

# YEMEN



## Operational highlights

- Some 50,000 new arrivals, mainly Somalis and Ethiopians, landed on Yemen's shores in 2008, compared to some 29,000 in 2007. At least 600 people are reported to have drowned and another 400 gone missing at sea, while making the hazardous voyage across the Gulf of Aden.
- A second reception centre for new arrivals was established and operational during the year. Approximately 37,000 people were received at the reception centres, assisted and transported to the Kharaz camp.
- A three-year livelihood strategy was developed to expand the reach of livelihood projects among urban as well as camp-based refugees.
- Some 250 refugees, mainly Somalis, repatriated voluntarily with UNHCR's assistance. Another 400 refugees with specific protection needs were resettled in third countries.
- A Global Needs Assessment survey of the refugee population in Yemen revealed serious gaps in protection and assistance.

### Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Somalia	132,300	132,300	31	25
	Iraq	4,500	4,500	44	35
	Ethiopia	2,100	2,100	48	38
	Eritrea	600	600	40	23
	Palestinian	500	500	41	23
	Various	170	170	38	32
	Asylum-seekers	Ethiopia	340	340	42
Palestinian		220	220	37	18
Eritrea		110	110	39	15
Various		160	160	32	25
IDPs		100,000	64,800	56	57
<b>Total</b>		<b>241,000</b>	<b>205,800</b>		

## | Working environment |

The situation in the Republic of Yemen in 2008 was characterized by continuous refugee and mixed-migrant flows from the Horn of Africa. For more than 17 years there has been a steady stream of Somali refugees arriving by boat. These individuals travel across the Gulf of Aden in leaky, overcrowded vessels operated by ruthless smugglers. In addition to the Somalis, the boats bring others, notably Ethiopians, who travel in mixed groups of asylum-seekers and migrants.

Although a certain percentage of the new arrivals move onward to the Gulf States, there are no precise figures for this group or for those who remain in Yemen. UNHCR estimates that some 150,000 Somalis currently live in Yemen, while the government figures exceed half a million. The majority are found in urban areas, but some 11,000 are accommodated in the Kharaz refugee camp. The ever increasing number of asylum-seekers and migrants crossing the Gulf of Aden puts a severe strain on the already overstretched resources of Yemen, and could put at risk the Government's traditionally hospitable attitude towards Somali refugees.

Conflict in northern Yemen has resulted in the displacement of more than 77,000 people who now need food, non-food items, shelter, medical assistance and general protection. In October 2008 this situation was aggravated by severe floods in the governorates of Hadramaout and al-Mahara which damaged infrastructure and displaced some 25,000 people. UNHCR provided some assistance to the victims, mainly with non-food items and by reconstructing shelters.

## | Achievements and impact |

### ● Main objectives

The main objectives of the Yemen operation in 2008 were to protect all refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and others of concern, particularly women and children, and provide basic humanitarian assistance to them. UNHCR also sought to facilitate voluntary repatriation where possible, in safety and

dignity; use resettlement as a strategic protection tool and durable solutions option; and improve the provision of protection and assistance to new arrivals, particularly in the areas of transportation, registration and basic needs.

### ● Protection and solutions

Procedures for refugee status determination (RSD) were improved for the benefit of newly registered asylum-seekers of non-Somali origin.

In 2008, some 640 individuals with specific needs were submitted for resettlement, and 400 of them departed. As a result of a Global Needs Assessment survey of Yemen in 2008, UNHCR's protection strategy now revolves around improving the provision of documentation and assisting the Government to set up a Bureau for Refugee Affairs, a National Eligibility Committee and a Refugee and Migration Studies Centre.

### ● Activities and assistance

**Community services:** Community services programmes included recreational as well as self-help activities benefiting some 11,000 camp-based refugees and at least 45 per cent of the refugees in the urban area of Basateen, where many people of concern congregate.

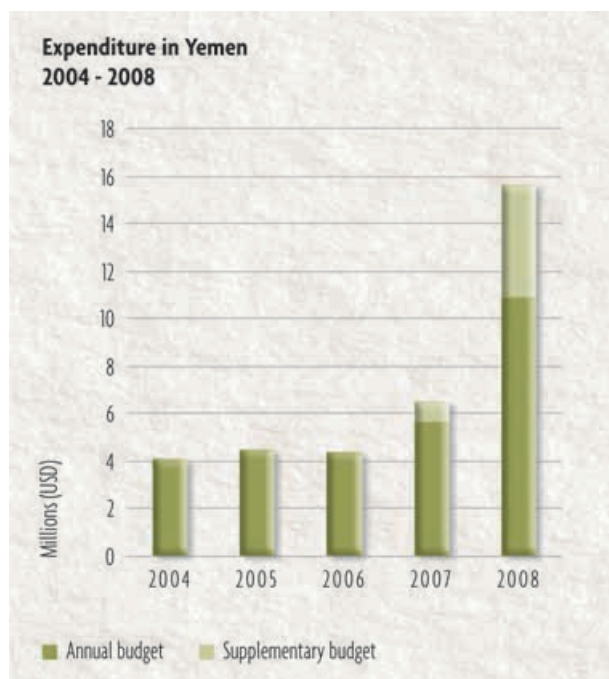
**Domestic needs and household support:** Some 198,000 litres of kerosene were distributed to people of concern in 2008, reducing firewood consumption. Refugees and IDPs also benefited from the distribution of non-food items. Virtually all refugee women and girls of reproductive age in the Kharaz camp received sanitary materials.

**Education:** Approximately 72 per cent of refugee children were enrolled at the primary level during the year. Ten classrooms were constructed, increasing the facilities for children and creating a better learning environment. Some 90 students (40 female and 50 male) were enrolled in tertiary institutions in Aden, while another 25 (10 female and 15 male) were enrolled in tertiary education in Sana'a. Another 1,200 refugees (800 female and 400 male) were engaged in other forms of informal and vocational skills training.

**Food:** All refugees in the Kharaz camp received a full food ration of 2,100 kcal per person per day. Additionally, some 140,000 meals were provided for 1,200 schoolchildren at Kharaz camp and 101,000 meals in the Basateen urban areas during the school year. A nutrition survey was conducted and the resulting recommendations are under implementation. Supplementary feeding programmes continued for all in-patients, including pregnant and lactating mothers, and some 37,000 new arrivals were fed at the reception centres.

**Forestry:** Most of the trees planted in 2007 survived, and 50 additional trees were planted. The refugee community was mobilized for five days for a cleaning campaign as well as tree planting during the world environment day.

**Health:** Some 80 per cent of refugee children were given basic vaccinations and 17,000 people (13,000 refugees and 4,000 Yemenis) benefited from medical consultations in Aden, Basateen and Kharaz. Up to 90 per cent of pregnant women benefited from ante-natal and pre-natal care. In an





Last year 30,000 refugees arrived in Yemen, most of them Somalis

effort to reduce the prevalence of malaria in the refugee population, some 6,000 mosquito nets were distributed, with priority given to lactating women, children and older people. Programmes to prevent or address sexual and gender-based violence were implemented and medical supplies and drugs were purchased and delivered to health centres.

**Income generation:** Some 200 families received training in livestock care and treatment kits. Some 112 women with specific needs in Basateen and 200 refugees in Sana'a were given cash grants. UNHCR also supported vocational training for more than 250 refugees. Additionally, some 80 IDPs received vocational training and a start-up package to open their own businesses.

**Legal assistance:** Government officials benefited from training in humanitarian law, leading to a positive change in their attitude towards new arrivals. Campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers of crossing the Gulf of Aden were conducted in the Horn of Africa and the media highlighted accidents in the Gulf. IDPs were given legal assistance and counselling. Some 37,000 people were received at the reception centres, counselled and registered. Birth, marriage and divorce certificates were issued in the camps and urban areas.

**Sanitation:** Some 200 latrines were maintained in the Kharaz camp. A garbage-disposal project was implemented and 200 manholes repaired in the urban areas of Basateen.

**Shelter:** At least 24 shelter units were repaired, and two registration centres constructed. Construction of 400

shelters Kharaz camp was completed to accommodate those refugees who had been living in tents throughout 2007.

**Transport:** Refugees and new arrivals were transported between entry points, the reception centres and the Kharaz refugee camp. UNHCR also moved food and non-food items, medicines and other supplies to the camp. Some 37,000 new arrivals were transferred from the coast to the reception centres, while some 14,000 were moved from the reception centres to the Kharaz refugee camp.

**Water:** All refugees in the Kharaz camp had access to an average of 50 litres of water per person per day. Regular meetings with the refugee water committee raised awareness of water-consumption issues and wastage. The water system in the Basateen area was upgraded and new arrivals were provided with sufficient water. The newly constructed shelters were also connected to the water system.

**Operational support (to agencies):** Necessary supplies, equipment and training were provided to implementing partners.

#### ● *Constraints*

Durable solutions are currently available for only a relatively small number of refugees. Repatriation is not feasible for the majority of refugees in Yemen as long as the situation in Somalia remains volatile. Few opportunities for local integration exist, and large-scale resettlement is not a viable option for the Somalis as it could serve as a pull factor, a concern also expressed by the Yemeni authorities.



Although Somalis continue to be granted *prima facie* refugee status, registration has not been conducted since early 2007, leaving a serious protection gap and a growing number of Somalis without documentation and in danger of being arrested. The Government has reinforced its policy of arresting Ethiopians and Eritreans on arrival with the aim of deporting them. UNHCR was not granted access to Ethiopians known to be in detention, and a number of detainees were deported without being granted the opportunity to seek asylum.

## Financial information

The operation was well funded in 2008. However, the 2008 budget of USD 18 million for both the annual and the supplementary programmes was not enough to cover all basic protection and assistance needs of Somali refugees in Yemen.

## Organization and implementation

UNHCR's operation in Yemen has six offices: a Representation Office in Sana'a, a sub-office in Aden, field offices in Kharaz and Saada, and two reception centres in Mayfa'a and Ahwar. There were 123 employees (20 international and 62 national staff, 32 UNVs and nine secondees).

## Working with others

The refugee programme in Yemen is large and the needs of the refugees and IDPs on the ground are diverse. UNHCR works closely with 22 partners to meet its international mandate to protect refugees and other persons of concern. The Office also coordinates closely with the UN country team, which includes UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and WHO.

## Overall assessment

UNHCR continued to raise international awareness of the refugee situation in Yemen to increase donor support and burden sharing. The Office was able to address some of the identified gaps and improve the conditions of stay for the Somalis. However, the Global Needs Assessment in 2008 revealed some serious gaps in protection and assistance, and recommended interventions in the areas of food security and nutrition, water, non-food items and education.

Partners	
<b>Implementing partners</b>	
<b>Government:</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Public Health	
<b>NGOs:</b> Al Amal Charitable Society, Al Dumir, Al Tadamon Charitable Society for Social welfare, Charitable Women Association, Danish Refugee Council, Interaction in Development Foundation, Saada Charitable Women's Association, Sana'a University, Society for Humanitarian Solidarity, Yemeni Red Crescent	
<b>Operational partners</b>	
<b>NGOs:</b> ADRA, CARE, DRC, INTERSOS, MSF Spain, OXFAM GB	
<b>Others:</b> UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO	

Budget, income and expenditure in Yemen (USD)					
	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available <sup>1</sup>	Total expenditure
Annual budget	11,761,739	7,468,098	3,383,286	10,851,384	10,860,232
Somalia Situation SB	3,094,476	691,230	1,340,869	2,032,099	1,982,523
IDP operations in Yemen SB	2,723,120	1,550,705	(4,272)	1,546,433	1,339,384
Yemen flood SB	1,634,991	1,836,584	(43,534)	1,793,049	998,436
Water and sanitation SB	500,000	0	451,566	451,566	454,172
Anaemia control and prevention SB	236,350	0	36,064	36,064	36,064
Supplementary budget subtotal	8,188,937	4,078,519	1,780,692	5,859,211	4,810,579
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,950,676</b>	<b>11,546,617</b>	<b>5,163,978</b>	<b>16,710,595</b>	<b>15,670,811</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.

<sup>1</sup> Total funds available include currency adjustments.

## Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Yemen (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,414,884	934,627	3,349,511	0
Community services	259,727	23,183	282,910	59,233
Domestic needs and household support	837,534	1,048,683	1,886,217	(1,657)
Education	297,990	0	297,990	0
Food	113,971	32,812	146,783	(1,581)
Forestry	6,170	0	6,170	0
Health and nutrition	663,537	36,072	699,609	82,769
Income generation	107,674	60,000	167,674	16,232
Legal assistance	1,058,977	117,013	1,175,990	0
Operational support (to agencies)	549,183	259,826	809,009	28,705
Sanitation	30,585	47,424	78,009	2,253
Shelter and infrastructure	602,807	461,823	1,064,630	42,490
Transport and logistics	357,781	464,280	822,061	(33,176)
Water	60,497	240,117	300,614	(5,616)
Instalments to implementing partners	2,167,395	777,797	2,945,192	(189,652)
<b>Subtotal operational activities</b>	<b>9,528,712</b>	<b>4,503,657</b>	<b>14,032,369</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	1,331,520	306,922	1,638,442	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>10,860,232</b>	<b>4,810,579</b>	<b>15,670,811</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on previous years' expenditure</b>				<b>(67,386)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Payments made	3,947,579	1,432,105	5,379,684	
Reporting received	(1,780,184)	(654,309)	(2,434,493)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>2,167,395</b>	<b>777,796</b>	<b>2,945,191</b>	
Outstanding 1st January				270,697
Reporting received				(189,652)
Refunded to UNHCR				726
Currency adjustment				0
<b>Outstanding 31st December</b>				<b>80,320</b>