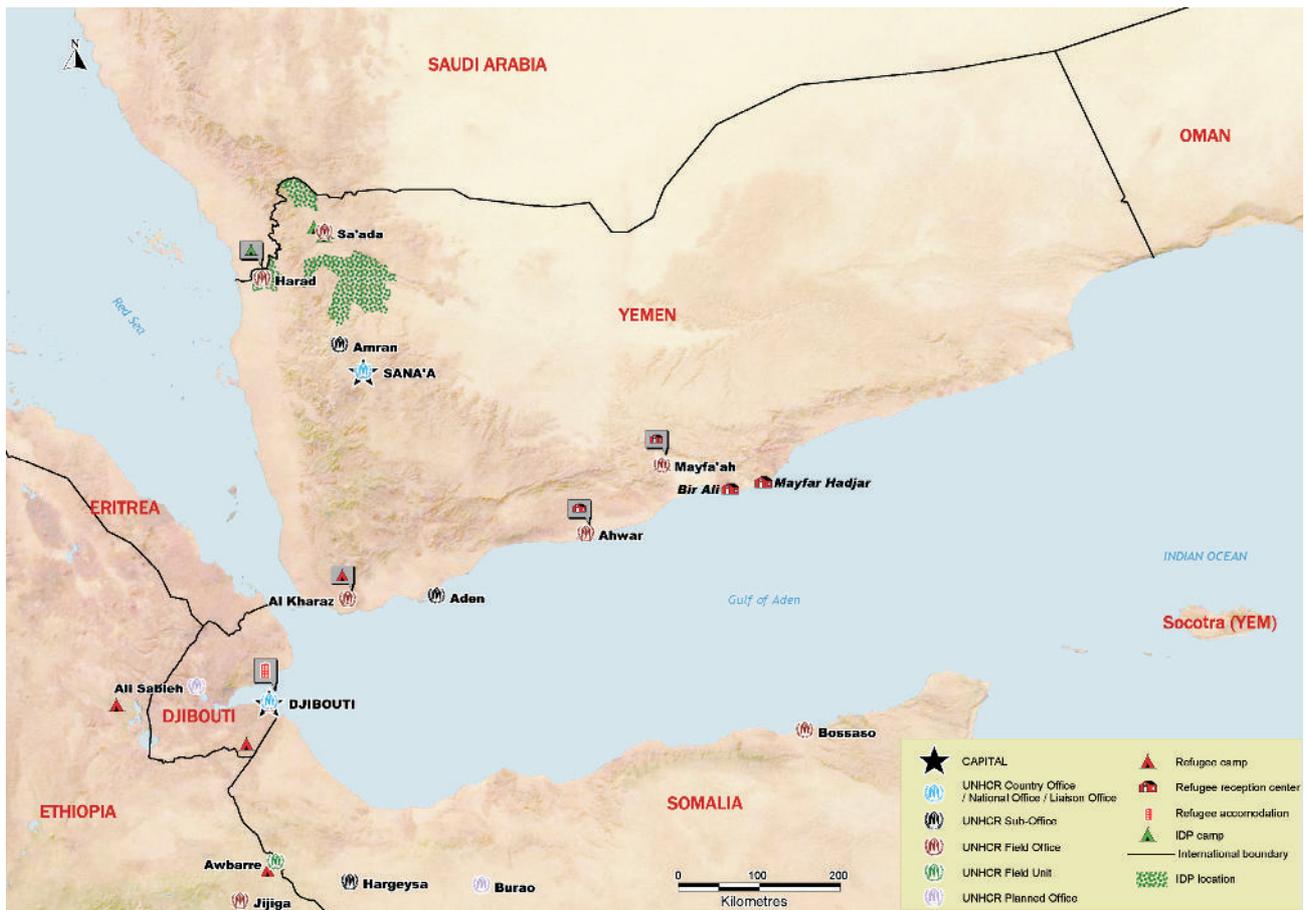


YEMEN



Operational highlights

- Intense fighting in the northern part of the country resulted in continuous internal displacement, making an already dire situation more so. By the end of the year it was estimated that the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Yemen had increased from 100,000 to 250,000, of whom some 228,000 were registered. Out of the 228,000, some 102,400 individuals benefited from shelter materials and basic relief items.
- Some 77,800 people travelling in mixed migration flows were smuggled into Yemen during 2009. Of these, 41,700 were transported to the reception centres in Mayfa'a, Ahwar and Kharaz camp.
- In the absence of a governmental refugee institution and procedures, UNHCR continued to provide refugee status determination (RSD) for non-Somali asylum-seekers. With UNHCR support, the Government of Yemen started undertaking the registration of Somalis, with some 37,000 given the status of refugees by the end of the year.
- Resettlement was reserved only for the most vulnerable refugee cases. In 2009, UNHCR referred some 760 persons for resettlement.
- Some 350 refugees repatriated voluntarily with UNHCR's help.

Working environment

Yemen continued to receive flows of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants fleeing civil war, political instability and precarious living conditions in the Horn of Africa. In 2009, some 77,800 arrived. These numbers, including a marked increase in non-Somalis, strained the Government's already limited resources.

The policy of arresting Ethiopians and Eritreans on arrival with the aim of deportation was reinforced. UNHCR continued to be systematically denied access to detained Ethiopians, the vast majority of whom are deported without being able to avail themselves of asylum procedures.

In addition to the refugee population, there are an estimated 250,000 IDPs in the north of the country as a result of the six-year-old conflict between the Government and Al Houthi group, which flared up again in August 2009.

Achievement and impact

• Main objectives

UNHCR's activities and programmes in 2009 aimed at ensuring access to asylum for all persons of concern; contributing to their social and economic well-being; working towards attaining durable solutions for a growing number of refugees; providing emergency assistance to IDPs;

and developing and diversifying partnerships with Government authorities, refugee communities, civil society, UN agencies, donors and the media.

● Protection and solutions

UNHCR continued to help the Government to develop national refugee legislation and establish an administrative framework to manage the migration flow. In this respect, the Government started considering UNHCR's 10-Point Plan of Action, which was proposed three years ago. A Department of Refugee Affairs was created within the Immigration Authority and the Government officially joined the Mixed Migration Task Force – Yemen, alongside UNHCR and other partners. In addition, three registration centres for refugees were established in Sana'a, Basateen/Aden and Kharaz camp, and a mechanism was set in place to detect persons with special needs.

The Office centralized and standardized registration systems, which enhanced the provision of protection and assistance to the IDP population. UNHCR set up a system for profiling populations of concern through increased access to displaced civilians and enhanced protection monitoring. The Office also supported and trained Government counterparts in IDP registration through the use of a standardized database, facilitating timely delivery of assistance. At the end of the year, the number of IDPs in Yemen was estimated to have gone up from 100,000 to 250,000, of whom 228,000 were registered.

Durable solutions were only available for a small number of refugees. Repatriation is not an option for Somali refugees in Yemen given the volatile situation in Somalia, and opportunities for local integration are limited. In this respect, the Office began developing a strategy to increase resettlement opportunities for those who have no other alternatives.



A woman prepares to eat in Al Mazrak Camp, Haradh district.

UNHCR / H. MACLEOD

Some 760 persons were submitted for resettlement to third countries. All cases were identified based on vulnerability criteria, and nearly 150 persons departed. Some 350 refugees repatriated voluntarily with UNHCR's assistance.

UNHCR also increased its material and financial assistance to vulnerable persons of concern in urban centres,

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Somalia	161,500	161,500	31	24
	Iraq	4,400	4,400	44	33
	Ethiopia	3,400	3,400	51	39
	Eritrea	800	800	39	20
	Occupied Palestinian Territory	600	600	43	23
	Various	170	170	36	30
Asylum-seekers	Ethiopia	700	700	39	13
	Occupied Palestinian Territory	240	240	36	15
	Iraq	150	150	38	19
	Eritrea	140	140	36	15
	Various	110	110	31	36
IDPs	Yemen	250,000	228,000	56	57
Total		422,210	400,210		

in particular through the delivery of non-food items (NFIs), food and services in the areas of water/sanitation, health and education. Priority was also given to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, who received psychological and medical support.

○ *Activities and Assistance*

Community services: Participatory assessments have been conducted with multi-functional teams, including Government authorities, in camps and urban areas. Some 220 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported to the offices and all survivors were provided with psychosocial, medical and legal services. Some 2,300 asylum seekers and refugees were given training in preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence. Two drop-in centres in Kharaz and Basateen were accessible to all survivors of sexual violence and ensured that cases were recorded. In addition, four IDP community services centres were established in Haradh and Amran, providing some 200 IDPs weekly with counselling, enhanced access to information and adequate referral mechanisms.

Domestic needs: Some 41,700 new arrivals were provided with a NFI package at reception centres in Kharaz camp, Ahwar and Mayafa'a. Nearly 31,000 packets of soap and 31,000 pieces of sanitary napkins were distributed in Kharaz camp some 10,300 camp residents received jerry cans, kerosene and soap bars. In addition, NFIs were also distributed to nearly 102,400 IDPs in northern Yemen. A thousand persons displaced as a result of floods in the Hadramout and Al Mahara governorates benefited from NFIs.

Education: The enrolment in refugee schools increased from 71 per cent to 75 per cent. Some 40 protection scholarships were provided to refugee students for higher education. School facilities were improved in Basateen to respond to the increasing number of students and the overcrowding of the classrooms.

Food: Monthly food rations were provided to some 17,000 beneficiaries in Kharaz Camp in cooperation with WFP. In addition, some 4,900 children benefited from school feeding programmes and more than 1,000 pregnant or lactating women and malnourished children benefited from supplementary feeding programmes.

Forestry: More than 2,000 trees were planted in public places and compounds in Kharaz camp. Solar lighting panels for street lighting in new shelter areas and villages were also installed.

Health and nutrition: Medical equipment and supplies were provided to camp-based and urban refugees, in particular to respond to the increase of malnutrition and anaemia. Immunization was undertaken in all areas for persons of concern in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Full vaccine coverage rates reached more than 90 per cent in all areas. With regard to HIV and AIDS, awareness-raising and condom distribution represented the main prevention activities in camps and urban areas. Refugees had access to post-exposure prophylaxis at referral

centres in case of rape, and anti-retroviral treatments were made available in Government hospitals.

Income generation: Some 1,350 refugees from Aden, Sana'a and Kharaz camp enrolled in vocational and skills training. More than 670 refugees engaged in self-reliance schemes, including on-the-job training, and some 400 (mostly women) benefited from micro-credit loans. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training and should allow a limited number of refugees to integrate vocational education on the same basis as Yemeni nationals.

Legal assistance: Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence received legal assistance and, in northern Yemen, some 830 IDPs were provided with legal counselling. The Office also conducted training sessions on refugee and human rights law for a total of 700 people, including Government officials and partners.

Livestock: UNHCR responded to urgent livestock needs in Al Mazrak Camp and provided fodder for all animals. The Office gave cash grants to 400 vulnerable households to restock lost dairy goats, buy fodder and pay for veterinary support.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR provided financial and logistical support to its NGO implementing partners, thus enhancing the quality of services for refugees and IDPs.

Sanitation: In Kharaz camp, 160 latrines were constructed or repaired, and awareness sessions on home hygiene were organized in the camp and Basateen.

Shelter and infrastructure: Some 1,800 refugees benefited from the construction of 400 shelters in Kharaz camp. Emergency shelter was provided to IDPs in northern Yemen, including the distribution of some 2,950 tents and 13,500 plastic sheets. Persons displaced as a result of floods benefited from 100 two-room shelters. Priority was given to the marginalized group known as the al Akhdam, who had been neglected on a number of distribution lists.

Transport and logistics: Some 350 refugees were assisted to repatriate voluntarily to "Somaliland" and Iraq. Transportation was also provided to 150 persons accepted for resettlement. Some 41,700 new arrivals were transported from the coast to the reception centre and/or the refugee camps.

Water: Some 40 litres per person per day were provided to refugees in the camp. Sixty family latrines were constructed in Kharaz camp and 200 manholes were installed in the Basateen urban area.

○ *Constraints*

Security along the coast, as well as frequent threats from the local communities surrounding the camps, remained constraints throughout 2009. The volatility of the security environment in Yemen has generated negative reactions towards refugees, including Somalis, who have benefited

from a generous government policy of *prima facie* recognition.

Due to the volatile situation in Somalia and the poor economic situation in the Horn of Africa, mixed migration movements will continue to affect Yemen putting more pressure on its already strained economy. In this respect, UNHCR remains concerned about the continuing arrests and deportation of non-Somalis.

The Government had not endorsed a national refugee law by the end of the year, delaying UNHCR's plan to hand over RSD tasks.

Financial information

In the past few years, the annual budget for Yemen averaged USD 4 million, but increased to more than USD 13 million in 2008. In 2009, UNHCR's operation in Yemen was used as a pilot to test the global needs assessment process. As a result, the annual budget increased to more than USD 16 million, with over USD 14 million in addition for supplementary programmes.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR's operation was managed by the country office in Sana'a, two sub-offices in Aden and Saada, and five field offices and units in Kharang, Mayfa'a, Ahwar, Amran and Maradh. In 2009, UNHCR employed 150 staff: 20 international and 84 national employees as well as a total of 46 consultants, secondees and UNVs.

Working with others

UNHCR was a member of the UN Country Team, UN Core Group (UNCG) and the UNDAF working group and participated in joint UN assessment missions for refugees and IDPs. During the IDP emergency, UNHCR led the protection, shelter (including NFIs) and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) clusters. A sub-cluster for child protection was established in December 2009, with UNICEF as the lead agency. In Harad and Amran, two working groups on protection and education and two sub-clusters dealing with shelter, NFIs and CCCM were established.

UNHCR also strengthened its relations with the Government of Yemen and the National Committee for Refugee Affairs, chaired by the Vice-Minister in the Ministry of the Interior.

Overall assessment

The Global Needs Assessment (GNA) process was piloted in Yemen to identify the unmet needs of refugees and

asylum-seekers. Based on the GNA findings, UNHCR scaled up its operations to protect and assist refugees. These included addressing poor nutrition and providing more access to health care, as well as improving access to documents to prevent the risk of arrest and detention, particularly for refugees and host communities in urban areas. The operation was also able to offer limited opportunities for self-reliance to people of concern. UNHCR tried to address the effects of the food and financial crises on livelihoods and the increased vulnerability of urban refugees. Protection and security of new arrivals was considerably enhanced by improving reception conditions, including the provision of counselling to new arrivals.

The capacity of UNHCR's implementing partners needs to be strengthened, as does UNHCR's monitoring capacity. Responding quickly to the needs of migrants and asylum-seekers stranded at the border with Saudi Arabia, UNHCR managed to open a window of opportunity with regard to access to detention centres and the screening of migrants and asylum-seekers.

Partners
Government: Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Human Rights, and Public Health
NGOs: ADPSN, ADRA, <i>Al Dumir</i> , <i>Al Tadamon</i> , <i>Al Takamol</i> , <i>Al-Amel</i> , CARE, CSSW, DRC, IDF, INTERSOS, Islamic Relief Yemen, MSF Spain, Oxfam GB, <i>Ras Marbat</i> , SAD, Save the Children Sweden, SCWA, SHS, Triangle, UNIDOM
Others: IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV, WFP, WHO, UNDP, Yemeni Red Crescent



Budget, income and expenditure in Yemen (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	22,639,710	7,953,082	9,867,961	17,821,043	16,289,812
Somalia situation SB	9,389,277	5,456,658	69,235	5,525,893	5,381,281
IDP operations in Yemen SB	8,742,117	8,645,357	213,508	8,858,865	7,938,101
Yemen Flood SB	794,614	59,800	795,464	855,264	836,759
Avian and human influenza SB	171,980	0	171,980	171,980	171,980
Supplementary budget subtotal	19,097,988	14,161,815	1,250,187	15,412,002	14,328,121
Grand total	41,737,698	22,114,897	11,118,148	33,233,045	30,617,933

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 for UNHCR's operations in Yemen (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,409,438	1,749,512	5,158,950	0
Community services	833,607	166,734	1,000,340	296,515
Domestic needs and household support	1,167,842	3,955,487	5,123,329	37,222
Education	1,253,993	11,997	1,265,990	500,330
Food	128,508	52,720	181,228	57,806
Forestry	7,547		7,547	1,535
Health and nutrition	1,198,217	241,824	1,440,041	310,945
Income generation	245,041	69,659	314,699	202,024
Legal assistance	1,855,402	537,551	2,392,953	374,268
Livestock animal husbandry	18,257		18,257	18,257
Operational support (to agencies)	1,776,948	681,584	2,458,532	281,561
Sanitation	244,031	154,971	399,003	180,497
Shelter and infrastructure	465,038	2,639,889	3,104,927	79,461
Transport and logistics	775,274	948,665	1,723,938	299,966
Water	248,921	173,641	422,562	158,455
Instalments to implementing partners	790,936	2,199,548	2,990,484	(2,783,754)
Subtotal operational activities	14,418,999	13,583,782	28,002,781	15,089
Programme support	1,870,813	744,339	2,615,152	0
Total expenditure	16,289,812	14,328,121	30,617,933	15,089

Cancellation on previous years' expenditure

(51,894)

Instalments with implementing partners

Payments made	6,362,710	4,549,318	10,912,028	
Reporting received	(3,549,609)	(1,513,549)	(5,063,157)	
Balance	2,813,102	3,035,769	5,848,871	

Previous year's report

Instalments with implementing partners:			
Outstanding 1st January			3,025,512
Reporting received			(2,783,754)
Refunded to UNHCR			(134,608)
Currency adjustment			(2,911)
Outstanding 31st December			104,239