

## | OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- Despite the deterioration in security across the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), UNHCR maintained a significant presence in the country, providing financial assistance and relief items to affected populations and undertaking activities in the areas of community services, shelter, water and sanitation. Some 700,000 displaced Syrians, as well as refugees from Iraq and elsewhere, benefited from UNHCR assistance.

- By the end of 2012, more than 575,000 Syrian refugees, the majority of them women and children, had fled to neighbouring countries and beyond. The borders with Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey remained essentially open throughout the year, giving Syrian refugees access to safety.

- The region was also affected by the conflict in Mali which forced many people to flee to neighbouring countries, including Mauritania. By the end of 2012, around 54,000 Malian refugees were being hosted and assisted in Mbera camp in southern Mauritania.

- UNHCR's partnership with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) advanced significantly. The OIC Conference on "Refugees in the Muslim World," which was held in May 2012 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan and jointly organized by the Government of Turkmenistan, the OIC and UNHCR, led to the adoption of the Ashgabat Declaration. The Declaration enhances refugee protection in the OIC member States and is an important addition to the body of international instruments related to refugees.

- UNHCR continued to expand its partnerships in the Gulf region, mobilizing support from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries for its operations worldwide and raising awareness of displacement issues in the Arab media.

- The Middle East and North Africa region remains a lure for mixed migration movements. In 2012 alone, 107,500 new arrivals from the Horn of Africa, mainly Ethiopians, landed on Yemen's shores – a record number and a four per cent rise from 2011. Similar mixed population movements continued across the North African



countries, which served both as destination and transit points. The countries in the region affected by mixed migration are contributing to the development of a strategy to combat people smuggling and trafficking.

- Despite the enormous wave of new displacement in the region in 2012, there were developments with respect to return. More than 82,000 Iraqi refugees returned to their country, mainly from Syria as a result of the conflict that prevailed in the country, and some 219,000 internally displaced Iraqis returned to their areas of origin. Similarly, by the end of the year, around 98,000 out of approximately 385,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the southern governorates of Yemen had returned. Furthermore, the voluntary repatriation

programme for Mauritanian refugees from Senegal was completed in March 2012, by which time UNHCR had assisted some 24,000 people to return home since the beginning of this repatriation programme.

# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

**A former Yemeni IDP** resumes his livelihood, fishing in the Gulf of Aden, after returning home to Abyan.

| Working environment |

The Middle East subregion continued to experience turbulence in 2012. The crisis in Syria worsened with violence spreading across the country and developing into fully fledged armed conflict. The situation affected millions of Syrians, including more than 575,000 people, mostly women and children, who fled to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Inside Syria, estimates of those affected by the conflict grew to 4 million individuals, including 2 million IDPs.

The region also continued to host around 124,000 Iraqi refugees, mainly in the countries neighbouring Iraq. However, the number of Iraqi refugees in Syria dropped by almost 38 per cent as a result of the deteriorating security situation in the country.

The number of new arrivals in Israel plummeted from an average of 1,500 people a month to less than 50 a month by the end of the year. This may be attributed to intensified deterrence measures, including the construction of a security fence at the southern

border with the Sinai, and new legislation which restricted asylum space in the country. UNHCR and Israeli civil society organizations advocated for the enhancement of the asylum system and the improvement of conditions for around 64,000 people of concern currently in Israel.

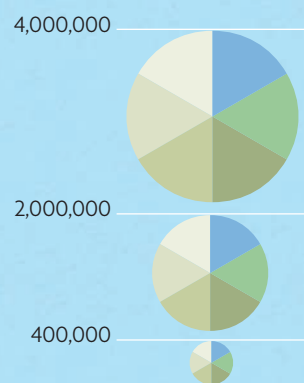
In the aftermath of the Arab Spring, UNHCR worked to strengthen its engagement with the authorities and civil society organizations in North Africa. In Mauritania, a positive development was the drafting of a new national asylum law, to which UNHCR contributed, and the submission of the law to the Government for its consideration.

| Achievements and impact |

In response to the large-scale humanitarian needs resulting from the Syria crisis, UNHCR intensified its leadership for the refugee response in all of the host countries. By the end of 2012, the regional response involved more than 60 international organizations and NGO partners. UNHCR also played a key role in the coordinated humanitarian response



Population size



- Refugees
- Asylum-seekers
- Returnees (refugees and IDPs)
- Stateless people
- Internally displaced people (IDPs)
- Others of concern

inside Syria, notably in the areas of protection, community services, shelter and the provision of relief items.

Building on existing country programmes for Iraqi refugees, UNHCR was able to rapidly scale up its assistance and provision of services for Syrian refugees, ensuring in particular the basic needs of vulnerable refugees and new arrivals. The Office mobilized assistance for new arrivals in both camps and urban settings, helping to alleviate the burden of the influx on local communities and helping support host governments in providing shelter for the refugees. A more detailed summary of key aspects of UNHCR's contribution to the international response to the Syria situation is provided in the subregional chapter on the *Middle East*, as well as in relevant country operation chapters.

In Iraq, UNHCR assisted with the integration of more than 100,000 refugee and IDP returnees. Some 3,100 residents of Camp New Iraq (formerly Ashraf) were relocated to the Hurriya temporary transit location in Baghdad, in implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed by the Government of Iraq and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). In 2012, UNHCR conducted interviews to determine the international protection needs of some 1,600 people from this group.

Despite its own political and socio-economic challenges, Yemen remained a generous host to more than 237,000 refugees and maintained its open-door policy towards those fleeing the Horn of Africa. UNHCR provided new arrivals by sea with critical life-saving assistance as well as transportation to the refugee camp for those seeking asylum. More than 385,000 Yemenis remained internally displaced across the country, mainly in the north. UNHCR and other humanitarian actors, in cooperation with the authorities, assisted 98,000 IDPs who

wished to return to their areas of origin in Abyan Governorate in southern Yemen.

UNHCR made significant strides in strengthening its partnership with the GCC countries. One of the many positive developments in 2012 was the private sector collaboration between the Office of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar and UNHCR, which resulted in a large joint project to educate 176,000 refugee children in 12 UNHCR country operations over the next four years (see also chapters on *Providing for Essential Needs* and *Drawing Support from the Private Sector*).

In the United Arab Emirates, the authorities responded positively to UNHCR's request for the disembarkation in Dubai of a group of asylum-seekers rescued at sea. The authorities collaborated with UNHCR in providing members of the rescued group with shelter and assistance while their cases were being adjudicated and durable solutions sought.

Resettlement remains the main protection tool in the Middle East and North Africa. UNHCR submitted more than 9,700 Iraqi refugees for resettlement in 2012, and has pursued resettlement opportunities for refugees in other parts of the region. UNHCR was also able to secure the resettlement of over 2,500 individuals from Shousha camp in Tunisia and Saloum camp in Egypt, both located at the border with Libya. At the end of the year, the two camps hosted some 3,000 people for whom UNHCR was still trying to find solutions.

In collaboration with the Egyptian authorities, UNHCR assisted more than 12,000 Syrian refugees who arrived in the country and provided them with food, shelter, health and education. This is in addition to the protection and assistance given to more than 41,000 refugees and asylum-seekers already in Egypt.

More than 3,800 Syrian refugees made their way to Libya in 2012 and registered with

## Financial information

The humanitarian needs in the Middle East and North Africa region increased considerably in 2012, mainly as a result of the emergencies in Mali and Syria, as well as the situation in Yemen. The final budget rose to USD 866.1 million, compared to an initial budget approved by the Executive Committee of USD 565.5 million.

Given the escalation in the number of Syrian refugees and corresponding humanitarian needs, an inter-agency Regional Response Plan (plus two revisions) was launched in 2012. Within this, UNHCR's total budget was USD 245.7 million, however, the level of funding available reached only USD 166.3 million, just under 68 per cent of the requirements.

While requirements for the Yemen operation were increased to USD 72.6 million to reflect the needs presented in the inter-agency appeal for the return and integration of IDPs in Abyan Governorate, overall funding amounted to USD 45.9 million, requiring the operation to re-prioritize its activities. Inadequate funding prevented the realization of quick impact projects, the delivery of cash assistance to over half of the population identified with specific needs, the implementation of outreach activities and coordination with local communities in response to new arrivals. The provision of shelter and water supplies in the tented area in the Kharaz camp was not sufficient to meet the needs of UNHCR's population of concern. In Mauritania, requirements were increased to USD 38.1 million, of which USD 30.3 million was allocated to the Malian refugee situation.

UNHCR. Furthermore, some 60,000 people remain internally displaced in Libya, and some 6,700 registered refugees and 6,800 registered asylum-seekers are awaiting refugee status determination in the country. In cooperation with the Libyan authorities, UNHCR and its partners provided material assistance and psycho-social support to vulnerable refugees, and monitored the protection needs of people of concern in detention. In December 2012, UNHCR convened a training event on refugee law and international protection for government officials, and assisted with the drafting of a national asylum law.

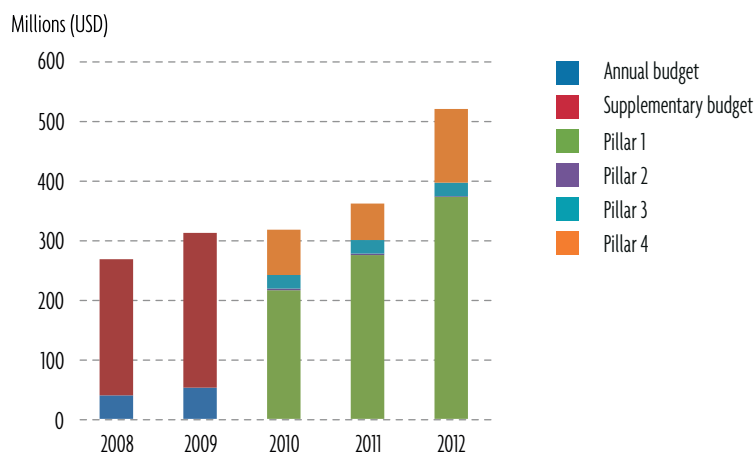
As a result of the influx of Malian refugees, UNHCR's operation in Mauritania witnessed significant change in 2012. In cooperation with the authorities, UNHCR and its partners set up a refugee camp in Mbera, 60 km from the Malian border, and provided shelter and life-saving assistance to tens of thousands of Malian refugees. While the number of refugees who stayed in the camp fluctuated throughout 2012, a registration exercise in the latter part of the year determined that some 54,000 people were living in the camp. Moreover, a significant number of Malians reportedly entered neighbouring Algeria and were being assisted by the Algerian Red Crescent.

The family visits between refugees in the Tindouf camps in Algeria and their relatives in *Western Sahara*, which form part of the confidence-building measures programme, have run smoothly since the introduction of a larger aircraft in April 2012. More than 4,600 individuals enjoyed family visits last year, with close to 17,000 having taken part in the programme since it began in 2004.

## | Constraints |

The wide spread and rapid displacement of Syrians to neighbouring countries, as well as within Syria, represented the greatest challenge in 2012. The regular disruption of access to the areas that were hardest hit by the violence in Syria greatly hampered the provision of emergency assistance. UNHCR was also challenged by the emergency in Mali, as it was already coping with several protracted displacement situations in the sub-region. The multiplication of these new emergency situations required rapid deployment of staff and significant allocations of financial resources in a region still struggling to recover from the many refugee crises of 2011. ■

### Expenditure in MENA 2008-2012



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

Operation		Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	Total
<b>NORTH AFRICA</b>						
Algeria	Budget	25,554,625	0	0	0	25,554,625
	Expenditure	13,624,844	0	0	0	13,624,844
Egypt Regional Office	Budget	24,594,557	68,890	0	0	24,663,447
	Expenditure	20,598,247	65,446	0	0	20,663,693
Libya	Budget	14,437,885	0	0	16,925,723	31,363,608
	Expenditure	8,091,272	0	0	4,565,979	12,657,251
Mauritania	Budget	38,145,437	0	0	0	38,145,437
	Expenditure	23,427,581	0	0	0	23,427,581
Morocco	Budget	2,763,868	0	0	0	2,763,868
	Expenditure	2,193,707	0	0	0	2,193,707
Tunisia	Budget	34,587,051	0	0	0	34,587,051
	Expenditure	11,969,214	0	0	0	11,969,214
Western Sahara (Confidence Building Measures)	Budget	13,222,319	0	0	0	13,222,319
	Expenditure	5,873,236	0	0	0	5,873,236
Regional activities	Budget	1,021,000	20,000	0	0	1,041,000
	Expenditure	1,001,945	18,060	0	0	1,020,005
Subtotal	Budget	154,326,742	88,890	0	16,925,723	171,341,355
	Expenditure	86,780,046	83,506	0	4,565,979	91,429,531
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>						
Iraq	Budget	70,958,240	1,102,037	29,914,264	129,524,171	231,498,712
	Expenditure	33,307,784	260,503	22,865,697	66,913,762	123,347,746
Israel	Budget	3,129,545	0	0	0	3,129,545
	Expenditure	2,272,179	0	0	0	2,272,179
Jordan	Budget	151,026,559	0	0	0	151,026,559
	Expenditure	85,759,102	0	0	0	85,759,102
Lebanon	Budget	48,901,046	404,012	0	0	49,305,058
	Expenditure	44,644,664	400,804	0	0	45,045,468
Saudi Arabia	Budget	4,127,958	182,800	0	0	4,310,758
	Expenditure	3,200,090	110,579	0	0	3,310,669
Syrian Arab Republic	Budget	114,057,980	495,299	0	41,759,300	156,312,579
	Expenditure	89,186,524	200,356	0	33,989,305	123,376,185
United Arab Emirates	Budget	3,634,944	126,418	0	0	3,761,362
	Expenditure	2,061,720	92,573	0	0	2,154,293
Yemen	Budget	34,512,572	0	0	38,155,977	72,668,549
	Expenditure	26,029,967	0	0	18,465,858	44,495,825
Regional activities	Budget	21,917,253	880,000	0	0	22,797,253
	Expenditure	281,779	3,226	0	0	285,005
Subtotal	Budget	452,266,097	3,190,566	29,914,264	209,439,448	694,810,375
	Expenditure	286,743,809	1,068,041	22,865,697	119,368,925	430,046,472
Total	Budget	606,592,839	3,279,456	29,914,264	226,365,171	866,151,730
	Expenditure	373,523,855	1,151,547	22,865,697	123,934,904	521,476,003

# VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | USD

Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
African Union	50,000			50,000
Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations	262,833	95,000		357,833
Australia	3,336,524	2,148,228	5,170,982	10,655,734
Australia for UNHCR			127,289	127,289
Austria	841,969		167,560	1,009,529
Botswana	100,000			100,000
Bouamatou Foundation	59,576			59,576
Brazil	836,679			836,679
Bulgaria	132,792			132,792
Canada			13,686,594	13,686,594
Center for International Migration and Integration	47,598			47,598
Central Emergency Response Fund	8,254,254	9,506,719		17,760,973
Charities Aid Foundation			143	143
<i>Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati</i>	152,255			152,255
Croatia			67,024	67,024
Czech Republic	312,858			312,858
Denmark	6,746,523	1,983,172	2,613,240	11,342,936
<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe</i>	125,471		1,010,096	1,135,567
Educate A Child Programme	301,390			301,390
<i>España con ACNUR</i>	6,385		70,039	76,424
Estonia	64,350			64,350
Eurocash			5,101	5,101
European Union	30,431,520	8,122,247		38,553,768
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. (UNIQLO)	260,267			260,267
Finland	397,351		2,010,724	2,408,075
France	1,594,845	855,264		2,450,109
Germany	17,829,120	5,845,358		23,674,477
Hungary	25,740		52,980	78,720
Iceland			51,000	51,000
IKEA Foundation	325,920			325,920
Ireland	1,518,536		268,097	1,786,633
Italy	871,271	757,718		1,628,989
Japan	10,795,000	2,105,000	5,673,938	18,573,938
Japan Association for UNHCR			89,194	89,194
Kuwait	1,106,762			1,106,762
Liechtenstein			107,991	107,991
Lithuania	17,986			17,986
Luxembourg	466,667		466,667	933,333
Monaco	145,628			145,628
Morocco	278,534			278,534
Netherlands	21,541,301			21,541,301

<i>Donor</i>	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
New Zealand	188,964			188,964
Norway	2,562,053			2,562,053
Poland	154,332	313,618		467,950
Private donors in Canada	1,693		44,862	46,555
Private donors in China (Hong Kong SAR)	1,894		92,385	94,279
Private donors in Greece			50,798	50,798
Private donors in Italy	106,400		31,703	138,103
Private donors in Portugal			2,649	2,649
Private donors in Saudi Arabia	6,339		10,749	17,088
Private donors in the Czech Republic	104		97	200
Private donors in the United Kingdom	10,334		433	10,767
Private donors in the United States of America			40,000	40,000
Republic of Korea	600,000			600,000
Said Foundation	355,864			355,864
Saudi Arabia	8,781,470			8,781,470
Slovak Republic			31,056	31,056
Slovenia		75,282		75,282
Spain	1,972,980			1,972,980
Sweden	2,132,057		11,397,792	13,529,848
Switzerland	3,608,570	2,034,345	12,409	5,655,324
Turkey			300,000	300,000
Ukraine	125,000			125,000
United Arab Emirates	39,703			39,703
United Kingdom	7,955,127	4,929,046	7,824,841	20,709,013
United Nations Emergency Relief Fund		596,792		596,792
United Nations Peacebuilding Fund		61,177		61,177
United Nations World Food Programme	476,776			476,776
United States of America	50,941,824	13,460,000	173,650,000	238,051,824
USA for UNHCR			159,947	159,947
Vluchteling Foundation		24,984		24,984
World Assembly of Muslim Youth	53,333		133,333	186,667
<b>Total</b>	<b>189,312,723</b>	<b>52,913,949</b>	<b>225,421,712</b>	<b>467,648,384</b>

Note: Includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve