

Palestinian refugee women in Al Waleed camp in Iraq. UNHCR has resettled some 1,200 Palestinian refugees from Al Waleed.



MIDDLE EAST AND



| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- The Middle East and North Africa witnessed unprecedented social and political changes in 2011, resulting in massive displacement and adding to the already large number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) being hosted in the region.
- The crisis in Libya forced close to a million Libyans and third-country nationals to flee to neighbouring countries, with Tunisia and Egypt receiving the majority. In the latter two countries, UNHCR and IOM jointly implemented a large-scale evacuation programme that assisted more than 300,000 third-country nationals to return to their homelands.
- Despite the events in the Middle East in 2011, countries in the region continued to host some 165,000 Iraqi refugees and provide them with access to basic services. The Syrian Arab Republic remained a generous host to around 110,000 refugees, mainly from Iraq. UNHCR supported the efforts of these countries in various sectors, including health, education, food, and social services.
- The majority of refugees in the Middle East and North Africa were scattered in urban areas across the region. Most were from Iraq or sub-Saharan countries. Despite the lack of well-established national asylum systems, countries in the region have received large numbers of refugees and provided them with essential services.
- Resettlement continued to be the main durable solution for Iraqi refugees in the region. By the end of 2011, a total of 133,500 Iraqi refugees had been submitted for resettlement since 2007, and some 69,000 had left for their new homes. Some 16,000 resettlement submissions on behalf of Iraqi refugees were submitted to various countries in 2011.
- The region continued to experience mixed-migration flows through the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, with the Arab Gulf countries and Europe as the main destinations. Yemen received a record number of more than 100,000 new arrivals in 2011. UNHCR assisted many of the new arrivals through its transit and reception centres on the country's coasts. Mixed-migration flows across the Sinai and into Israel, propelled by a sophisticated human smuggling network reaching deep into East Africa, intensified during the year.
- UNHCR continued to advance its partnerships in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, focusing on fund raising and the promotion of refugee concerns among pan-Arab media outlets based in the Gulf.

NORTH AFRICA

| Working environment |

The political, social and economic landscape of the Middle East and North Africa changed substantially in 2011. The region faced a variety of situations ranging from ongoing and protracted conflict to political unrest and armed violence, all of which resulted in major displacement. UNHCR and its partners had to surmount great challenges in dealing with the multiplying number of emergency situations that beset this vast region in 2011.

Events in Yemen boosted the number of IDPs in the country to almost half a million. The country also hosted some 215,000 refugees, most from the Horn of Africa. Some 15,000 Syrians had crossed into neighbouring countries by the end of the year. In addition, close to a million people left for Egypt and Tunisia, as a result of the crisis in Libya.

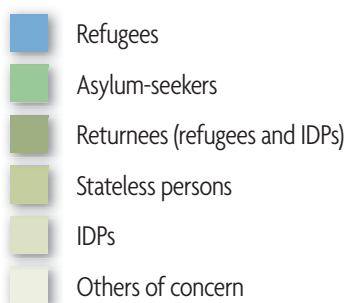
While these events challenged UNHCR, they also opened new opportunities to engage with the authorities. One result was the signing of a model cooperation agreement with the new authorities in Tunisia during the commemorations of World Refugee Day.

| Achievements and impact |

Despite its limited resources and domestic challenges, the Syrian Arab Republic continued to support 110,000 refugees registered with UNHCR, the majority from Iraq. Following a thorough verification exercise, UNHCR deactivated the files of some 40,000 refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic who had not contacted the organization regularly for at least six months.

In partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and others, UNHCR provided refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic with essential services in the areas of food, health and education. However, the unrest in the country in 2011 created a difficult environment for refugees, as the marked decline in economic activity put a strain on their livelihoods and coping mechanisms. Through its financial assistance programme, UNHCR provided direct support to some 11,000 members of destitute refugee families to help them to cope with an increasingly difficult socio-economic situation.

In Lebanon, UNHCR helped more than 11,000 refugees and asylum-seekers with legal aid and health and education services. In



Jordan, UNHCR supported the Government's efforts to assist more than 33,000 registered Iraqi refugees, particularly in the health, education and social-development sectors.

The unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic resulted in an outflow of some 15,000 Syrians, mainly to Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. UNHCR worked closely with the authorities in these countries to assist the Syrians by distributing non-food items (NFIs) and providing support in the areas of health and education, as well as to local communities.

Some 67,000 Iraqi refugees returned to their country in 2011, while close to 200,000 Iraqi IDPs returned to their places of origin. UNHCR continued to work with the Government of Iraq to tackle displacement through a comprehensive national plan which covered integration policies, livelihoods and shelter in the areas of displacement and access to basic services in areas of potential return.

In Yemen, UNHCR worked in close partnership with the authorities and other organizations to protect and assist some 215,000 refugees and almost half a million IDPs across the country. More than 300,000 IDPs, both in the north and south of the country, received NFIs from UNHCR. New arrivals from the Horn of Africa benefited from the facilities available at UNHCR's six transit and reception centres in coastal areas.

In partnership with UNHCR, the authorities registered more than 91,000 refugees, of whom some 84,000 received identification cards valid for two years. Almost all refugee children were vaccinated under the national polio vaccination programme. In 2011, a Yemeni NGO, the Society for Humanitarian Solidarity, won the UNHCR Nansen Award for assisting and rescuing people arriving on Yemen's shores after harrowing sea journeys.

Due to the crisis that erupted in Libya in 2011, close to one million people (Libyans and nationals of other countries) left the country,

mainly into neighbouring Tunisia and Egypt, but also to Algeria, Chad, Italy, Malta, Niger and Sudan. At the request of the Governments of Egypt and Tunisia, which were facing an influx of up to 20,000 people at their borders each day at the height of the crisis, UNHCR mounted a vast relief operation within the first few weeks of the emergency. This included mobilizing a large number of emergency staff, reinforcing offices in the region, and airlifting tonnes of humanitarian relief items.

UNHCR joined forces with IOM and established a massive evacuation programme that transported around 300,000 third-country nationals back to their countries mainly from Tunisia and Egypt. Inside Libya, some 170,000 Libyans remained internally displaced at the end of 2011. UNHCR provided emergency shelter and NFIs to the displaced, monitored their protection and supported the new authorities with capacity-building initiatives.

In Ras Jdir, Tunisia, near the border with Libya, UNHCR established a transit camp to provide life-saving assistance to the thousands of third-country nationals who were fleeing Libya each day. In close coordination with the Tunisian authorities, UNHCR and NGO partners provided accommodation and essential assistance to tens of thousands of refugees, asylum-seekers and third-country nationals in the transit camp, pending their evacuation to their countries of origin or resettlement in a third country.

UNHCR established a presence in the port of Saloum, Egypt, near the Libyan border, to respond to the influx of people fleeing Libya and provided them with life-saving assistance, including food and NFIs. With the approval of the authorities, UNHCR erected shelters in the port area for those people stranded at the border, pending the completion of refugee status determination (RSD) or resettlement processes.

Financial information

UNHCR's financial requirements

in the Middle East and North Africa in 2011 were substantially higher than in previous years due to the political unrest that swept the region. In addition to the needs of the Iraqi refugees, UNHCR had to assist large numbers of persons of concern who were affected by the Libya emergency. In Yemen, too, additional funding was needed to cover the influx of refugees and asylum-seekers from the Horn of Africa. While the comprehensive requirements in 2011 amounted to some USD 651 million, UNHCR was able to deliver assistance that covered only 51 per cent of the needs, forcing it to prioritize its activities in order to provide the maximum protection and assistance to the most needy.

UNHCR launched the Global Resettlement Solidarity Initiative to resettle non-Libyan refugees in Tunisia and Egypt. By the end of 2011, resettlement submissions had been made for over 4,400 individual refugees from Saloum port and Shousha transit camp. Of these, more than 1,350 refugees were submitted from Saloum, of whom some 170 departed to resettlement countries in 2011. Of more than 3,000 refugees submitted for resettlement from Shousha transit camp, some 500 had departed for resettlement countries by the end of the year.

To help Tunisia to respond to the needs of almost 90,000 Libyans who sought refuge in the country between April and July 2011, UNHCR implemented quick impact projects (QIPs) in the southern governorates to minimize the burden on the host community. It also set up a small camp in the town of Ramada to ease the pressure on the local community, which was providing shelter to the majority of Libyan refugees.

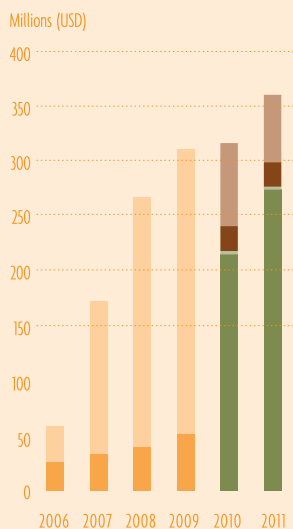
Refugees in protracted situations continued to be a feature of the region. These included

the Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps in Algeria. In January 2011, the family visits element of the Confidence-Building Measures (CBM) programme for Sahrawi refugees in the camps in Algeria and for their families in *Western Sahara* resumed, after a suspension of 10 months. Moreover, UNHCR organized a successful cultural seminar in Portugal in September in which more than 34 people from camps in Algeria and in *Western Sahara* participated.

Constraints

Precarious security conditions remained a major challenge in reaching refugees and persons of concern in some of the countries in the region especially at the height of the crises. At times, UNHCR was forced to operate with limited staff or to evacuate all staff because of fears for their safety. The unstable political situation in the region led to continued displacement, as well as an increase in the vulnerability of a number of refugee groups. ■

Expenditure in MENA 2006-2011



BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | USD

Country/Territory		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
NORTH AFRICA						
Algeria	Budget	25,729,823	0	0	0	25,729,823
	Expenditure	14,768,388	0	0	0	14,768,388
Libya	Budget	14,894,907	0	0	10,848,957	25,743,864
	Expenditure	8,341,562	0	0	2,565,042	10,906,604
Mauritania	Budget	7,185,528	0	0	0	7,185,528
	Expenditure	4,367,815	0	0	0	4,367,815
Morocco	Budget	2,755,140	0	0	0	2,755,140
	Expenditure	2,147,166	0	0	0	2,147,166
Tunisia	Budget	45,742,856	0	0	0	45,742,856
	Expenditure	35,650,495	0	0	0	35,650,495
Western Sahara	Budget	12,333,208	0	0	0	12,333,208
	Expenditure	4,037,734	0	0	0	4,037,734
Regional Activities	Budget	25,654,079	0	0	0	25,654,079
	Expenditure	18,303,824	0	0	0	18,303,824
Subtotal	Budget	134,295,541	0	0	10,848,957	145,144,498
	Expenditure	87,616,984	0	0	2,565,042	90,182,026
MIDDLE EAST						
Egypt	Budget	34,143,957	679,846	0	0	34,823,803
	Expenditure	19,031,641	311,502	0	0	19,343,143
Iraq	Budget	35,312,729	4,087,596	65,062,863	104,215,050	208,678,238
	Expenditure	26,686,314	746,693	22,644,704	43,897,098	93,974,809
Israel	Budget	2,432,934	0	0	0	2,432,934
	Expenditure	2,329,057	0	0	0	2,329,057
Jordan	Budget	43,120,558	0	0	0	43,120,558
	Expenditure	27,203,683	0	0	0	27,203,683
Lebanon	Budget	13,109,645	661,358	0	0	13,771,003
	Expenditure	10,419,509	413,591	0	0	10,833,100
Saudi Arabia	Budget	2,967,019	946,130	0	0	3,913,149
	Expenditure	2,273,395	634,237	0	0	2,907,632
Syrian Arab Republic	Budget	116,558,180	409,849	0	0	116,968,029
	Expenditure	73,277,649	249,963	0	0	73,527,612
United Arab Emirates	Budget	2,002,725	340,826	0	0	2,343,551
	Expenditure	1,854,449	264,931	0	0	2,119,380
Yemen	Budget	33,170,705	0	0	25,861,689	59,032,394
	Expenditure	24,871,513	0	0	15,053,646	39,925,159
Regional activities	Budget	19,320,001	2,000,000	0	0	21,320,001
	Expenditure	65,672	3,820	0	0	69,492
Subtotal	Budget	302,138,453	9,125,605	65,062,863	130,076,739	506,403,660
	Expenditure	188,012,882	2,624,737	22,644,704	58,950,744	272,233,067
Total	Budget	436,433,994	9,125,605	65,062,863	140,925,696	651,548,158
	Expenditure	275,629,866	2,624,737	22,644,704	61,515,786	362,415,093

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | USD

Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
African Union					250,000	250,000
Amitié sans Frontières					32,852	32,852
Andorra					21,127	21,127
Arab Gulf Programme for UN Development (AGFUND)					50,000	50,000
Australia					9,422,849	9,422,849
Australia for UNHCR					438,513	438,513
Austria					343,407	343,407
Belgium	140,845				1,428,571	1,569,416
Brazil	374,000					374,000
Canada					6,371,050	6,371,050
CERF	2,170,228			2,929,918		5,100,146
Charities Aid Foundation					9,359	9,359
Denmark	1,113,390			1,027,218	1,843,658	3,984,266
España con ACNUR	68,573				189,572	258,145
European Commission	28,827,001			3,140,769		31,967,770
Finland					3,451,478	3,451,478
France	1,627,299					1,627,299
Asfari Foundation	199,456					199,456
Germany	6,503,230					6,503,230
HQ online donations					27,265	27,265
Iceland					53,098	53,098
Ireland	448,778				178,063	626,840
Italy	913,291	65,703			1,227,831	2,206,825
Japan					8,770,897	8,770,897
Japan Association for UNHCR					246,495	246,495
Kuwait					1,000,000	1,000,000
Liechtenstein					107,527	107,527
Lions Club International	149,400					149,400
Lithuania					20,520	20,520
Luxembourg	328,515				657,030	985,545
Monaco	111,695					111,695
Netherlands	1,840,800			409,200	1,250,000	3,500,000
Norway	86,851				1,510,337	1,597,188
OPEC Fund for International Development	500,000					500,000
Poland					372,676	372,676
Private donors in Canada					48,680	48,680
Private donors in China					73,771	73,771
Private donors in the Czech Republic					807	807
Private donors in Greece					77,744	77,744
Private donors in Italy	118,857				339,671	458,528
Private donors in Sweden					97,429	97,429
Private donors in Switzerland					68,681	68,681

<i>Donor</i>	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
Private donors in the United Kingdom	576,778				43,168	619,947
Republic of Korea	200,000					200,000
Russian Federation					500,000	500,000
Slovenia					68,681	68,681
South Africa	271,150					271,150
Spain	1,258,681			1,371,742	1,643,611	4,274,034
IKEA Foundation	2,080,566					2,080,566
<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i>	28,833			115,089		143,921
Sweden	2,047,244				11,412,973	13,460,217
Switzerland	2,264,909				464,037	2,728,946
Turkey					1,000	1,000
UN Development Programme				238,589		238,589
UNDG Iraq Trust Fund	61,500		550,628	119,702		731,830
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. (UNIQLO)	26,418					26,418
United Arab Emirates	300,000					300,000
United Kingdom	2,767,276					2,767,276
United Parcel Service	170,000					170,000
United States of America	4,600,000			4,700,000	212,015,869	221,315,869
<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe</i>	204,558				485,857	690,415
USA for UNHCR	127,000				324,728	451,728
Total	62,507,121	65,703	550,628	14,052,227	266,940,880	344,116,559