

**Project Concept # 2.2: Improving Psychosocial Services for New Arrivals  
(Mayfa'a, Ahwar and Kharaz Reception Centres)  
RBM Objective Group: Fair Protection Processes and Documentation**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Improving Psychosocial Services for New Arrivals</b>
<b>Agency</b>	UNHCR
<b>Funded by</b>	
<b>RBM Sectors</b>	Psychosocial reception facilities
<b>Overall Objectives</b>	1. Improving the emotional and mental wellbeing of new arrivals and reducing the risk of trauma and stress disorders. 2. Improving the process of informing new arrivals on their rights and responsibilities and counselling on the available opportunities/services in Yemen.
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	About 70,000 new arrivals
<b>Partners</b>	NGOs/Governors and local police of Abyan, Shabwa and Hadramout
<b>Duration</b>	12 months
<b>Estimated cost</b>	<b>217,600 USD</b>

**Summary of identified gaps:**

Yemen lies along a historical migratory route and has been experiencing a continuous flow of new arrivals from the Horn of Africa for many years. The UNHCR set up a program aimed at assisting the new arrivals, who are landing at about 38 points on a stretch of 2,400 kilometers of southern Yemen's shores. In addition to the already existing reception centres at Kharaz and Mayfa'a, to where new arrivals are transported to recuperate and receive basic level registration, in April 2008 UNHCR opened a new centre at Ahwar, located between Aden and Mayfa'a, to provide the same services. However, in order to respond in time to the humanitarian needs of new arrivals in other provinces on the coast, there is a pressing need to construct more reception centres with corresponding staff and equipment, as well as to upgrade the existing centres.

Upon arrival in the centers, the new arrivals are provided with accommodation, cooked food and health care for 2-3 days. They also receive basic counseling on assistance provided in either Kharaz camp or urban areas, as well as on their rights and obligations in Yemen. However, the capacity of the reception centers is currently overstretched due to the high number of arrivals (about 49,000 in 2008) and the limited number of staff. The refugees, who arrive in extremely critical conditions, have often witnessed or been victims of traumatic events in the course of their journey and are not provided with adequate counseling and assistance. Additionally, new arrivals that have faced sexual or gender-based violence in their country of origin or during the crossing are often not identified and assisted appropriately.

Another concern related to the large migration movement to Yemen is the large number of bodies, more than 1,000 over the last two years, encountered on the shores of Yemen, who are the victims of bad sea conditions, drowning or mistreatment from the smugglers. The local population and UNHCR's partners operating in the area have been very cooperative, burying the bodies of the victims in makeshift graves in coordination with UNHCR and the local police. However they don't always have the means to do it. The UNHCR recently reached an agreement with the Governorates of Abyam, Hadramout and Shabwa, whereby the UNHCR's implementing partner will collect the bodies and transport them to designated burial sites. However, there is a need to create a proper structure that will be responsible for carrying out this activity in the above three Governorates.

## **Activities proposed:**

### **1. Recruitment of three female psycho-social counsellors**

The UNHCR, via its implementing partners, will recruit three female psycho-social counselors for new arrivals in Mayfa'a Reception Centre, Ahwar Reception Centre and Kharaz Refugee Camp. As the new arrivals only stay for about three days in the reception centres, the role of the counselors will be:

- to identify new arrivals with special needs, including victims of sexual and gender-based violence either in their country of origin or during their journey, and create a physical file;
- to refer new arrivals with special needs to the relevant unit within the UNHCR and transfer the physical file accordingly;
- to advise new arrivals on their rights and obligations in Yemen;
- to counsel individuals on where to proceed from the reception centre according to their profile and needs.

A follow-up system between the reception centres and the UNHCR's offices in Aden, Sana'a and Kharaz will be set up to ensure that vulnerable people are monitored and receive adequate assistance.

### **2. Communication between new arrivals and their relatives in the country of origin.** Upon arrival at the reception centers of Mayfa'a, Ahwar and Kharaz, the new arrivals will be entitled to a five-minute call to their country of origin in order to inform their relatives on their whereabouts and well-being. Priority will be given to UAMs and to the most vulnerable, or to those who lost a family member at sea.

### **3. Support for the newly created mobile burial team.** The UNHCR, via its implementing partner, has established a mobile burial team comprising two national staff. The mobile team operates in the Governorates of Abyan, Hadramout and Shabwa. With authorization from the Governor and the local police, the team collects the bodies washed ashore by the sea and buries them in a designated area in each of the Governorates. The mobile team will also be in charge of producing weekly reports of their operations to the UNHCR, its partners and the Governorates concerned. However, in order to bury the bodies effectively, the team needs the support of a truck equipped with a mechanical shovel is needed.

## **Expected outcome:**

- The immediate needs of certain groups with specific vulnerability, including women and children, are identified and addressed;
- New arrivals are better informed about their rights and can make an informed choice on where to proceed from the reception centre they have reached;
- The screening of populations in mixed migratory movements is enhanced with a view to identify genuine asylum seekers and counsel them adequately;
- The psycho-social status of new arrivals is improved and their stress is reduced by being able to communicate with their families;
- The migrants who died during the crossing are buried in a timely manner and proper records are established in coordination with other partners.

**Suggested costs:**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>No. of units</b>	<b>Cost per unit</b>	<b>Total (USD)</b>
Recruitment of three national female psycho-social counselors	Months	36	36 x 1200	43,200
Recruitment of one supervisor for the three psycho-social counselors	Months	12	12 x 2000	24,000
Recruitment of three interpreters	Months	36	36 x 700	25,200
Six telephones	Phone	6	6 x 100	600
Provision for international calls (mainly to Somalia, Iraq and Ethiopia) for new arrivals	One five-minute call/new arrival	15,000	15,000 x 5	75,000
Procurement of one truck equipped with a mechanical shovel	Lump Sum			49,600
<b>Total</b>				<b>217,600</b>