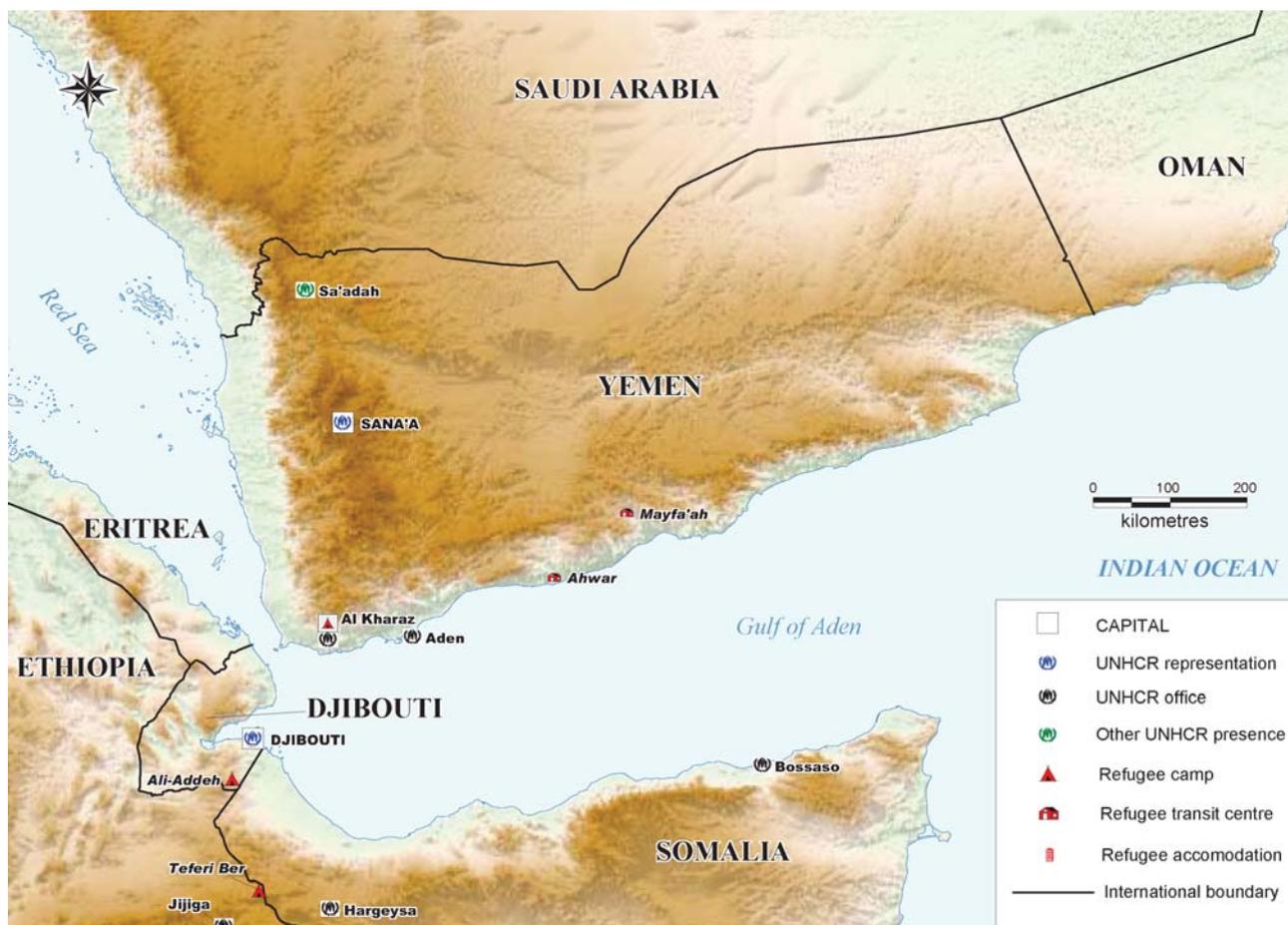


# Yemen



## Operational highlights

- Yemen continued to receive large mixed migration movements in 2007. As in previous years, thousands of people, some fleeing violence in their country and others seeking better economic opportunities, arrived in the Gulf of Aden. Many of these migrants had suffered torture, abuse and exploitation. Hundreds are reported to have died on the high seas.
- The Government of Yemen continued to grant *prima facie* refugee status to Somali asylum-seekers. At the end of 2007, Yemen was host to some 118,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, most of them living in urban areas. Some 9,000 Somalis lived in Kharaz camp in an isolated, semi-arid region in southern Yemen. Another 77,000 people were internally displaced due to an internal conflict in the northern part of the country. However, deportations and arrests of non-Somalis, mainly Ethiopians, continued in 2007.
- UNHCR transported some 14,600 people from various coastal areas in Yemen to the Mayfa'a Reception Centre. Additionally, some 8,500 refugees were transported by UNHCR from the reception centre to Kharaz camp.

- Some 400 Somalis and 10 Ethiopians voluntarily repatriated with the assistance of UNHCR. Another 500 individuals, mostly Somalis and Ethiopians with special protection needs, were submitted for resettlement.

## Working environment

Yemen represents a protracted refugee situation made more complex by large mixed migration movements. For more than 16 years there has been a stream of Somalis travelling across the Gulf of Aden and arriving in Yemen in overcrowded, unseaworthy vessels operated by a network of smugglers. In 2007 alone, more than 1,400 people are reported to have died or gone missing while making the hazardous journey. However, many of those fleeing say conditions in their homeland are so bad that they are willing to take the risk. UNHCR has been calling for more action to save lives in the Gulf of Aden.

More than 29,000 people arrived in Yemen in mixed flows in 2007. Whereas some of the new arrivals moved on to other Gulf States, many more remained in Yemen. It is estimated that more than 110,000 Somalis are currently living in Yemen, most in urban areas with some 9,000 living in the Kharaz refugee camp.

## Achievements and impact

### Main objectives

- Ensure effective international protection and assistance for all refugees, asylum-seekers and others of concern; work with the Government to strengthen the legal framework and institutional capacities for refugee protection and assistance to limit irregular movements of refugees; assess prospects for durable solutions.
- Support formal and informal education for refugees, followed by income-generation opportunities; ensure that the camp community, particularly refugee women, plays a role in planning and managing programmes through participatory community development activities.

### Protection and solutions

As the number of complex mixed migration movements into Yemen increased, the Government struggled to address the needs of arriving refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. The challenge of addressing mixed migration threatens to jeopardize the Government's willingness to grant *prima facie* refugee status to Somalis fleeing violence in their country. In a move to share the burden and alleviate the suffering of the refugees, UNHCR expanded and strengthened its programmes in the country.

In 2007, some 400 Somalis and 10 Ethiopians voluntarily repatriated with the assistance of UNHCR. Another 500 Somalis and Ethiopians with special protection needs were submitted for resettlement to third countries. As the situation in Somalia does not encourage refugees from that country to return home, resettlement is an option, but only for some of them. UNHCR is also working to improve living conditions for the refugees in Yemen.

### Activities and assistance

**Community services:** A forum of leadership committees has been established and community leaders selected. Women are well-represented in all committees. Recreational programmes, libraries and video/TV rooms supported by UNHCR benefited a total of 32,000 beneficiaries, 10 per cent of them Yemenis.

**Domestic needs and household support:** A total of 198,000 litres of kerosene was distributed to the refugee community, helping to reduce the use of firewood. All refugees in the camp benefited from the distribution of non-food items, including 7,000 mattresses, 10,000 blankets, 2,300 stoves, 5,000 jerry cans and 2,000 plastic sheets. All refugee women and girls of reproductive age in Kharaz camp received sanitary materials.

**Education:** Ten classrooms were constructed and furnished. Some 2,000 students, or 85 per cent of those enrolled, successfully completed the school year 2006-2007. Girls made up 46 per cent of the total number of students. The teacher-student ratio remained at 1: 40. Some 45 children with special needs were also enrolled in school and another 117 refugees benefited from literacy classes.

**Food:** All the refugees in Kharaz camp received a full food ration from WFP and supplementary provisions from UNHCR. The elementary school feeding programme continued through 2007. A UNHCR/WFP joint assessment mission's recommendations were implemented.

**Forestry:** During 2007 UNHCR maintained some 4,000 trees in Kharaz refugee camp, planted in previous years. The maintenance was carried out with full participation of the refugee communities in the camp. This activity contributed in reducing environmental degradation in the camp, while the trees provided the much needed shades for refugees and served as wind breaks in the harsh camp environment.

### Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Somalia	110,600	110,600	33	27
	Iraq	3,700	3,700	44	35
	Ethiopia	2,000	2,000	47	36
	Various	1,000	1,000	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Eritrea	200	200	38	12
	Iraq	170	170	50	37
	Occupied Palestinian Territory	170	170	48	46
	Ethiopia	110	110	34	22
	Various	80	80	-	-
IDPs		77,000	77,000	56	57
<b>Total</b>		<b>195,030</b>	<b>195,030</b>		

**Health and nutrition:** Primary and reproductive health care was available for all refugees in the camp, and all children in the camp received immunization services under the national immunization campaign. Some 8,300 newly arrived asylum-seekers at the Mayfa'a reception centre were given health care; serious cases were referred to the Aden national hospital.

A total of 35,000 urban refugees in Sana'a and Aden could get health care. However, basic drugs were not readily available, compelling the refugees to pay for them on the open market. Approximately 21,000 Yemeni nationals could access the health facilities in the refugee areas in Aden. Refugees also benefited from emergency and life-saving surgery.

**Income generation:** UNHCR supported sewing classes for refugees, which produced 2,000 school uniforms. Some 80 per cent of the income thus directly benefited the participants. The Office also supported weaving and basket-making in the camp, as well as a carpentry workshop. The latter produced doors and windows for the new classrooms and shelter units in the camp.

**Legal assistance:** The Office conducted several workshops for the authorities on protection issues, and 150 coastal guards benefited from training in humanitarian law. The training drastically reduced reports of harassment and shootings involving new arrivals. Some 14,600 Somalis transferred to the Mayfa'a reception centre were registered and received refugee registration cards. The Government has not yet endorsed UNHCR's 10-Point Plan of Action for mixed migration problems, as it remains concerned about creating a pull-factor for further immigration.

**Operational Support:** The Office provided operational support to implementing partners, enabling them to cover the administrative costs of programmes. This support covered costs of project staff, office supplies, communication, vehicle maintenance and fuel.

**Shelter and other infrastructure:** Some 400 shelter units were constructed to ease the accommodation problems for Ethiopian and Somali families in Kharaz camp.

**Sanitation:** Fifteen additional latrines were constructed in Kharaz camp and another 10 in the reception centres. Twelve latrines were renovated. At least 80 per cent of refugee households have family latrines. The camp was sprayed with disinfectant at least twice a month.

**Transport and logistics:** Transport was provided for refugees and new arrivals moving between the entry points, the reception centre and the Kharaz camp. Some 14,600 new arrivals were transferred from the

coast to the reception centre, while 8,500 were transferred from the reception centre to Kharaz camp.

**Water:** The camp population had access to an average of 60 litres of water per person per day.

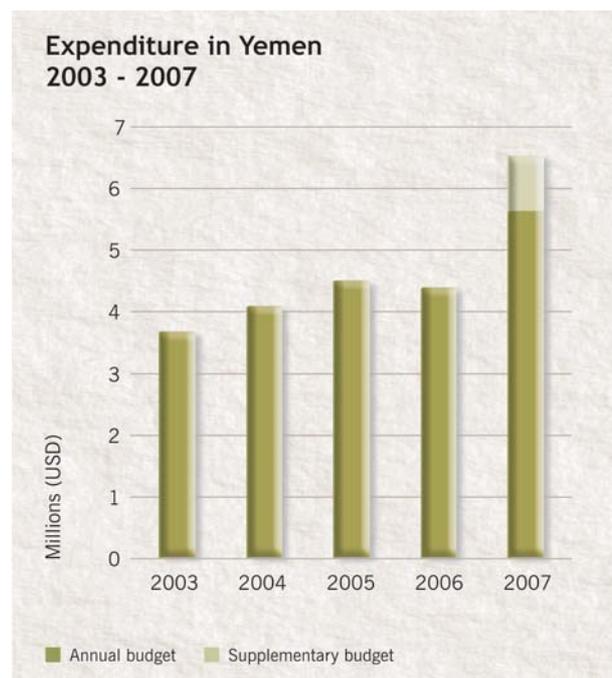
Some 80 men and 60 women attended a training session to help conserve water, which was also provided to the surrounding population through pipes installed with the support of the World Bank. Basic water analysis was conducted twice a month by the public health laboratory. New arrivals at the reception centre were provided with drinking water.

## Constraints

The complex phenomenon of mixed migration, the limited capacity of the relevant national migration and asylum structures to cope with the large numbers, and limited resources constrained operations in Yemen. Negative local media reports on the growing numbers of arrivals have contributed to misperceptions, for instance by linking refugees to crime, prostitution and HIV and AIDS.

## Financial information

Between 2004-2006, the annual budget for the Yemen operation was approximately USD four million, which did not meet actual refugee needs. Government capacity to provide protection and assistance for those arriving in mixed migratory flows through the Gulf of Aden is limited.





UNHCR/J. Björkqvinnsson

Ethiopian and Somali asylum-seekers. For some of those who just arrived, this is their first meal in three days, at the Mayfa'a reception center, in Southern Yemen.

In 2007, UNHCR adopted a strategy to increase international awareness to the situation in Yemen, as part of an effort to encourage greater solidarity and burden sharing. As a result, the budget for the operation was increased from USD four million to some USD seven million. Nevertheless, the budget was still inadequate when matched against the needs, particularly for urban refugees who live in extremely poor conditions and lack even the basic requirements. This is also the growing perception of the Yemeni authorities who feel that the burdens they have assumed are neither well appreciated by the international community, nor appropriately addressed through international assistance and solidarity mechanisms.

## Organization and implementation

### Management

UNHCR has offices in Sana'a and Aden with a total of 50 employees, of whom 13 are international staff and 37 are national staff.

## Working with others

UNHCR had a total of nine implementing partners, including the Government's ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Interior. NGO partners provide services in health, education, water and sanitation. The Office also works closely with WFP, which provides food to the refugees.

## Overall assessment

UNHCR assisted the Government in addressing the challenges of complex mixed migration movements. Although the Office continues to protect and assist refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen, durable solutions remain elusive as the situation in Somalia continues to be volatile. There are few opportunities for local integration, while large-scale resettlement is a limited option.

Yemen is the only Arab country in the Gulf region which is party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and it continues to fulfil its responsibilities towards Somali refugees. Despite the magnitude of the dangerous movements across the Gulf of Aden, there was not enough awareness of and interest in the problems faced by the Government of Yemen. Consequently, UNHCR worked to encourage greater international solidarity and burden-sharing with Yemen and improve living conditions for Somali refugees. Though the Office improved conditions for camp-based refugees, it could not do so for the urban population owing to limited resources.

### Partners

#### Implementing partners

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

**NGOs:** Adventist Development and Relief Agency (USA), Charitable Society for Social Welfare, Interaction in Health Development - UK, Radda Barnen/Save the Children - Sweden, Society for Humanitarian Solidarity, AL-Tadamon, MSF-Spain

#### Operational partners

**Others:** WFP

### Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	5,653,351	3,361,770	2,263,456	5,625,226	5,625,226
Somalia SB	1,238,217	645,250	289,810	935,060	935,060
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,891,568</b>	<b>4,007,020</b>	<b>2,553,265</b>	<b>6,560,286</b>	<b>6,560,286</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	1,975,990	78,060	2,054,050	0
Community services	171,944	1,443	173,388	220,937
Domestic needs and household support	241,391	115,915	357,306	30,376
Education	229,964	0	229,964	96,226
Food	105,878	14,034	119,911	44,782
Forestry	5,111	0	5,111	3,134
Health and nutrition	369,602	68,634	438,236	225,338
Income generation	10,985	0	10,985	0
Legal assistance	362,678	0	362,678	0
Operational support (to agencies)	320,286	152,697	472,984	160,062
Sanitation	20,226	1,800	22,025	15,869
Shelter and infrastructure	391,685	273,639	665,323	69,181
Transport and logistics	351,685	178,693	530,378	107,457
Water	43,582	5,969	49,551	25,041
Instalments with implementing partners	221,184	44,177	265,362	(998,403)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>4,822,192</b>	<b>935,060</b>	<b>5,757,252</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	803,034	0	803,034	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>5,625,226</b>	<b>935,060</b>	<b>6,560,286</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on previous years' expenditure</b>				<b>(3,804)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Payments made	1,541,407	118,825	1,660,231	
Reporting received	(1,320,222)	(74,648)	(1,394,870)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>221,184</b>	<b>44,177</b>	<b>265,362</b>	
<b>Previous years' report</b>				
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Outstanding 1st January				1,004,494
Reporting received				(998,403)
Refunded to UNHCR				(757)
Adjustments				0
<b>Balance</b>				<b>5,335</b>