

Children gather firewood in Mazrak 3, a camp for Yemenis displaced by the conflict between government forces and Huthi rebels.



Bahrain

Egypt

Iraq

Israel

Jordan

Kuwait

Lebanon

Oman

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Arab Republic

United Arab Emirates

Yemen

Middle East



| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- Following an appeal by UNHCR, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issued a decree halting the deportation of Somalis living illegally in the country until the situation in Somalia becomes conducive to return.
- In Kuwait, the Government announced that it would provide services and documents to refugees and naturalize some 34,000 Bedouins. UNHCR offered assistance and technical expertise to the Government to help address the Bedouin situation.
- Although most of the countries hosting Iraqi refugees are not States Parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention, they have generously abided by humanitarian principles in allowing refugees into their territories and granting them access to some basic services.
- More than 67,000 Iraqi refugees returned to Iraq, while some 165,000 remain elsewhere in the region. In addition, approximately 194,000 internally displaced Iraqis were reported to have returned to their places of origin.
- UNHCR delivered protection and assistance at the Libyan border with Egypt to those affected by the Libyan crisis.



Working environment

Countries in the Middle East subregion witnessed unprecedented political, social and economic changes as a result of the Arab Spring movements. These changes created both challenges and opportunities for UNHCR. On one hand, the civil unrest put a strain on refugees' coping mechanisms and increased their vulnerability; on the other, the emergence of new political and civil-society actors enhanced UNHCR's ability to promote a more favourable protection environment for its people of concern.

The situation in Iraq, although substantially improved, continued to be regarded with caution among a substantial number of refugees who say they have no intention of returning to the country in the near future. The withdrawal of United States forces from Iraq at the end of 2011 raised fresh concerns among refugees about the viability of return. At the same time, the deteriorating security environment in the region, coupled with other considerations, led a significant number of Iraqis to return.

The unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic had a negative impact on refugees' personal security as well as on their socio-economic well-being. A higher number of refugees than expected left the country, probably to return to Iraq, while some moved to neighbouring States. The security situation in Egypt continued to be fragile following the uprising in January-February 2011.

Yemen remained in the throes of a political crisis aggravated by localized fighting in different parts of the country. The flow of new arrivals into Israel, of whom most were Eritreans, continued at an average rate of 2,000 people per month. Many of the arrivals reported severe abuse at the

hands of human smugglers in the Sinai region. The total number of asylum-seekers in Israel stood at approximately 50,000.

Achievements and impact

Despite the regional and domestic challenges, many States, such as Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, continued to provide protection to people of concern to UNHCR. Moreover, the authorities demonstrated their willingness to consider the adoption of national asylum legislation. The protection space for refugees was generally upheld by the respective Governments and, in certain respects, expanded.

Resettlement remained a viable durable solution for many Iraqi refugees. Between 2007 and 2011, some 133,500 Iraqi cases were submitted for resettlement, and some 69,000 departed for their new homes.

UNHCR's Regional Response Plan provided a strategic framework to address the immediate and longer-term needs of displaced Iraqis in Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

In Yemen, UNHCR helped the Government to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to some 215,000 refugees in the country and almost half a million internally displaced Yemenis. The Office also supported Yemen in coping with the ongoing mass influx of refugees and migrants from the Horn of Africa.

The Gulf countries continued to strengthen their partnerships with UNHCR. Their contributions throughout the year helped to improve the lives of thousands of refugees and IDPs throughout the world.

In 2011, the Office in Egypt experienced an increase in asylum-seekers registering with UNHCR. Close to 6,000 new arrivals were registered, mainly from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan, bringing the total number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt to more than 44,000. UNHCR increased its registration, RSD and protection capacity to manage the new influx. The Office also facilitated access to health care and education and provided financial assistance to the most vulnerable people of concern. Dialogue with the authorities continued on matters related to irregular movement.

In response to the crisis in Libya, UNHCR and IOM joined forces to evacuate some 300,000 third-country nationals, including those who fled to Egypt from Libya. UNHCR's presence in the Egyptian border area enabled the delivery of protection and assistance to some 2,000 people of concern.

Constraints

The absence of functioning national asylum systems continued to remain a major protection gap in the Middle East region. Security concerns and new political instabilities created additional challenges for UNHCR, such as reduced access to people of concern.

Operations

Operations in **Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon**, the **Syrian Arab Republic** and **Yemen** are covered in separate chapters.

In **Israel**, the ongoing influx of asylum-seekers has spurred the Government to take certain measures designed to staunch the flow of arrivals, including the construction of a barrier along the border with Egypt and of a camp to house 10,000 people in the south of the country.

Through its Regional Office in **Saudi Arabia**, UNHCR continued to strengthen its partnerships in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, including with **Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar** and the **United Arab Emirates**. UNHCR also continued to advocate with countries in the region regarding the need for effective measures to address statelessness, as well as to respond to protection and assistance gaps identified through comprehensive needs assessments.

Financial information

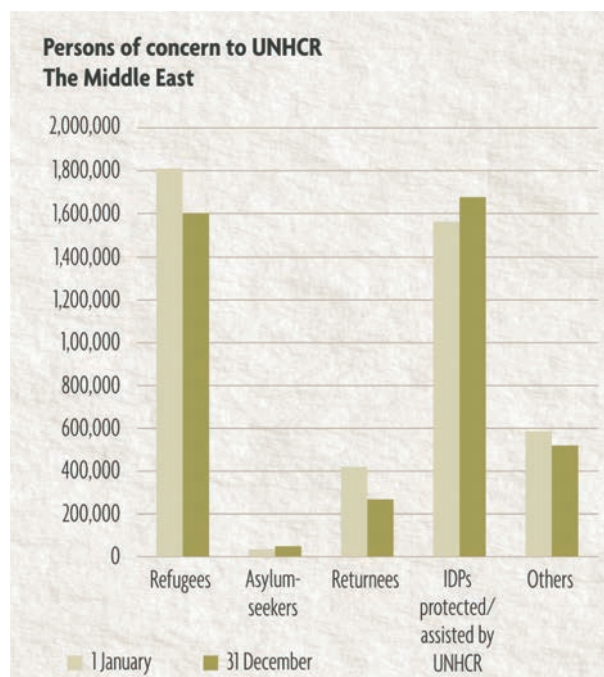
In 2011, UNHCR's financial requirements for the Middle East subregion amounted to USD 506 million. For the Iraq Situation, there was a reduction of some 20 per cent compared with the requirements for 2010.

Budget and expenditure in the Middle East | USD

Country		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
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
Total budget		302,138,453	9,125,605	65,062,863	130,076,739	506,403,660
Total expenditure		188,012,882	2,624,737	22,644,704	58,950,744	272,233,067

The requirements for the Yemen operation amounted to some USD 59 million, but UNHCR received funding to cover only 53 per cent of the identified needs. The shortfall resulted in significant gaps in protection and assistance.

Egypt, Libya and Tunisia were part of a USD 110 million Supplementary Appeal to help cover needs resulting from the outflow of people into the countries neighbouring Libya. Components for Egypt included the evacuation of third-country nationals, life-saving assistance at the border area and resettlement activities. This appeal was 66 per cent funded.



Voluntary contributions to the Middle East | USD

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
MIDDLE EAST SUBREGION						
Finland					1,373,626	1,373,626
Netherlands	1,250,000					1,250,000
United States of America					184,400,000	184,400,000
Middle East subtotal	1,250,000	0	0	0	185,773,626	187,023,626
EGYPT						
Brazil	150,000					150,000
European Union	2,032,328					2,032,328
United States of America					3,400,000	3,400,000
Egypt subtotal	2,182,328	0	0	0	3,400,000	5,582,328
IRAQ						
Canada					1,529,052	1,529,052
Charities Aid Foundation					335	335
Denmark				1,027,218		1,027,218
Italy		65,703			1,227,831	1,293,534
Japan					2,462,145	2,462,145
Sweden					3,187,251	3,187,251
UNDG Iraq Trust Fund	61,500		550,628	119,702		731,830
Iraq subtotal	61,500	65,703	550,628	1,146,920	8,406,614	10,231,365
JORDAN						
Denmark	519,119					519,119
European Union	1,646,192					1,646,192
Sweden	787,402					787,402
Switzerland	209,555					209,555
United States of America					200,000	200,000
Jordan subtotal	3,162,267	0	0	0	200,000	3,362,267

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
LEBANON						
European Union	501,672					501,672
Asfari Foundation	199,456					199,456
Private donors in the United Kingdom	576,778					576,778
Switzerland	224,756					224,756
United States of America					200,000	200,000
Lebanon subtotal	1,502,662	0	0	0	200,000	1,702,662
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC						
Denmark	594,271					594,271
<i>Espana con ACNUR</i>	68,573					68,573
European Union	6,202,717					6,202,717
Germany	1,373,626					1,373,626
Ireland	97,251					97,251
Italy	870,434					870,434
Monaco	45,992					45,992
Norway	86,851					86,851
Sweden	1,259,843					1,259,843
Switzerland	483,871					483,871
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd. (UNIQLO)	26,418					26,418
United Kingdom	1,584,786					1,584,786
United States of America					215,869	215,869
Syrian Arab Republic subtotal	12,694,633	0	0	0	215,869	12,910,502
YEMEN						
Canada					1,529,052	1,529,052
CERF	823,900			2,929,918		3,753,818
European Union	3,816,526			2,564,103		6,380,629
Finland					1,373,626	1,373,626
France	412,088					412,088
Germany	681,199					681,199
Japan					1,231,072	1,231,072
Netherlands	590,800			409,200		1,000,000
Spain				1,371,742		1,371,742
<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i>	28,833			115,089		143,921
Sweden					3,745,256	3,745,256
Switzerland	991,103					991,103
UN Development Programme				238,589		238,589
United States of America	4,600,000			4,700,000	2,000,000	11,300,000
<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe</i>	133,333					133,333
Yemen subtotal	12,077,783	0	0	12,328,640	9,879,007	34,285,430
Total	32,931,172	65,703	550,628	13,475,561	208,075,116	255,098,17