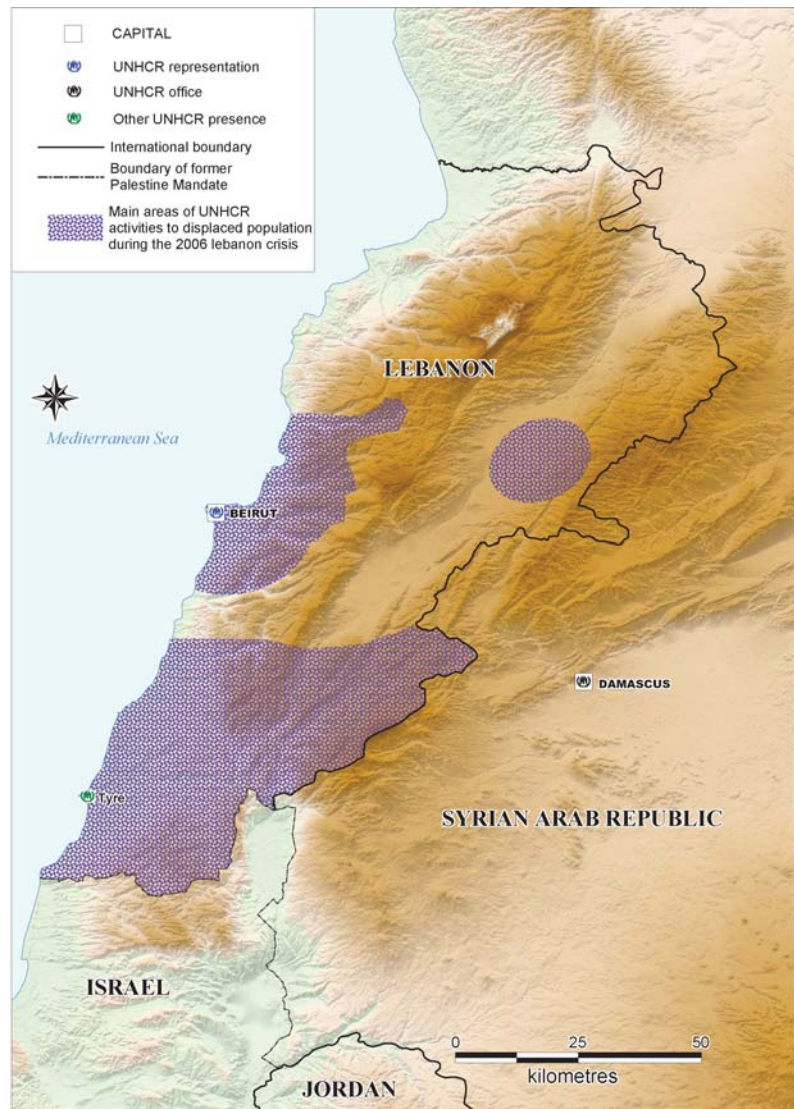


# Lebanon

## Operational highlights

- Participatory assessments and outreach activities helped UNHCR to target interventions in protection, health, education, vocational training and basic relief.
- In the absence of opportunities for local integration and voluntary repatriation, resettlement provided a durable solution for 400 refugees with specific protection needs.
- The Office gave legal aid to detained refugees with the assistance of a group of *pro-bono* lawyers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). UNHCR also counselled refugees in prisons, at its offices and through extensive outreach-programmes.
- The Regional Community Services hub in Beirut used a community-development approach to aid refugees in the respective countries of asylum. It also provided technical guidance and support in the areas of community development, participatory assessments, and age and gender mainstreaming. The Office harmonized assistance programmes for refugees of the same nationality within the region.
- A regional refugee status determination (RSD) hub in Beirut promoted a more coherent understanding of RSD among UNHCR staff in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The Office reviewed RSD procedures and provided advice on file management, the drafting of RSD assessments and the effective use of country of origin information and eligibility guidelines. It also helped devise standard operational procedures for countries in the region. These efforts improved the quality of assessments and enhanced compliance with applicable standards.



presence in the streets and refrain from taking any initiative in favour of refugees.

UNHCR focused on protection, effective resettlement processing and building response capabilities in cooperation with the authorities. Furthermore, the Office aided internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees by building the capacities of the social development centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs in the areas that had been affected by the July-August 2006 conflict.

## Working environment

The volatile political and security environment which prevailed throughout the year affected UNHCR's activities in the country and had a direct impact on the day-to-day lives of refugees. It was especially detrimental to the building of a favourable asylum framework in the country. The political and security situation drove the Lebanese authorities to tighten border control, increase the military

## Achievement and impact

### Protection and solutions

By the end of the year some 9,800 Iraqis and 500 asylum-seekers of various nationalities were registered

with UNHCR in Beirut. Refugees and asylum-seekers without papers were detained by the authorities. UNHCR issued registration certificates to Iraqi refugees, intervened to seek the release of those among them who had been detained, and carried out RSD for resettlement. Micro-credit schemes and basic relief assistance helped the most vulnerable refugees.

UNHCR supported capacity-building projects targeting some 30 social development centres in areas with large populations of Iraqi refugees. The centres taught practical skills to IDPs and returnees.

In 2007, resettlement remained the most viable durable solution for most of the refugees in Lebanon, and some 1,500 cases were submitted to receiving countries. The Resettlement Hub and other regional functions supported community services, RSD and registration, and ensured consistency in policy development and staff training. The Hub helped submit some 21,000 resettlement cases of Iraqi refugees with special protection needs throughout the Middle East region.

## Activities and assistance

**Community services:** UNHCR implemented 30 quick-impact projects to help protect groups with specific needs, especially refugee women and children. Some 600 Iraqi refugee children and youths and 600 adults were given vocational training at various centres set up by UNHCR. The training fostered self-reliance.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Some 500 refugees detained in Lebanon were provided with basic items including mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits, sanitary materials and clothing. Another 8,500 refugees (85 per cent of registered refugees) received food, sanitary materials, diapers and other items, as well as cash grants. Prisons in the country were provided with heaters, ventilators and washing machines to support the well-being of detainees. The Office procured non-food items to support some 260,000 IDPs in case of an emergency in the country.



Nursery equipped by UNHCR in the Social Development Center, in Hay el Selloum, Lebanon.

**Education:** Some 1,600 Iraqi children and youths were enrolled in formal education at the primary and secondary levels and received assistance from UNHCR for the school year 2007-2008. As part of the UNHCR-UNICEF joint appeal, the Office provided school fees and grants to cover books, stationery and school uniforms. Some 620 refugee children and youths aged between 15 and 24 were engaged in non-formal education, remedial classes and vocational training. At the end of the year, an estimated 65 per cent of refugee children (with girls slightly outnumbering boys) were attending school.

**Health:** Primary and secondary health care services were provided to some 3,400 refugees.

**Legal assistance:** UNHCR supported 20 NGO projects providing protection and legal services. Some 400 refugees with special protection needs were resettled to third countries and received cash grants for their journeys.

**Operational support (to agencies):** The existing 30 national social development centres were provided with equipment and supplies. Training and other capacity-building support was provided to the centres' staff members and directors. Administrative support to

## Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Iraq	50,000	9,800	-	-
	Various	340	270	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Sudan	240	-	5	6
	Iraq	220	-	-	-
	Various	120	-	-	-
IDPs		70,000	70,000	-	-
Returnees (IDPs)		130,000	130,000	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>250,920</b>	<b>210,070</b>		

project staff, office supplies and equipment was provided to implementing partners.

**Transport and logistics:** Transportation costs of various non-food items for IDPs were covered by UNHCR. Storage for food and non-food items was also provided with four warehouses maintained.

Activities and assistance relating to the **Iraq Situation** are covered in the *Iraq Situation* chapter.

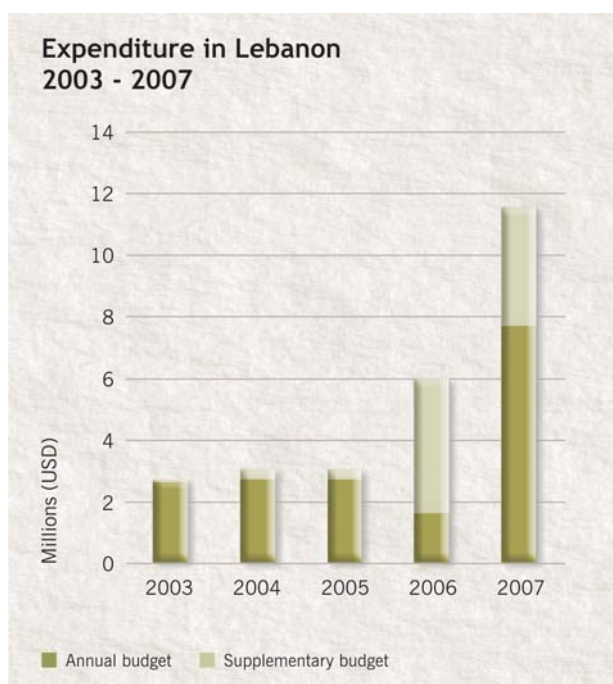
## Constraints

The volatile political and security environment hampered UNHCR's operations in Lebanon. Developments on the military and political fronts obstructed prospects for a favourable change in the asylum climate. Another constraint was the Government's reluctance to accept and integrate refugees. As a result, asylum-seekers and refugees were treated as illegal migrants, deprived of the right to work and subjected to arrest and detention. At the same time, voluntary repatriation for most of the refugees was not feasible as the situation in their countries of origin remained volatile.

## Financial information

The programme in Lebanon was well-funded during 2007, enabling UNHCR to fulfil its mandate to protect and assist refugees. A carry-over of USD 2.1 million from the 2006 Lebanon emergency programme was used to procure non-food items for distribution to IDPs.

The operation's programme budget increased over the past five years, from USD 2.9 million in 2004 to some USD 11 million in 2007. This is attributed to the



emergency experienced in the country in 2006 and the volatile political and security climate which contributed to displacements.

## Organization and implementation

### Management

The operation was managed through the Representation in Beirut, which had 13 international and 33 national staff in 2007.

### Working with others

The Office worked with IOM, nine NGO implementing partners and UN agencies, including UNICEF and WHO.

### Overall assessment

UNHCR could not achieve its objective of working with the Government to amend existing laws and policies to create a more refugee-friendly environment. The volatile political and security situation and weak political institutions fuelled recurrent tensions, and refugees suffered arrest and detention. Nonetheless, the Office strengthened its relationship with State institutions and received strong support from civil society.

The operation in Lebanon was labour-intensive. Additional staff were recruited and trained to perform protection duties, such as visiting detained refugees, providing legal aid, preventing deportation, conducting RSD and processing refugees for resettlement. The IDP programme was successfully phased out at the end of 2007. However, UNHCR could not promote or facilitate the return of Iraqis. Given the Government's position on local integration, the Office helped Iraqis to stay temporarily in Lebanon while seeking resettlement opportunities for them.

### Partners

#### Implementing partners

**NGOs:** Arc-en-Ceil, Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), CARITAS, AMEL Association, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence & Torture (RESTART), Chilean Charity Association, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and INTERSOS

#### Operational partners

**Government:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Interior

**NGOs:** International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Medicines due Mooned (MDM), AJEM, Frontiers and the Lebanese Association for Development (*Al Marmora*)

**Others:** IOM and UNDP



## Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	7,845,936	3,559,027	4,357,792	7,916,819	7,706,731
Iraq Education SB	850,000	0	679,955	679,955	679,955
Iraq Operation SB	4,166,513	695,826	2,511,286	3,207,112	3,207,112
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,862,449</b>	<b>4,254,853</b>	<b>7,549,033</b>	<b>11,803,886</b>	<b>11,593,798</b>

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

## Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Previous years' projects
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,542,987	876,000	2,418,987	0
Community services	338,905	300,436	639,341	342,054
Domestic needs and household support	497,872	480,577	978,449	0
Education	9,294	1,229,878	1,239,172	0
Health and nutrition	128,703	262,856	391,558	7,274
Legal assistance	240,763	120,827	361,590	1,826
Operational support (to agencies)	626,899	396,466	1,023,364	81,247
Transport and logistics	1,512	0	1,512	8,215
Instalments with implementing partners	2,988,943	125,790	3,114,733	(440,617)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>6,375,877</b>	<b>3,792,828</b>	<b>10,168,705</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	1,330,854	94,239	1,425,093	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>7,706,731</b>	<b>3,887,067</b>	<b>11,593,798</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on previous years' expenditure</b>				<b>(121,533)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Payments made	4,016,033	284,245	6,858,457	
Reporting received	(1,027,090)	(2,716,635)	(3,743,725)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>2,988,943</b>	<b>125,790</b>	<b>3,114,733</b>	
<b>Previous years' report</b>				
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Outstanding 1st January				488,206
Reporting received				(440,617)
Refunded to UNHCR				(29,484)
Adjustments				0
<b>Balance</b>				<b>18,105</b>