



Annual Report 2024/2025

**Asia Pacific
Refugee Rights
Network**

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About Us

APRRN's Approach

Mission

The Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), founded in 2008 is a regional network of 321 organisational and individual members in 28 countries (as per 31 December 2025) in Asia and the Pacific. Our mission is to protect and promote the human rights of refugees, internally displaced people, stateless persons and other people on the move in situations of vulnerability in Asia and the Pacific, and to ensure and facilitate their meaningful and intentional inclusion and participation in policy- and decision making.

Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027

Our 2023-2027 APRRN Strategy highlights four key outcomes:

- ◆ **Intentionally connected network** - APRRN will be intentional and proactive in creating relevant links between members to support collective action and impact.
- ◆ **Agile advocacy strategy** - APRRN will implement a coherent and agile regional advocacy strategy that leverages APRRN's unique position and empowers collective action with members.
- ◆ **Enabled and empowered** - APRRN will be a network of empowered, enabled and diverse people from all parts of the region and working towards common goals with trust, confidence and safety to engage.
- ◆ **Fit for purpose** - APRRN will be a thriving, modern and agile organisation that is financially stable, inclusive, logically structured, accountable and with a unified and clearly communicated purpose and strategy.

Core activities

**Member Weaving
and Networking**

**Collective
Advocacy**

**Information
Sharing**

**Capacity building
and Resourcing**

APRRN Overview

A Network led by people with lived experience

2024 and 2025 saw a significant change in growth and composition of the network.

Membership increased to 321 members across 28 countries and APRRN made measurable progress in becoming more representative as members from refugee-led organisations grew to 32, nearly tripling since 2023. This shift strengthens the relevance and legitimacy of the network and ensures that regional coordination is increasingly shaped by those directly affected by displacement.

At the end of 2025, following a comprehensive and transparent nomination and election process, we welcomed our new Steering Committee, which is now more diverse than ever, with increased representation by those with lived experience of forced migration, and more balanced in terms of gender, age and geographic representation across the region. The Steering Committee consist of a Network Chair and Deputy Chair, as well as Chairs and Deputy Chairs for four Geographical and six Thematic Working Groups. More than 50 per cent of our current 22 Steering Committee members now come with lived experience. Meet our new Steering Committee [here](#)

Over the last two years, we also established two working teams: the Rohingya Working Team and the Meaningful Refugee Participation Advisory Board to work with us in the development of our Meaningful Refugee Participation Guidelines and Handbook. The working teams are made up of experts to guide our specific work and advocacy related to these areas. See more details on this in our advocacy section below.

Thematic Working Groups
Immigration Detention
Legal aid and Advocacy
Refugee Participation and Leadership
Women, Gender and Diversity
Age, Gender and Diversity
Creative Initiatives in Practice
Geographic Working Groups
Australia, New Zealand and Pacific
South Asia
South East Asia
East Asia

NEW THAI AND INTERNATIONAL BOARDS

The APRRN Secretariat and Network operates under our Thai-registered Foundation, the Foundation for the Rights of Disadvantaged Populations (FRDP) and in 2024 and 2025, we welcomed our new Thai Board members who, along with the international board members, who were nominated in 2025, following the Steering Committee Election, oversees APRRN's financial affairs and governance compliance vis a vis the Thai government.

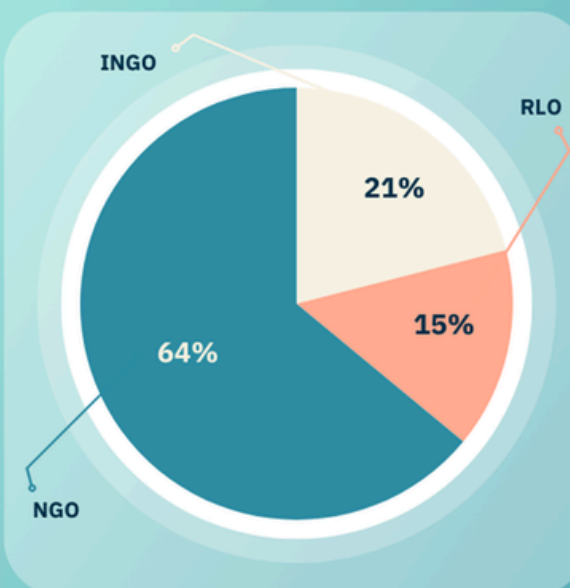
APRRN SECRETARIAT

The APRRN Secretariat, with its main office in Bangkok, currently consists of 9 staff and consultants under the leadership of two Co-Secretaries General, Hafsar Tameesuddin, who brings lived experience, and Klaus Dik Nielsen.

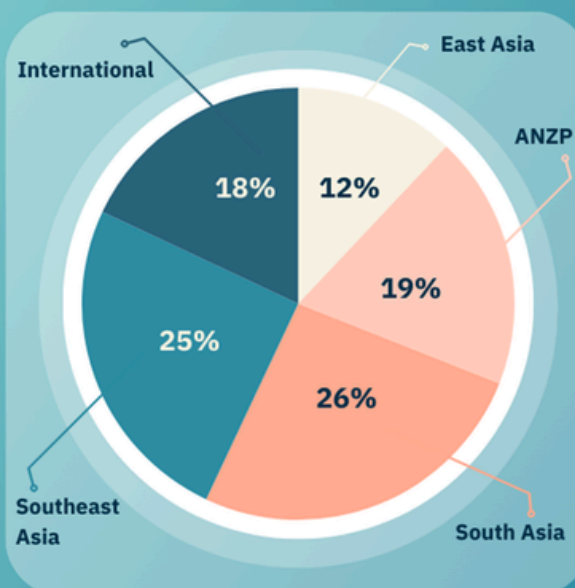
OUR MEMBERSHIP

In 2024 and 2025, we made an intentional effort to increase diversity and representation across our membership to ensure better regional representation. 60 new members joined APRRN, increasing the membership to 321 members, including 211 organisational and 110 individual members. Of the new members in 2025, almost half come with lived experience: 11 out of 28 new members have lived experience of forced displacement (8 Refugee-Led Organisations (RLOs) and 3 Refugee Leaders).

Members by Organisation Type



APRRN Members By Region



The recruitment of two Co-Secretaries General in 2023, marked an important step in cementing APRRN's approach of having people with lived experience in the leadership position and at the forefront of our advocacy and other work. This provided an opportunity to redistributing power and prioritising meaningful, diverse and intentional refugee participation within APRRN and beyond. Nearly three years on, the impact of this model, has filtered through to all layers of the network and beyond. The Co-SGs insistence on widening and diversifying the space for more people with lived experience, has opened the door for more APRRN members and partners with lived experience to advocate at local, national, regional and global forums, some of which had previously none with lived experience attending, and making our joint advocacy more meaningful, credible and impactful.

Membership with APRRN is open to all civil society organisations and individuals, including Refugee-Led Organisations – and Initiatives, and people with lived experience. If you are interested in becoming a member, please visit our [website](#) and fill out the [membership application form](#).



APRRN is a very good and extremely useful platform for the exchange of views with regard to refugee protection.

- RLO member



A Message from the current and former Chairs

Hayat Akbari
Current APRRN Chair



It is a great honour to serve as Chair of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and to introduce this Annual Report, which captures a period of significant transformation, resilience, and collective action across our network.

As someone with lived experience of forced displacement, I understand the profound importance of protection, dignity, and belonging. I also understand the strength that emerges when people affected by displacement are not merely consulted, but are trusted as leaders, decision-makers, and partners in shaping solutions. This belief is at the heart of APRRN's work and increasingly defines who we are as a network.

Across Asia and the Pacific, millions of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people, and others on the move continue to face immense challenges. Conflict, persecution, protracted displacement, shrinking civic space, restrictive migration policies, and growing humanitarian pressures continue to affect the lives of many across our region. At the same time, civil society organisations are operating in an increasingly difficult environment, compounded by funding uncertainty and shifting global priorities.

Yet this report is ultimately a story of hope, resilience, and progress.

Throughout 2024 and 2025, APRRN continued to strengthen its role as a regional platform for collaboration, advocacy, and solidarity. We expanded and diversified our membership, strengthened partnerships with refugee-led organisations, facilitated new opportunities for advocacy and capacity building, and supported refugee leaders to participate in spaces where decisions affecting their lives are made.

Most importantly, we continued our journey towards becoming a network genuinely shaped by people with lived experience. Across our membership, leadership structures, working groups, and advocacy initiatives, we have worked intentionally to ensure that refugee voices are not only heard but are central to decision-making processes. The growing representation of refugee leaders within APRRN reflects a broader commitment to shifting power, strengthening inclusion, and building a movement that is both representative and accountable.


This report demonstrates what can be achieved when organisations and individuals come together around shared values and common goals. It highlights the dedication of our members, Working Groups, Steering Committee, Board members, Secretariat, refugee-led organisations, and partners who continue to advocate tirelessly for the rights of displaced communities throughout the region. Their expertise, commitment, and solidarity remain the foundation of APRRN's impact.

As we look to the future, I believe APRRN has a unique and important role to play. At a time when the voices of displaced people are too often excluded from policy discussions, we must continue to champion meaningful participation and refugee leadership. At a time when division and uncertainty are growing, we must strengthen regional solidarity and collective action. And at a time when human rights principles are increasingly challenged, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to justice, protection, and dignity for all.

The challenges ahead are significant, but so too is the strength of our network. Together, we will continue to build a more inclusive, representative, and impactful movement for refugee rights across Asia and the Pacific.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the APRRN Secretariat, every APRRN member, partner, supporter, and colleague whose work contributes to this shared mission. It is through your dedication and collaboration that APRRN continues to grow, evolve, and make a meaningful difference.

I invite you to explore this report and celebrate the achievements, partnerships, and collective efforts that have shaped APRRN over the past year. I look forward to continuing this journey together.



Hayat Akbari, APRRN Chair
As of October 2025



At a time when the voices of displaced people are too often excluded from policy discussions, we must continue to champion meaningful participation and refugee leadership.



David Keegan

Former chair

This year has again presented a number of challenges for the sector with the most significant being the significant erosion of international aid funding. This also had a flow on effect to APRRN and led to some staffing changes and a focus on renegotiating with our funding partners and seeking new funding partners. However, despite this, the work has continued and the support of our members has been fundamental in achieving this. The Board and Steering Committee have been focussed on advancing the strategic plan by ensuring a greater focus on measuring our impact and ensuring that members are supported to connect and collaborate on advocacy and support initiatives. I am also pleased to see more membership applications from refugee led organisations across the region including a significant number of new members working with Rohingya Refugees.

The work of APRRN is dependent on the generosity and commitment of our members and to you I thank you for your contribution. I particularly thank the Working Group Chairs (who make up the Steering Committee) and Deputy Chairs as well as the Board members who all play an integral role in the leadership and running of APRRN. I also particularly thank the Secretariat who work hard to support the activities of APRRN. I also congratulate Hafsar and Klaus on the further strengthening of their co-leadership approach and their willingness to learn and help others to learn about this approach as a means to facilitating lived experience leadership.

As you read through the annual report, I hope it helps you to feel proud of the work that APRRN is doing and inspired to keep advocating for the rights of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in the Asia Pacific Region.

David Keegan, APRRN Chair
2023 - October 2025

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'D Keegan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Message from the Secretaries General

2024 and 2025: Years of Change in APRRN

2023 - the year when we began our Co-Leadership journey - was a year of transition, and we could call 2024 and 2025 years of actual change of APRRN in terms of the composition, nature and growth of the network, in particular the transition of APRRN into a Network led by people with lived experience.

Begun in early 2023 with a focused APRRN strategy and the Secretariat Co-Leadership model in place, significant progress was made towards APRRN being a more impactful and diverse network, thus retaining its relevance as an authoritative regional refugee-led advocate and agenda setter in policy and advocacy forums at the local, national, regional and global levels.

Despite very challenging external factors, we undertook compelling advocacy, and intentionally brought diverse members with lived experience to policy and advocacy forums, including new ones; grew, diversified and strengthened the network; restructured the Secretariat making it more effective including with a new M & E framework and tools; and facilitated a thorough and accessible nomination and election process of APRRN's Steering Committee and Thai and International Boards. The latter has resulted in a new and diverse leadership structure, consisting of 28 new and continuing members, some of whom are from the refugee camps and refugee-hosting countries and, therefore, includes leaders with living experiences, beyond lived experience.

We would like to thank all our new members, in particular our new Steering Committee, including those with lived experience, for trusting in this transformed and new APRRN and for trusting us and having faith in the network. At our General Assembly, in September 2025, we asked the question – and we believe that every organisation should be bold enough to continuously ask the question: “Is there a need for a network such as APRRN? And if so, what shape and form should it take?”. The need and desire for the network to continue in its 18th year was expressed unambiguously by members. It is our hope that in whichever way APRRN continues to shape and re-shape itself, and develop in the next many years, that it remains at the forefront of principled and impactful human rights advocacy and programming.

With the sudden US Foreign Aid Freeze in early 2025, the reality in our sector became harsh for many of our members, several of whom had to reduce their operations, or close down altogether. To try to respond to that, we began disseminating weekly emails to members which included regional and global funding opportunities. The new situation forced us to think outside the box, and we are very pleased to see the making of a new Thematic Working Group – Creatives Initiatives in Practice – whose aim is to look, in a more innovative and comprehensive way, solutions and joint funding. We urge our members to come together more often and undertake joint funding at this particular time.

Despite the harsh realities, drastically reduced funds, and ever-shrinking civil society space, we continued to be struck by the unwavering resilience by people with lived experience– from people who have very little but whose determination is overwhelming and their drive to reach their full potential an inspiration for us all. We often hear this sentence from many of our members and partners who bring lived experience to the table: “We want to contribute – use us!”. APRRN continues to advocate with, empower, facilitate funding, skills and connections to RLIs and RLOs to amplify their initiatives, and advocacy, in our efforts to translate their inspirations and aspirations into action. This role of APRRN as an intermediary has been crucial in decentralising and redistributing power towards the grassroots and local actors such as RLOs and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs).

2024 and 2025 were also years of restructuring the APRRN secretariat in line with our 2023-2027 strategy. We endeavour to navigate through adaptability to ensure that the transition was smooth and effective, always ensuring that APRRN is focused on impact. We would only be able to deliver, implement and operationalise our strategies into actions with the dedication and commitments from our team at the APRRN secretariat. We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our team for their unwavering commitment, passion and hard work.

On Co-Leadership and Decision-Making Processes



We are continuing to develop co-leadership principles, roles and responsibilities that are both structured and fluid. They include: mutual trust, respect, openness, vulnerability and an acknowledgement of our respective strengths and weaknesses, as well as the ability and willingness to listen, learn and change.



Hafsar Tameesuddin



Klaus Dik Nielsen

2024/2025 in numbers

50%

APRRN Secretariat and Steering Committee with lived experience of forced migration

47

member consultations and working groups facilitated by APRRN to develop joint advocacy and discussion

4,370*

people engaged through in-room advocacy interventions

(*estimate)

153

High level meetings, panels, workshops, and consultations where APRRN advocated and intervened in 2025

19%

increase in our membership since the beginning of 2024

148

Refugee leaders and activists trained in legal aid, advocacy, research methods in 2024/2025

77

occasions in 2025 where APRRN successfully pushed for people with lived experience of forced migration/ statelessness to speak at high level meetings or important decision making settings

245,800

Euros sourced to fund Refugee-Led Organisations (RLO) member projects linked to education, direct assistance, legal aid, research etc.



APRRN Participated and Contributed to the Second World Statelessness Conference Held in Kuala Lumpur along our Members, 2024

Two years of transformational systems change into a Network led by people with lived experience

I have had the opportunity to facilitate youth-led initiatives and amplify the voices of refugee youth within regional advocacy efforts. I've been able to support and collaborate closely with young people from refugee backgrounds, helping ensure their concerns are reflected in APRRN planning and public engagement



Youth Working Group member

2025 was the year APRRN moved from building intention to demonstrating change – where APRRN became a network led by people with lived experience and, with more representative leadership, stronger refugee-led participation, more partnerships and direct resourcing to refugee-led organisations and initiatives, and greater influence in national, regional and global advocacy spaces.

It became a year to really build on the foundations laid towards improved, accountable and inclusive decision making and shifting power dynamics within APRRN. In 2024, intentional Meaningful Participation started being incorporated within every activity of our work and while 2024 was defined by intention, 2025 marked a visible shift towards change internally and externally.

Internally, we significantly improved, diversified and intentionalised inclusion and representation of people with lived experience of forced migration in our leadership and decision making bodies, Externally, our advocacy and insistence on meaningful participation of people with lived experience from the inception of identifying solutions, through to all stages of implementation, resulted in more space for those with lived experience to have a permanent seat at policy-and decision making tables.

We saw our influence translated into shifts in who holds power and space. For example, through APRRN's facilitation, advocacy, and steady encouragement with partners, we witnessed refugees not only attending key spaces but confidently claiming them.

When invited to present in Bangkok, we advocated for a refugee leader from a Bangladesh camp to take the platform instead—an opportunity rarely extended.

At regional consultations for the Global Refugee Forum, we pushed beyond traditional co-convening roles to secure a refugee advisory group, enabling refugee-led and asylum-seeker representatives to directly shape agendas and guide discussions. These moments may seem small, but together they show how APRRN is leveraging its position to open doors, shift power, and ensure refugees are not only represented, but are becoming recognised and influential partners.

While the road to reclaiming the authority and power of impacted communities is still long, the above are examples of how APRRN make conscious and intentional efforts and decisions on that road through small and big steps.

Internally, by the end of 2025, this transformation was reflected within our own leadership, as significantly more new voices with lived experience of forced migration stepped into Steering Committee roles, bringing fresh energy, confidence, and direction to the network. At the Secretariat level, four out of our nine staff and consultants, now come with lived experience.

Highlights of our work towards meaningful refugee participation

- Between Feb - April 2024, we concentrated on solidifying **the vision and roadmap for meaningful refugee participation and increasing diversity within APRRN by developing the operational plan.**
- Throughout 2024 and 2025, **the Secretariat met regularly and had multiple learning and sensemaking sessions**, led by the Learning lead, to discuss the power dynamics and how we can improve MRP in our network.
- In October 2024, **we formed the MRP advisory group - to support in developing policy and guidance** around APRRN and how we better work with and support our membership of refugee leaders and those with lived experience. Through a partnership with the Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR) to assess the gaps within APRRN, the advisory board continues to guide us through how we can improve access and inclusion in APRRN, from our working groups to our joint advocacy.
- **MRP Guidelines and assessment**; we brought in a consultant to support with the development of MRP Guidelines and principles to improve our work towards MRP. These are drafted and will be published in 2026.

We continue to learn from other organisations in the region, and beyond, who prioritise meaningful participation of people with lived experience, and the Co-Secretaries General have had several requests from regional and international Boards to explain about their Co-Leadership model, and challenges and opportunities.

Coordination and Member Engagement

Creating a proactive network

Strategic Pillar 1 - APRRN is intentional and proactive in creating relevant links between members to support collective action and impact

During the General Assembly held online in September 2025, a need and a desire for the network to continue was expressed unambiguously by members. The most notable impact for many members continues to be the network's role in sustaining, growing and diversifying a regional advocacy movement

APRRN strengthened its role as a regional connector, creating a more diverse and coordinated network to more effectively respond collectively to the myriad challenges affecting refugees and other people on the move in situations of vulnerability across Asia and the Pacific. As funding pressures, policy- and practices shifts and protection risks intensified, APRRN convened members more frequently to identify joint positioning and advocacy asks, and to explore collaboration and mutual partnerships through our geographical and thematic working groups and teams.

The Network Coordinator (a post established in mid-2024, replacing the former Programme Coordinator), had a significant role in undertaking membership weaving across the four Thematic and six Geographical Working Groups (WGs) and advocacy priorities. He worked closely with members from the WGs, and individual members, convening meetings and connecting diverse members on specific advocacy efforts.

APRRN encouraged more connected and responsive collaboration across the network. Through regular Working Group meetings, consultations and thematic discussions, members were able to exchange information, align advocacy approaches and respond collectively to emerging issues such as the US funding freeze and evolving protection challenges in the region. Thematic events organised in coordination with our partners and members included regular Refugee Status Determination (RSD) practitioners group meetings to compare practices in registration and RSD in countries across the region to explore learning, partnership and advocacy opportunities within the Legal Aid and Advocacy Working Group. This Group also continues to co-lead the Strategic Litigation Network on Migrants and People on the Move in the Asia Pacific with OHCHR, convening webinars and annual in-person meeting between lawyers, NGOs and the UN, strengthening litigation efforts through capacity sharing and joint strategising. These spaces increasingly function not only as forums for discussion, but as platforms for coordinated action and shared strategy.

'APRRN enables me to building stronger relationships with key stakeholders & follow up potential projects...it enables me to identify priorities that we can take forward'

– Member

The intentional strengthening of the network also included coordinated responses to Afghan deportations from Pakistan and collaborative statements with regional partners, preparation for regional UNHCR NGO consultations, and the Asian Dialogue on Forced Migration. Ahead of the annual UNHCR-led Consultations on Resettlement and Complimentary Pathways (CRCP) in June 2025, the Network Coordinator convened a number of meetings and compiled input and good practices to be presented by Co-Secretary General Hafsar Tameesuddin during their participation at the CRCP.

Similarly, leading up to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Review in December 2025, a number of meetings were held with diverse members to strategise on common advocacy messaging and to identify joint avenues of influence. Hafsar and APRRN's Afghanistan Consultant, with 15 APRRN delegates, including newly elected SC members undertook joint advocacy and spoke at panels and side events at the GRF, thereby raising the profile of Asia in a global context, a much-needed effort. These preparations enabled member delegates to carry network perspectives to high-level policy discussions, ensuring regional views from the network are appropriately delivered.

Internally, in September and October 2025, a comprehensive and more accessible nomination and voting process for the

APRRN Network Chair and Deputy Chair, as well as four permanent Geographical and six Thematic Working Groups, took place. There was overwhelming interest from members to learn about the process, and the Secretariat organised information sessions with outgoing members of the Steering Committee to demystify and explain what it could mean to be a Steering Committee Chair or Deputy Chair. Many people came forward to stand for Chair or Deputy Chair. Overseen by an Election Committee, the results were announced in late October 2025. It is noteworthy that more than half of the current SC now comes with lived experience, including our Chair of the Network, Hayat, and that many young people have come forward for a leadership position. To learn more about our new Steering Committee and Thai and International Boards, [please see here](#).

We also piloted in-country meets to improve collaboration and network weaving amongst our members, connects local organisations and international actors. For example, during the [International Association for the Study of Forced Migration \(IASFM\) conference](#) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia or at high-level events such as the 2024 Global Refugee Forum, in which 37 of our members attended. These meetings have been crucial to connect and strengthen the network to develop solutions across civil society and bring together those who otherwise would not meet from across INGOs, NGOs and civil society.



Key highlight 2025

Advocating for refugee leaders to be instrumental

APRRN co-convened the [Regional UNHCR NGO consultations in Asia](#) ensuring that, for the first time, the planning was informed and guided by a diverse CSO Advisory Group, including refugees and stateless persons. Also, many from the CSO Advisory Group, took a leading role presenting on panels and facilitating sessions at the two-day event, increasing ownership of the consultation and keeping it grounded in realities. For the first time in our region, the opening statement was delivered by Khair Ullah, a refugee from Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh and APRRN's current South Asia Working Group Chair.

“

As someone with lived experience of forced migration, I have actively contributed to various national and international discussions, both online and in-person... I have used [my] knowledge to share accurate updates on challenges, legal obstacles, and available opportunities through social media platforms, advocacy meetings, and coordination forums. This has helped ensure that the real voices and concerns... are reflected in program discussions, advocacy efforts, and policy dialogues.

”

Collective Advocacy

Enhancing refugee rights at the local, national and global level

Strategic Pillar 2 - APRRN is intentional and proactive in creating relevant links between members to support collective action and impact

APRRN members and the Secretariat undertook significant strategic advocacy efforts in the public and behind closed doors, including in new advocacy spaces, for example at the General Assembly in New York. We also gained significantly more advocacy allies and partners, and strengthened our relationships with existing ones, including diplomatic missions and UN agencies in Bangkok, including the Asia Pacific Regional Bureau of UNCHR, the Australian Embassy to Thailand, the EU Delegation to Thailand and the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand.

APRRN continued to be an authoritative contributor and agenda setter on a number of complex issues, including on Rohingya displacement in our region, and applied a multi-pronged approach to put the issue at negotiation tables behind closed doors and in the public domain. This took place at various forums and events.

A good example of this was when we launched our revised Rohingya Briefer '[Strategizing for Rohingya Refugee Protection and Durable Solutions; A regional and Multistakeholder approach](#)', in March 2025. This community-rooted advocacy product, which was produced in collaboration with APRRN's Rohingya Working Team, ensures that policy recommendations are rooted in lived experience and expertise.

The Briefer was officially launched at a series of meetings during an advocacy trip in Malaysia with Co-Secretary General, Hafsar, Secretariat Staff and a number of APRRN members based in Malaysia. Some months later, Hafsar attended and spoke at the UN General Assembly High-Level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar and provided APRRN's recommendations to the accelerating crisis and funding gaps. They highlighted the need for inclusive, community-led frameworks for repatriation and stronger regional cooperation to protect civil society space. Prior to that, APRRN was invited to participate in and speak at the Stakeholder Dialogue in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh on the repatriation of Rohingya.



Co-Secretary General, Hafsar Tameesuddin - European and Humanitarian Forum, March 2024

The strength of APRRN, namely that we are able to respond to issues comprehensively and relatively quickly, always drawing on our members' grassroots experience and bringing it to the national, regional and global level, was also exemplified when the Secretariat in 2025 had a request from WHO in Geneva to contribute to a discussion on inclusion of refugees in national health systems. With two APRRN members, including an RLO, Co-Secretary General, Klaus, spoke to a mix of Geneva-based NGOs, UN agencies, and States. APRRN wrapped up 2025 with our participation in and contribution to the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, 15-17 December in Geneva, with several APRRN members delegation led by Hafsar from the Secretariat.

APRRN works with its members and through the working groups to advocate for needs in line with advocacy priorities, which until the end of 2025 were: 1) Immigration Detention; 2) Right to Work, Livelihoods and Education; 3) Meaningful Refugee Participation; 4) LGBTQI and other minorities; 5) National Systems and RSD; 6) Myanmar and Rohingya. In addition, we also advocated on issues in Afghanistan, on Youth-related issues, and on Women and Gender, in particular on prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, as well as countering narratives on migration.

Graph shows the focus of our advocacy in 2025, with the size of the box corresponding to the number of times each advocacy theme was addressed



Advocacy Highlights

2024/2025

Upholding the principle of non-refoulement Preventing deportations

APRRN advocated for strengthened adherence to the principle of non-refoulement through refugee-led advocacy at high-level forums such as the 13th Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration, where leaders from the region influenced discussions on Myanmar's displacement crisis and regional responsibility-sharing among states including Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Australia. Efforts included successful lobbying of UNHCR for a May 2024 Guidance Note on Myanmar nationals, aiding member advocacy despite ongoing registration barriers in Malaysia and Thailand and supporting coordinated strategies against deportations via the Strategic Litigation Network, a joint project with OHCHR. Refugee voices shaped recommendations at workshops, webinars and in statements urging ASEAN leaders to prioritise protection and upholding the principle of non-refoulement for Rohingya and others fleeing peril.

Ending immigration detention for people seeking international protection

Often led by the Immigration Detention Working Group, APRRN coordinated campaigns in India, Thailand, and Malaysia, issuing urgent appeals to UN experts against arbitrary detention of Myanmar refugees and documenting violations through partners. In Thailand, coalition-building amplified calls for investigations into detention deaths and dignified solutions, prompting responses from UN Special Rapporteurs and Thailand's National Human Rights Commission. In Malaysia, advocacy exposed abuses at an immigration centre, leading to disciplinary actions and highlighting failures in child detention alternatives, with joint statements to the UPR, pressing for community-based options for children.

Calling for a rights-based and non-discriminatory approach to essential services

APRRN played a central role in promoting solutions and rights-based access to education and employment opportunities. Through our collaboration with the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP), we advocate for access to work in a number of countries in our region. Our Thailand-based members, some of whom have been campaigning for decades for the right to work, played an instrumental role in the landmark decision by the Royal Thai Government in 2025 to give refugees resident in the long-established nine Thailand/Myanmar border camps a right to work. APRRN.

In our advocacy messaging, we continue to emphasise that refugees are people who can and want to contribute to the societies and economies in which they live – moving from the concept of burden. There is a very high level of resilience from people in very difficult situations who do not want to be an economic burden, but want to be educated and work.

Strengthening National systems, Asylum and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Procedures

In line with our [Global Refugee Forum \(GRF\) Legal Community Pledge](#), we advocated to increase access to justice and legal assistance for refugees in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on pro bono work, capacity building for refugee-led groups and collaborating to strengthen national protection mechanisms and push for rights-based RSD procedures.

In 2024, the South Asia WG filed landmark legal actions in Nepal for Rohingya and Sri Lankan refugees and addressed camp insecurity and Sexual and Gender-Based Violations (SGBR) in Bangladesh, and our East Asia and Legal Aid and Advocacy WGs organised regional RSD symposiums in Japan and Korea

Advancing rights, visibility and durable solutions for Rohingya and Myanmar nationals

APRRN continue to direct regional and international attention to one of the world's most protracted, and yet, forgotten, crises. In line with our GRF Rohingya Multi-Stakeholder Pledge we have advocated for upholding the rights and identifying durable solutions, as a matter of urgency, to the vast number of displaced people from Myanmar as a result of the protracted crisis in Myanmar, at high level meetings, including at the [European Humanitarian Forum](#) in Brussels in 2024, “

We raised international visibility through member-led events, including Rohingya visual history preservation where Greg Constantine, an award-winning documentary photographer, and APRRN member introduced 'Ek Khaale', a ground-breaking project that bridges generations to preserve Rohingya visual history. [Watch the Webinar Here](#). At a World Refugee Day Seminar in 2024, organised by one of APRRN's members, the COAST Foundation, Bangladesh, speakers and participants highlighted the dignified, durable, and long-term solutions for Rohingyas and the responsibilities of the Bangladesh government, UN agencies and regional and global, stakeholders [Read More Here](#)

Amid increasing pushbacks of Myanmar nationals across the region, where individuals were being arrested, denied entry, or having asylum claims rejected - APRRN advocated for stronger protection measures. Through sustained engagement with UNHCR, including written submissions and ongoing dialogue with the Regional Bureau in Asia and the Pacific, APRRN pushed for formal guidelines to ensure Myanmar nationals would not be returned to unsafe conditions. This contributed to UNCHR issuing written guidance which provide a clear, authoritative reference point, helping reopen at least one individual case and encouraging states to take protection obligations more seriously

Preventing deportation, increasing protection and livelihood in Afghanistans

In 2024 and 2025, APRRN expanded its efforts to uphold the human rights of Afghan refugees across the region. The rise in forced deportations from Pakistan and Iran, along with increasing protection needs, shaped the core of our work. We held multiple meetings with APRRN members and UNHCR Pakistan to assess the situation of forced deportations and advocate for protection measures. One notable impact was, as a result of providing technical advice to the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) on safe and low-cost exit pathways for Afghan students holding RWI scholarships, financial and logistical barriers for the Afghan students were removed, contributing to their secure relocation in a third country.

Youth, Women and Gender

APRRN amplified the voices and leadership of marginalised groups, particularly women and youth with lived experience of forced displacement. We hosted the first Regional Youth Refugee Summit, convening 70 youth leaders from across Asia Pacific and co-facilitated empowerment workshops for women-led refugee groups in Malaysia, Bangladesh and Thailand in partnership with the University of New South Wales. Discussions centered around how women-led groups can become more empowered to run their own organisations, serve their communities and advocate for their rights, and access to services and sustainable livelihood opportunities,

Ali Reza Yawari, APRRN's Membership Support and Communications Consultant, presented at [the SUAKA](#) online webinar series on the topic of "Protecting Refugees Identified as Human Rights Defenders" highlighting the risks of young advocates and human rights defenders [Watch Here](#)

APRRN statements across regions and themes

In 2024 and 2025, we released 12 joint statements and press releases in response to the Rohingya crisis, Malaysia detention centres, Thai government deportations, Afghan deportations in Pakistan, resettlement pathways and US funding cuts. These statements were developed collaboratively with our members, and in some instances solely driven by members. [All statements can be viewed here](#). Examples included:

- [APRRN urgent statement calling on Malaysia's Home Minister to order exemption from arrest and release children from Baitul Mahabbah and other immigration detention centres into community-based programs - September 2024](#)
- [APRRN Urgent Appeal to the Government of Pakistan to Immediately Halt Forced Deportations of Afghan Refugee - May 2025](#)
- [APRRN joint statement and urgent Appeal on the Situation of Myanmarse Refugees in India, February 2024](#)

Impact of the transformational systems change

APRRN has now become a network led by people with lived experience, and in 2024 and 2025, we made concerted efforts to ensure that diverse refugee leaders and people with lived experience would have space at policy and decision-making forums and events on issues that affect their own lives. This has included advocating for their participation, encouraging our partners, including UN agencies, to fund those participants with lived experience who are able to travel to speak at events, and sit around negotiation tables. Refugee advocates. In circumstances where funding has not been available, APRRN has stepped in to ensure the participation of refugee leaders in platforms which otherwise would not have been accessible to them. Some examples include:

- ➔ APRRN invited community refugee leaders from Indonesia, Cox Bazaar and Thailand via video to speak at a series of meetings with decision-and policy makers in Canberra, Australia, when the Co-SGs were on a short advocacy/fundraising tour in Australia in 2024, by bringing their pre-recorded messages to meetings with policy -and decision makers, where the refugee leaders delivered recommendations to Australia on how the country can become more impactful when it comes to refugee protection and access to services in Asia
- ➔ In November 2025, when Co-Sg, Hafsar was invited by UNHCR to a Regional Workshop, we instead advocated, facilitated and funded a refugee leader from Cox Bazar (who was able to travel) to attend instead. Co-Sg Klaus, also co-facilitated and accompanied the leader to a meeting with the Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand.
- ➔ We also increased collaboration with refugee leaders to draft policy briefs and press releases from the ground. This included the revised Rohingya Briefer 'Strategizing for Rohingya Refugee Protection and Durable Solutions; A regional and Multistakeholder approach, in March 2025. This was produced in collaboration with APRRN's Rohingya Working Team, ensuring that policy recommendations were rooted in lived experience and expertise.

Khair Ullah, a Rohingya refugee and APRRN's current chair of South Asia Working Group, shares the escalating challenges in Cox's Bazar refugee camp, including inadequate healthcare, insufficient rations, human trafficking, and lack of education via a video message at the World Refugee Week event in Bangkok, Thailand.



Partnering with Refugee- Led Organisations: empowering diversity, inclusion and refugee participation with our members and partners

Strategic Pillar 3 - APRRN will be a network of empowered, enabled and diverse people from all parts of the region and working towards common goals with trust, confidence and safety to engage.

Resourcing funding for Refugee Led Organisations

For the past few years, APRRN has been increasingly funding and partnering with refugee led organisations, and advocating with donors to transform funding processes, so more funders put funding straight to the grassroots. Many barriers still exist to channel money to community-based organisations and RLOs in countries where they are unable to legally register, and APRRN has assumed a role as an intermediary of some funds, sitting between large international donors or INGOs and very small, often unregistered, local refugee-led organisations.

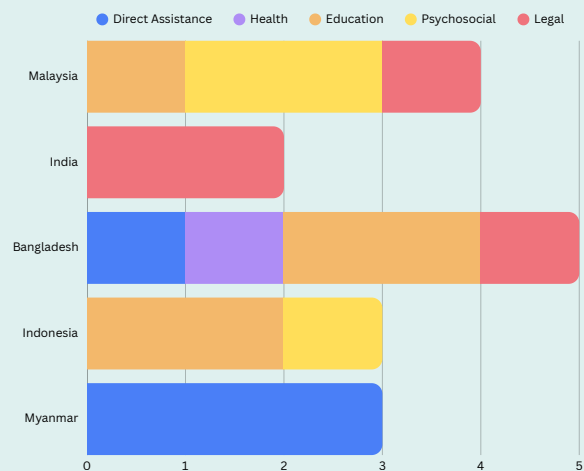
In 2024 and 2025 we facilitated funding of almost 250,000 euros directly to refugee-led organisations. This included funding projects across Myanmar, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia and India, for example facilitation of Myanmar refugees to access higher education in India. APRRN also made 17,000 USD in payments to refugee resource persons developing modules and mainstreaming meaningful refugee participation with INGOs and NGOs operating in the region, and for Afghan Women Lawyers to develop practices modules for mediating domestic violence cases, navigating the very challenging protection environment for women in Afghanistan.

From the research we learnt a lot, how to be systemised, recording data analysis, how to analyse accurately and to be impactful on advocacy; overall the training and moderators were really helpful'



— RLO Training Participant

Grants provided to RLO projects in 2025; by location and project type



Capacity Building, training and partnership

APRRN strengthened the capacity of 148 individual members and partners, including 120 activists with lived experience, equipping them to lead advocacy, conduct research and influence policy in their own contexts. Rather than relying on external actors to speak on behalf of affected communities, these investments resulted in the expansion of the number of refugee leaders able to generate evidence, engage institutions and advocate directly for rights and protection. Our capacity building and strengthening projects have included:

- 🎯 **Advocacy training for 20 refugee leaders in Malaysia in collaboration with Refugee Action for Change (ReACT).** These trainings took place in 2024 and were carefully designed to provide refugee leaders with the knowledge and skills around effective advocacy that contribute to the wider ecosystem of positive changes for the rights of refugees.



- 🎯 **Meaningful Refugee Participation (MRP) training to our membership with Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APNOR)** - we conducted a training on Meaningful Refugee Participation in 2024 with 58 of our members - from RLOs, CBOs, INGOs and civil society organisations across the region. This training provided an introduction to MRP, how you can start to implement it within your organisations and started a dialogue on the challenges many refugee leaders and activists face.

- 🎯 At the end of 2025, we implemented a **legal training project for eight Afghan women lawyers based in Afghanistan**, focusing on strengthening their legal knowledge, preventing domestic violence, and enhancing their ability to provide legal advice to women with limited access to justice. The program significantly improved participants' understanding of national and international women's rights frameworks, as well as their counselling skills, case analysis abilities, digital literacy, and overall professional development.

This training not only improved my legal knowledge, but it gave me the confidence and courage to stand beside women and defend their rights in challenging circumstances



RLO Training Participant -

Capacity Building, training and partnership



In 2025, Refugee Voices Through **Community-Led Research**, in collaboration with the **Mixed Migration Centre (MMC)** - a global network under the umbrella of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), an APRRN member, an innovative research initiative that puts refugee communities at the centre of evidence-based advocacy. Seven Refugee-Led Organisations (RLOs) from Malaysia and Indonesia took part. The three-month program provided comprehensive support, including research methodology workshops, ongoing mentorship, and funding for each organisation. Participating RLOs examined diverse topics from healthcare access to education and livelihood barriers, with many of them conducting their first-ever community-based research across multiple provinces and expanding their connections. The initiative culminated in a dissemination webinar, during which RLOs presented their findings to stakeholders across Southeast Asia. As one participant noted, this was their first opportunity to “participate in and maintain ownership over data, research, and advocacy within their refugee communities.” This project demonstrates the powerful impact of promoting and prompting refugee-led research, providing communities with the tools and resources needed to advocate.



‘This was our first opportunity to participate in and maintain ownership over data, research, and advocacy within their refugee communities’

RLO Training Participant -

A fit-for-Future Organisation

Towards a modern and agile organisation

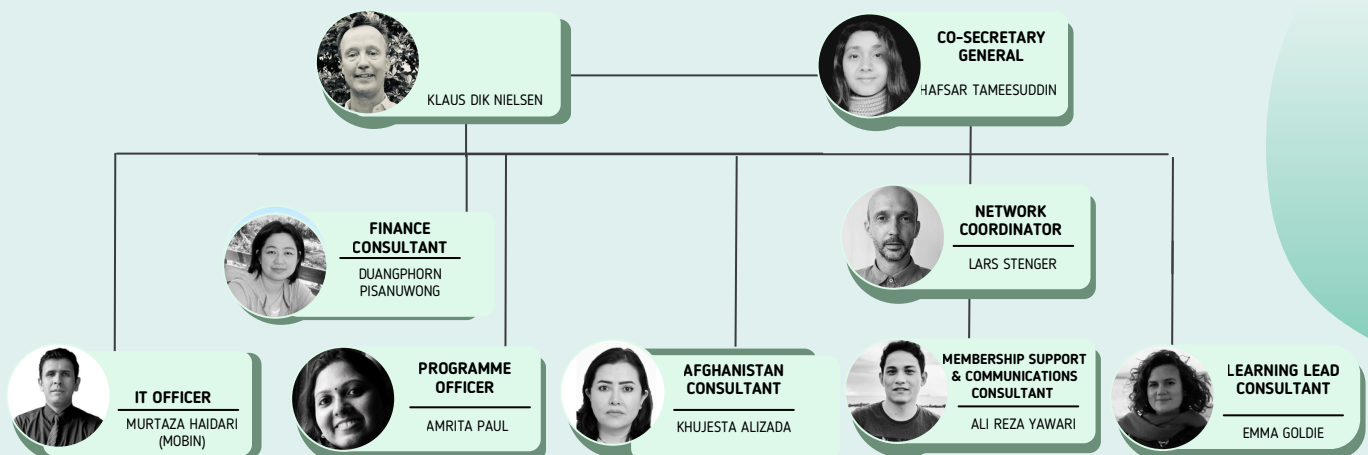
Strategic Pillar 4: APRRN will be a thriving, modern and agile organisation that is financially stable, inclusive, logically structured, accountable and with a unified and clearly communicated purpose and strategy

Governance

As a part of our ongoing effort on the operationalisation of meaningful participation of people with lived experiences within the four constituencies of APRRN; Boards, Steering Committee, the Secretariat and our current 321 members, during our APCRR 10, APRRN's Secretariat made an intentional effort by encouraging, facilitating and creating safe spaces for the diverse representation of people with lived experiences to assume leadership and decision-making roles within of APRRN. As an immediate impact, the current APRRN chair, Hayat Akbari comes with diverse lived experiences of forced displacement, while 50% of members of the new Steering Committee are with lived experience of forced migration and are from diverse geographical and gender backgrounds. This milestone is a direct result of APRRN's continuous push towards meaningful and diverse representation and leadership of people with lived experiences, beyond the Co-Leadership model.

The APRRN Secretariat

In 2024 and 2025, the Secretariat underwent some changes to more effectively respond to the 2023-2027 strategy, and the call for a refocusing of staff resources whilst also reviewing APRRN's business and support systems to strengthen our impact. As a result, some positions were disestablished and some were changed. Please meet our current 9 staff members and consultants here:





APRRN (Hafsar) participated and contributed to the Solidarity Conference on War, Militarism and Displacement Conference in Kuala Lumpur along with other Human Rights Defenders

Measuring Impact

Capturing APRRN's contributions and achievements in a more efficient, manageable and transparent manner

Beginning in 2024, and throughout 2025, we had systematic improvements in organisational learning and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, representing significant infrastructure development for enhanced impact measurement and inclusion advancement. With a more structured Operational Plan, developed in 2024 and informed by our 2023-2027 APRRN Strategy, and the creation of a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework and tools led by our Learning Lead, we are in a much better position to capture achievements and gaps across our four strategic pillars and advocacy priorities, and our steps towards meaningful refugee participation.

The tools aim to better measure network connectivity, advocacy impact, health and results, including progress toward key APRRN goals. An integral part of our MEL framework and tools, is case study development which captures specific examples of advocacy effectiveness, community empowerment, and policy influence that demonstrate APRRN's distinctive contributions to regional human rights and protection improvements.

With the new Steering Committee in place, we have also developed a comprehensive Work Plan Template for Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the working groups. This template and our learning approach balances accountability requirements with accessibility needs, ensuring that monitoring and evaluation systems support rather than burden working group activities and planning.

In 2026 we will be focusing on developing our feedback mechanisms with our membership to improve accountability and transparency.

Communicating our vision and advocacy

Regarding APRRN's social Media presence, in 2025, APRRN's website engagement averaged approximately 28,500 active users. Social media reach included approximately 48,000 LinkedIn impressions, an estimated 5,700 followers on LinkedIn, approximately 9,500 followers on Facebook, and 3,700 followers on X (formerly Twitter). Social media engagement increased by 14 per cent, with a substantial rise in followers and post views during 2025.

We regularly disseminate information about Secretariat and Member activities, as well as news from our partners, and began in 2025, in addition to the monthly public newsletter, to have weekly briefs for members only, as a result of members' requests for further and more regular updated information on trends and funding opportunities in our sector and region. Below are some examples of how APRRN utilises various communication tools to amplify our vision and advocacy messages:



Interview with Global Giving about their role and work as a Co-Secretary General at APRRN [full interview here](#).

Interview for a podcast by [The New Humanitarian](#). The podcast is called Power Shift, and has been recorded together with Raouf Mazou (UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Operations).

Power Shift

With guests:

Hafsar Tameesuddin
Co-Secretary General of APRRN;
Rohingya refugee rights activist

Raouf Mazou
Assistant High Commissioner
for Operations at UNHCR



[The Refugee Council of Australia post on partnership with APRRN](#)

[Video from APRRN member Khair Ullah](#), newly appointed Chair of the South Asia Working Group in APRRN's Steering Committee, and a Rohingya refugee.



[European Humanitarian Forum in March 2024](#)

The SILP Learning Festival: Shifting Power Dynamics Together' on 2024. [Read the SILP Learning Report Here](#) & [Watch the Recording of the Session Here](#).



Our Afghanistan website and Facebook page

In 2024 and 2025, we continued to actively manage and update the Afghanistan website and Facebook page, providing timely and reliable updates on migration policies, visa pathways, as well as education and employment opportunities. In 2025, the platforms engaged around 17,000 active users, increasing from approximately 15,000 in 2024, with an estimated 10–15 per cent growth in overall visits. Beyond information sharing, we directly responded to community inquiries, offering practical guidance tailored to individual situations.

The impact of this outreach has been tangible. Through our referrals and information support, several individuals were able to successfully apply for scholarship programs, vocational training opportunities, and legal migration pathways. In some cases, users reported that accurate information about visa procedures and documentation requirements helped them avoid misinformation and financial exploitation. By consistently sharing verified opportunities and responding to questions, the platforms have become a trusted resource for displaced Afghans seeking clear and trustworthy guidance about their next steps.

APRRN Information on Afghanistan

The Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) is a membership-led organisation, committed to advancing the rights of refugees in the region. This website is dedicated to sharing relevant information and services for Afghan refugees in the region.

Learn More

بیشتر بدانید



Financials



Although 2024 and 2025 were very challenging years for everyone in our Sector, the APRRN Secretariat managed to remain financially stable and to attract new donors. Please find below the 2024 and 2025 Financial Statements, which include income, expenditure and the number of grants received, as well as links to our 2024 and 2025 Audited Financial Reports.

Income 2024	THB	USD
Grants	13,349,812	390,917
Donations	1,360,596	39,842
Membership fees	472,100	13,824
Interest received	31,456	921
Total Income	15,213,964	445,504

Expenditures 2024	THB	USD
Programme Expenses	5,390,687	157,853
Administrative Expenses	13,050,615	382,156
Total Expenditures	18,441,302	540,009

 Grants 2024	THB	USD
OAK	3,209,494	93,982
Oxfam	1,265,674	37,062
Private family foundation	1,967,000	57,599
Settlement Services International	1,185,557	34,716
GlobalGiving	4,410,402	129,148
SILP	881,544	25,814
Taiwan Foundation	206,850	6,057
UNSW	223,290	6,539

(Exchange rate 34.15 THB per 1 USD on 30 December 2024 at the Bank of Thailand)

Income 2025	THB	USD
Grants	14,705,033	468,313
Donations	119,019	3,790
Membership fees	542,088	17,264
Interest received	25,432	810
Total Income	15,391,572	490,177

Expenditures 2024	THB	USD
Programme Expenses	13,197,723	420,310
Administrative Expenses	3,224,147	102,680
Total Expenditures	16,421,870	522,990



Grants 2025

THB

USD

OAK	2,822,489	89,888
Oxfam	234,860	7,480
Private family foundation	6,197,800	197,382
Settlement Services International	1,039,466	33,104
GlobalGiving	828,503	26,385
SILP	3,392,728	108,049
Taiwan Foundation	189,186	6,025

(Exchange rate 31.40 THB per 1 USD on 31 December 2025 at the Bank of Thailand)

[Link to Audited Financial Report 2024](#)

[Link to Audited Financial Report 2025](#)



APRRN Meeting with the Embassy of Australia in Thailand Discussing Bilateral on the Regional Refugee Response

APRRN would like to thank our donors for their support and partnership in 2024 and 2025



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TAIWAN FOUNDATION
for DEMOCRACY

財團法人
臺灣民主基金會





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