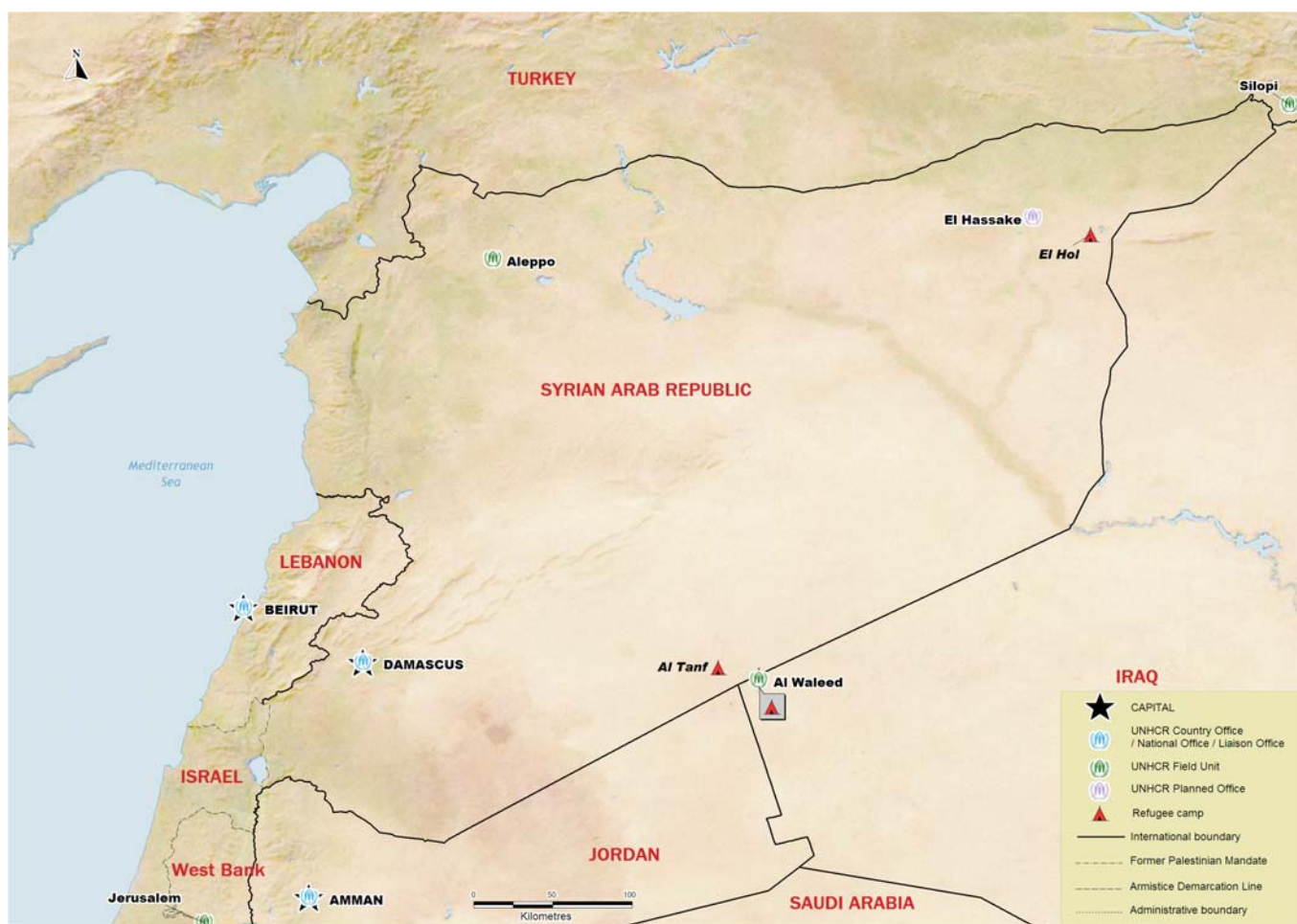


# SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



## Working environment

The Syrian Arab Republic hosts a large number of displaced people from Iraq, including some Palestinians. Indeed, Iraqi refugees in Syria constitute one of the largest urban refugee populations in the world. Syria also hosts some 10,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries, mainly Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Somalia and Sudan.

The generous attitude of the Government and people of Syria has allowed UNHCR, with the support of the international

community, to build a favourable protection environment in the country. In the absence of a formal legal framework, a tacit understanding allows refugees access to assistance, basic education and primary health care.

While new and stricter visa requirements were introduced for Iraqis at the end 2007, and residence permits are only issued for short periods of time, Iraqis have largely been able to remain in the country. However, there have been reports of some detention and deportation in 2009. The authorities have shown some tolerance towards refugees working in the informal market, although they

## Planning figures

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2010		DEC 2010 - JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Iraq	747,910	167,840	511,810	120,840	262,180	63,840
	Somalia	3,970	3,970	4,560	4,560	5,150	5,150
	Afghanistan	610	610	700	700	780	780
	Various	1,230	1,230	890	890	990	990
Asylum-seekers	Somalia	730	730	510	510	300	300
	Sudan	350	350	330	330	300	300
	Afghanistan	260	260	220	220	180	180
	Various	750	750	780	780	810	810
Stateless		300,000	-	300,000	-	190,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,055,810</b>	<b>175,740</b>	<b>819,800</b>	<b>128,830</b>	<b>460,690</b>	<b>72,350</b>

are barred from formal employment. Officials have also grown more receptive to UNHCR-issued documents.

Working closely with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, UNHCR has increased opportunities to assist refugees. This protection space has been carved out through advocacy and awareness raising. It has been bolstered by UNHCR's direct assistance to refugees and support for the Syrian education and health care systems, as well as the resettlement of many refugees. Nonetheless, the lack of a proper legal framework in Syria coupled with an ongoing insecurity in the countries of origin has given rise to uncertainty among many refugees about their future.

### ● *The needs*

The number of Iraqis approaching UNHCR for registration has gone down, but still amounts to thousands each month. Some 39 per cent of those registered have specific needs. Although some refugees have returned home spontaneously, there have not been any large-scale returns, and UNHCR has only helped some 1,200 individuals in this regard. In 2009, a survey of return intentions confirmed that most refugees are not yet ready to return to Iraq.

From 2007 to mid-2009, UNHCR referred some 33,000 Iraqis for resettlement; another 32,000 who have not

yet been referred are considered eligible for this durable solution. Local integration is not an option in Syria. As their stay in Syria lengthens, many Iraqi refugees are becoming vulnerable because their savings are running out and the cost of living is rising, while they have few or no opportunities for employment. UNHCR is concerned that this is leading to unsustainable returns to Iraq. International assistance is needed so that the basic needs of more than 168,000 people registered with UNHCR can be met and their protection space preserved.

The lack of livelihood opportunities affects non-Iraqi refugees as well. For instance, many Palestinian refugees in the Al Tanf and Al Hol camps are entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

### | *Main objectives* |

#### Favourable protection environment

- Continue efforts to maintain and expand protection space.
- Contribute to the prevention and reduction of statelessness by supporting the Government and raising awareness of the issue.

#### Fair protection processes

- Provide legal assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers facing legal challenges or at risk of deportation.

### *Key targets for 2010*

- Documentation is provided to all those who approach UNHCR for registration and are in need of protection.
- Cash assistance is provided to some 17,000 families, 13,000 of which were identified in 2009 as most at risk.
- Targeted skills training is provided to 5,000 people.
- Primary health care is provided to all registered refugees.
- Some 25,000 refugee children are assisted to complete their basic education.
- Up to 20,000 people are provided with repatriation assistance.
- Resettlement referrals are made for more than 16,500 refugees.
- Social and psychological support is provided to more than 18,000 survivors of gender-based violence, victims of trauma and torture, and women at risk.
- The proportion of the refugee population with access to legal remedies is increased from 20 to 70 per cent.
- Multi-sectoral support is given to all survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.



Iraqi refugees are treated at the Al-Zahera clinic in Damascus.

UNHCR/B. AUGER

## UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	3
□ Total staff	245
International	26
National	133
JPOs	1
UNVs	65
Others	20

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministries of Education  
Health, and Higher Education  
Governorate of Hassakah

#### NGOs:

DRC  
*Première Urgence*  
*Action contre la Faim* (Spain)  
IRC  
GOPA  
Caritas Syria  
Caritas Austria

#### Others:

Syrian Arab Red Crescent  
IFRC  
Syrian Women's Union  
Evangelical Church

### Operational partners

#### NGOs:

IMC  
ICMC  
HELP  
CRS  
Enfants du Monde  
IECD  
Turkish Blue Crescent  
Medecins du Monde  
Ricerca e Cooperazione  
Terre des Hommes Italy  
Terre des Hommes Syria  
Mercy Corps  
Islamic Relief France

#### Others:

IFRC  
IOM  
UNDP  
UNFPA  
UNICEF  
UNV  
WFP  
WHO

#### Security from violence and exploitation

- Prevent and respond to abuse and exploitation, including sexual and gender-based violence.

#### Basic needs and services

- Provide refugees with assistance to meet their basic needs, while targeting assistance to people with specific needs, such as women, adolescents, children, older people and survivors of torture or gender-based violence.
- Support national institutions that provide services to refugees and asylum-seekers.

#### Community participation and self-management

- Enhance community mobilization, self-reliance and self-management efforts.

#### Durable solutions

- Promote resettlement as a durable solution for the most vulnerable refugees.

## | Strategy and activities |

UNHCR will work with the Government to ensure that a favourable protection environment is maintained. Through advocacy, workshops and partnerships with civil society it will help the Government to establish a national legal framework for refugees. Registration and renewal of the UNHCR certificate are the main means of ensuring that refugees have appropriate documentation. In 2009, some 2,000 people have registered with UNHCR each month.

In 2010, UNHCR aims to refer some 6,000 families for resettlement. It also expects to assist more refugees to return than in 2009; however, its return capacity is limited.

Some 168,000 registered Iraqi refugees will need basic assistance. UNHCR will also provide cash grants to help families to pay for accommodation, food and medication. Safe houses will continue to welcome refugee women and girls at risk of abuse and exploitation, while psycho-social counselling will be offered to some 800 victims of gender-based violence and exploitation. Community-based programmes will be enhanced through the development of eight community centres.

As the health needs of Iraqi refugees are considerable, UNHCR will ensure that all registered refugees have access to primary health care, while more than 20,000 people are referred to other health services. UNHCR will equip and rehabilitate some 30 health facilities.

Refugee children's enrolment in primary and secondary schools will be monitored to encourage approximately 34,000 children to pursue their education in 2010. Some 30 schools will be supported with furniture and school materials. Non-formal educational activities will benefit some 7,000 children, and 300 students will receive grants to study at university.

UNHCR will reach out to the urban refugee population through its network of volunteers, social workers and community centres, which will provide information and counselling, follow-up and referrals.

UNHCR will provide protection-related services to all non-Iraqi refugees and, on a case-by-case basis, give specific assistance to the most vulnerable among them. In addition, it will assist those who wish to regularize their residency in Syria. Basic assistance, on a par with that provided to Iraqi refugees, will also be provided. Given that the only viable long-term solution for the majority of these refugees is resettlement, UNHCR plans to refer 100 families (500 individuals) for this durable solution.

By the end of 2009, the majority of Palestinian refugees in the Al Tanf and Al Hol camps will have been resettled to third countries or referred for resettlement. The Al Tanf camp will be closed by the end of 2009 and the remaining population transferred to Al Hol. However, it is anticipated that some 300 people in this group will still need to be referred for resettlement. UNHCR will provide food, health and education services and ensure that the remaining camp population enjoys satisfactory sanitary conditions.

UNHCR will continue to advocate for the prevention and reduction of statelessness. Furthermore, in 2010 it plans to lobby for the implementation of the relevant international treaties ratified by the Government, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

## | Constraints |

The protection space remains uncertain and local integration unlikely, while interest in the plight of refugees is on the wane. Moreover, regional political developments could have a negative impact on refugees in the country.



## Organization and implementation

UNHCR has a presence in Damascus, Aleppo and Hassake and serves other areas through its mobile teams and missions.

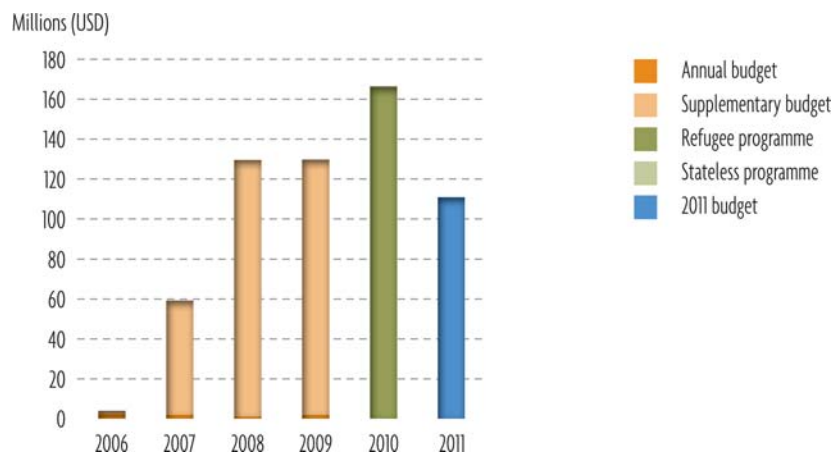
### • Coordination

UNHCR works closely with relevant government institutions, UN agencies and national and international organizations. A consolidated action plan outlining the strategic priorities in addressing refugee needs is due at the end of 2009. UNHCR advocates for refugee issues to be integrated into the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

## Financial information

The budget for UNHCR in Syria, increased as of 2007 to enable the Office to ensure protection and basic humanitarian assistance for growing numbers of Iraqi refugees. In 2008 and 2009, the budget further increased to meet the growing needs of Iraqi refugees residing in Syria, particularly through the provision of health care, education and services for persons with specific needs. The 2010 budget foresees increased humanitarian assistance, particularly through expanded community-based activities.

### UNHCR's budget in Syria 2006 - 2011



### 2010 UNHCR Budget for Syria (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
International and regional instruments	43,541	5,966	<b>49,507</b>
National legal framework	83,052	19,889	<b>102,941</b>
National administrative framework	72,013	31,759	<b>103,772</b>
National and regional migration policy	41,391	0	<b>41,391</b>
Prevention of statelessness	0	33,053	<b>33,053</b>
Cooperation with partners	66,009	0	<b>66,009</b>
National development policies	6,780	11,092	<b>17,872</b>
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	23,072	5,966	<b>29,038</b>
Access to territory	55,051	0	<b>55,051</b>
Non-refoulement	105,693	0	<b>105,693</b>
Environmental protection	0	5,966	<b>5,966</b>
Emergency management	3,394	5,966	<b>9,360</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>499,997</b>	<b>119,657</b>	<b>619,653</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Reception conditions	338,978	0	<b>338,978</b>
Registration and profiling	1,855,289	30,424	<b>1,885,713</b>
Access to asylum procedures	105,373	0	<b>105,373</b>
Refugee and stateless definitions	30,887	0	<b>30,887</b>

## Consequences of a 20-40 per cent funding shortfall

- More than 50,000 Iraqi refugees outside Damascus will not have access to protection and assistance.
- Cash assistance will only be provided to some of the planned 17,000 families, and the amount of assistance will not be increased as needed.
- Support for families of schoolchildren and for the Ministry of Education will be cut and may result in a reduction in the number of children attending school.
- Only half of the planned 145,000 people will receive primary health care.
- Vocational training and other forms of non-formal education will not be provided to 5,000 children and adolescents, increasing the risk of exploitation and abuse.
- UNHCR's capacity to identify people in need of resettlement will be reduced.
- Transport and repatriation allowances will only be provided to a limited number of refugees, instead of the planned 20,000.

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Fair and efficient status determination	770,485	0	770,485
Family reunification	120,884	0	120,884
Individual documentation	170,957	12,358	183,314
Civil status documentation	50,048	12,358	62,406
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,442,901</b>	<b>55,139</b>	<b>3,498,040</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Impact on host communities	29,962	5,871	35,832
Law enforcement	67,131	0	67,131
Community security management system	12,172	5,871	18,042
Gender-based violence	1,887,955	5,871	1,893,825
Protection of children	206,028	5,871	211,899
Freedom of movement	34,863	5,871	40,734
Non-arbitrary detention	408,715	5,871	414,585
Access to legal remedies	643,027	15,871	658,897
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,289,852</b>	<b>51,094</b>	<b>3,340,946</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Food security	13,799,012	0	13,799,012
Nutrition	65,996	0	65,996
Basic domestic and hygiene items	35,044,465	0	35,044,465
Primary health care	28,409,013	0	28,409,013
HIV and AIDS	195,714	0	195,714
Education	16,630,925	0	16,630,925
Sanitation services	48,037	0	48,037
Services for groups with specific needs	42,736,052	0	42,736,052
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>136,929,215</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>136,929,215</b>
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>			
Participatory assessment and community mobilization	218,145	18,537	236,682
Community self-management and equal representation	2,990,888	0	2,990,888
Self-reliance and livelihoods	2,827,526	18,537	2,846,062
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,036,558</b>	<b>37,074</b>	<b>6,073,632</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Durable solutions strategy	94,402	11,989	106,391
Voluntary return	4,429,091	0	4,429,091
Resettlement	3,710,770	0	3,710,770
Local integration support	90,092	37,620	127,712
Reduction of statelessness	5,437	102,909	108,346
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8,329,792</b>	<b>152,518</b>	<b>8,482,310</b>
<b>External relations</b>			
Donor relations	62,586	0	62,586
Resource mobilization	58,236	0	58,236
Partnership	132,323	33,722	166,045
Public information	261,891	0	261,891
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>515,036</b>	<b>33,722</b>	<b>548,758</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Supply chain and logistics	4,698,397	0	4,698,397
Programme management, coordination and support	2,253,062	103,765	2,356,828
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,951,459</b>	<b>103,765</b>	<b>7,055,224</b>
<b>Headquarters and regional support</b>			
Technical advice and support to operations	208,430	0	208,430
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>208,430</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>208,430</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,203,239</b>	<b>552,969</b>	<b>166,756,208</b>
<b>2011 Budget</b>			<b>110,909,200</b>
<b>2009 Revised budget</b>			
Annual budget			2,125,560
Supplementary budget			127,714,185
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>129,839,745</b>