schools or hold jobs legally (New York Times, 03/06/2015).

Indonesia

12,000 registered asylum seekers and official refugees were living in Indonesia, according to UNHCR, in early 2015. Around 4,800 are in detention centres (The New York Times, 27/05/2015). Registration numbers peaked during the second half of 2013, after several boats arrived from Thailand.

Since May 2015, more than 1,700 Rohingya have been registered as refugees (UNHCR, 10/06/2015; Disaster Management Centre, 08/07/2015). They have been placed in four refugee camps in Aceh: 560 in the area of North Aceh district, 47 in Aceh Tamiang, 682 in Langsa and 433 in East Aceh district (Disaster Management Centre, 08/07/2015).

Health: Exhaustion, dehydration, and infections are the most reported health conditions among new arrivals on Sumatra. The improvised clinic lacks supplies. Patients have to lie on the floor (The New York Times, 27/05/2015). The health conditions of refugees seems to have worsened. Some are in need of intensive care (Disaster Management Centre, 08/07/2015).

WASH: Sanitation is reported to be the main concern in all locations, potentially contributing to increased health problems. Water and sanitation facilities are inadequate and drainage systems need improvement (PI, 07/07/2015).

Shelter: New migrants and asylum seekers are held in a camp near the shore on the island of Sumatra. They sleep on mats or wooden pallets in tents within an abandoned factory. In the three other camps, conditions are similar (The New York Times, 27/05/2015). Beds, mattresses and bedding are insufficient, and some buildings require repair due to leaking roofs, broken ceiling frames, poor ventilation, or lack of electricity (PI, 07/07/2015).

India

According to Human Rights Watch, an estimated 100,000 asylum seekers and migrants from Myanmar were living in India in 2012 (international media, 21/05/2012). In 2015, around 15,000–40,000 of the asylum seekers and migrants from Myanmar are Rohingya (Local media, 24/06/2015).

Shelter: Most Rohingya live in slums or tented settlements, with limited water and sanitation facilities. They are primarily concentrated in a few urban locations, in Jammu (Kashmir state), Hyderabad (Telangana state), Noida, Aligarh and Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh state) (PI, 06/06/2015).

Humanitarian Constraints

Myanmar, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Malaysia have not signed the Refugee Convention or the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, leaving
asylum seekers without international agencies’ official protection (International Commission of Jurists, 27/05/2015). Case studies demonstrate that stateless migrants who are not recognised as refugees and who seek protection from UNHCR often do not receive it. Even where they are identified, the protection is ad hoc, leaving many people vulnerable to deportation and detention (Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance, 01/2013).

In Malaysia, NGOs generally do not receive permission to visit immigration detention camps, hampering the monitoring of conditions. The UNHCR has sporadically been authorised access to detainees in detention centres (The Equal Rights Trust, 01/2010).

**Response Capacity**

**Local and national response capacity**

- Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand have yet to ratify the Refugee Convention and its Protocol, leaving asylum seekers vulnerable to arrest and immediate deportation.

- No unified or coordinated ASEAN response has been developed to address the crisis and the needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. No legal framework for their protection has been established in member states (Council on Foreign Relations, 17/06/2015).

- Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have requested international support in meeting humanitarian needs (Joint Statement on Irregular Movement of People in Southeast Asia, 20/05/2015).

- Indonesia and Malaysia are providing humanitarian assistance and temporary shelter to 7,000 migrants and asylum seekers still at sea, on condition that the international community will resettle and repatriate them within a year (Government of Thailand, 29/05/2015).

- Thailand has pledged to provide humanitarian assistance to people on ships and not to push back boats stranded in its waters (Amnesty International, 20/05/2015). The Thai Government began a major operation to counter human trafficking along its border with Myanmar in April 2015. Despite not having signed the Refugee Convention, it has let refugees live in temporary camps along the border. However, only NGOs provide the populations with aid (Partners World, 06/2015).

**International response capacity:** UNHCR is the main UN agency responding to this crisis in the host countries. It has launched an appeal for USD 13 million to address the needs of Rohingya and new arrivals by boat in southeast Asia in the affected countries of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand (UNHCR, 05/06/2015). Japan has pledged USD 4.5 million in emergency grants to support Rohingya (International media, 21/06/2015). IOM is the lead agency supporting shelter and NFI assistance in Indonesia.

**Information Gaps and Needs**

- Lack of data on mobile population groups and their specific needs is hampering efforts to plan more effective humanitarian interventions.

- As a lot of asylum seekers or migrants are undocumented, most data covers those who are in detention or in camps; little is known about the situation of migrants or asylum seekers living elsewhere.

- Lack of regular monitoring of the number of deaths at sea tends to underestimate the urgency of the issue.

- Lack of common definitions for migrants/asylum seekers hampers data collection on the assessment of the situation of this population.

**Lessons Learned**

- The boat migrant crisis has shown the limits of the current definition of refugee, and therefore the limits of the mandate of UNHCR. There is no legal or normative framework pertaining specifically to the protection of migrant, and they are not included in the mandate of any UN agency. However, unprecedented cooperation between IOM and UNHCR to respond to ‘mixed flows’ from Libya, by organising evacuation of migrants, has shown the benefits of inter-agency cooperation (Chatham House, 11/2011).

- The key to reaching mobile migrants or asylum seekers is mobility: mobile clinics reach migrants who are too afraid or unable to visit stationary medical clinics (Conflict and Health, 07/05/2015).