

LEBANON

| Working environment |

• The context

Lebanon is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, nor does it have legislation or administrative practices in place to address the specific needs of refugees and asylum-seekers. As a result, the protection framework is fragile, and refugees are at risk of being fined, detained for considerable lengths of time, and occasionally deported.

More than 80 per cent of the approximately 9,000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Lebanon are from Iraq. Since conditions in their home country remain largely unstable, most of these refugees chose to remain in Lebanon and seek solutions elsewhere rather than return to Iraq and face continued severe security risks. Lebanon also hosts the Regional Resettlement Hub which facilitates the resettlement process throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

• The needs

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Lebanon live in hardship. In addition to the risk of arrest, detention and deportation, they have few legal means to support themselves and their family members. Many are entirely reliant on assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners.

Refugees who are arrested and detained require legal counselling and advocacy to help secure their release. While legal interventions have led to court orders for the release of refugees, such orders are not systematically respected. As a



result, many refugees and asylum-seekers can be detained for prolonged periods of time, and in harsh conditions.

Planning figures for Lebanon

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Iraq	29,700	8,000	30,000	8,000
	Sudan	100	100	100	100
	Syrian Arab Rep.	50	50	50	50
	Various	150	150	150	150
Asylum-seekers	Iraq	400	400	400	400
	Sudan	400	400	400	400
	Syrian Arab Rep.	150	150	150	150
	Various	700	700	700	700
Total		31,650	9,950	31,950	9,950

| Strategy and activities in 2011 |

UNHCR will work with the Government to improve the protection environment. The Office will continue to register an anticipated 350 refugees per month, and meet with 100 refugees and asylum-seekers daily for counselling and to undertake refugee status determination (RSD). They will receive assistance to meet their most basic needs.

Specific attention will be paid to the most vulnerable refugees, including those who are in detention, women, children, the elderly and the disabled. Those who fall within the narrow provisions of the law governing residency and work will be assisted in obtaining the required permits. Detention monitoring, legal aid and activities to address gender-based violence will help ensure protection and security from such violence and from exploitation.

UNHCR will also work closely with the Government with the aim of establishing a memorandum of understanding that would provide the office with a more solid foundation for its presence and activities in the country.

Through its partners, UNHCR will provide health assistance, including primary, hospital, mental and psychological care to all refugees and asylum-seekers in need. Education grants will be provided to children; remedial classes and vocational training will be conducted; and measures will be taken to address high dropout rates in affected communities.

Support will be provided to centres serving refugee and hosting communities for the delivery of non-formal education classes, vocational skills training, music classes, sports activities and drama therapy for the benefit of young refugees.

Self-reliance will be promoted through training and grants for up to 500 people. UNHCR will continue to provide return assistance to those wishing to return to their country of origin. It will also ensure the timely submission of applications to resettlement countries on behalf of 2,500 refugees, and promote their timely departure.

The Office will continue the work it has begun in 2010 with UN, governmental and non-government partners on a strategy to reduce and prevent statelessness in Lebanon.

● Constraints

UNHCR continues to pursue a new memorandum of understanding that contains safeguards to prevent arrest, detention and deportation of refugees. This agreement will require the cooperation of key departments tasked with reviewing the situation of detained foreigners.

UNHCR will also continue to advocate for local integration of some refugees while pursuing resettlement and voluntary repatriation of others.

Pending such solutions, there will be a need for UNHCR to continue to provide protection, including material assistance, to a relatively small number of refugees for whom a durable solution has yet to be identified.

| Organization and implementation |

● Coordination

UNHCR works closely with the authorities, especially the Directorate General of General Security and the Ministry of the Interior. Regular meetings are also held with the Ministries of Education, Social Affairs and Public Health. Partnerships with national NGOs help to protect the rights of refugees more effectively.

The Office works through the UN Country Team and leads the coordination on refugee matters. UNHCR is engaged with the working groups established to address human rights, gender and governance concerns and is working to integrate statelessness issues more actively within joint UN programmes.

Main objectives and targets

Favourable protection environment

- The national administrative framework is developed or strengthened.
 - ☞ *The national legal framework is consistent with international standards.*

Fair protection processes

- Refugee status determination (RSD) procedures are made fairer and more efficient.
 - ☞ *RSD decision-making process is improved so that RSD decisions are reached in a fair and timely manner.*

Basic needs and services

- Services for groups with specific needs are strengthened.
 - ☞ *Approximately 9,200 persons receive counselling.*
- People of concern have sufficient domestic and hygiene items.
 - ☞ *Some 8,000 persons receive basic assistance items.*
 - ☞ *Some 3,000 persons receive sanitary materials.*
- The population of concern has optimal access to education.
 - ☞ *All refugee children are enrolled in formal education.*
 - ☞ *Approximately 500 refugees participate in vocational training.*

- The health of the population improves or remains stable.
 - ☞ *Some 2,500 persons receive basic health care.*
 - ☞ *Approximately 1,600 persons benefit from reproductive health services.*
 - ☞ *Some 400 persons receive mental health assistance.*

Community participation and self-management

- Community self-management is strengthened and self-reliance improved.
 - ☞ *1,000 persons benefit from community development services.*
 - ☞ *Some 400 persons benefit from livelihood activities.*

Durable solutions

- The potential for voluntary repatriation is realized.
 - ☞ *Approximately 50 refugees receive return packages.*
- The potential for resettlement is realized.
 - ☞ *Some 32,000 individuals in the region in need of resettlement have their cases submitted.*
 - ☞ *Some 2,500 applications are successfully submitted for refugees in Lebanon.*

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	1
□ Total staff	65
International	14
National	29
UNVs	17
Others	5



The economic recovery of a small village in southern Lebanon that was affected by the 2006 war is aided by support to dairy farming.

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

NGOs:

Association Justice et Miséricorde
 AMEL Association
 CARITAS-Lebanon
 Middle-East Council of Churches

Operational partners

Government agencies:

Human Rights Committee
 Ministries of Interior, Education, Social Affairs and Public Health
 The Parliamentary Human Rights Committee

NGOs:

Danish Refugee Council
 Frontiers Association
 International Medical Corps
 Norwegian Refugee Council
 Save the Children – Sweden

Others:

ILO
 IOM
 UNESCO
 UNFPA
 UNICEF
 WHO

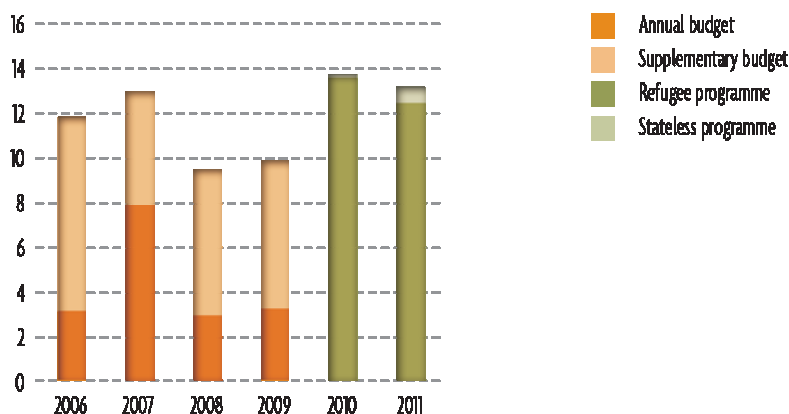
Financial information

In 2010, UNHCR conducted a thorough review of the registered population. Some files were closed as these persons had not contacted the Office for over a year, and were assumed to have left Lebanon. The corresponding planning figures were adjusted downward, as reflected in the

decreased budget for 2011. It is anticipated that the number of new arrivals will roughly equal those resettled, and that the assisted population will remain at some 9,000 persons, including an estimated 2,700 who cannot be resettled, nor yet able to return home. The budget therefore contains an increased provision for community-based approaches to address their needs.

UNHCR's budget in Lebanon 2006 – 2011

Millions (USD)



2011 UNHCR Budget for Lebanon (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment			
International and regional instruments	0	24,356	24,356
National legal framework	163,091	33,356	196,447
Prevention of statelessness	0	32,356	32,356
Cooperation with partners	0	28,356	28,356
Access to territory	108,778	0	108,778
Subtotal	271,869	118,424	390,293

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Reception conditions	35,428	0	35,428
Registration and profiling	616,562	0	616,562
Fair and efficient status determination	703,088	0	703,088
Individual documentation	0	97,424	97,424
Subtotal	1,355,079	97,424	1,452,502
Security from violence and exploitation			
Gender-based violence	165,953	0	165,953
Protection of children	175,525	0	175,525
Non-arbitrary detention	1,201,687	0	1,201,687
Access to legal remedies	403,814	0	403,814
Subtotal	1,946,979	0	1,946,979
Basic needs and essential services			
Basic domestic and hygiene items	782,315	0	782,315
Primary health care	1,272,371	0	1,272,371
Education	610,612	0	610,612
Services for groups with specific needs	820,953	0	820,953
Subtotal	3,486,251	0	3,486,251
Community participation and self-management			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	261,696	113,113	374,809
Community self-management and equal representation	473,749	0	473,749
Self-reliance and livelihoods	225,167	0	225,167
Subtotal	960,613	113,113	1,073,725
Durable solutions			
Durable solutions strategy	157,142	0	157,142
Voluntary return	324,578	0	324,578
Resettlement	1,595,805	0	1,595,805
Local integration support	99,719	0	99,719
Reduction of statelessness	0	133,768	133,768
Subtotal	2,177,243	133,768	2,311,012
External relations			
Donor relations	102,075	0	102,075
Resource mobilisation	45,689	0	45,689
Partnership	284,672	0	284,672
Public information	200,075	0	200,075
Subtotal	632,511	0	632,511
Logistics and operations support			
Programme management, coordination and support	1,481,831	198,630	1,680,461
Subtotal	1,481,831	198,630	1,680,461
Headquarters and regional support			
Policy development	9,403	0	9,403
Global strategic direction and management	9,403	0	9,403
Protection advice and support	9,403	0	9,403
Media relations and public affairs	94,403	0	94,403
Inter-agency relations and strategic partnerships	9,403	0	9,403
Capacity building, skill development and knowledge management	9,403	0	9,403
Subtotal	141,416	0	141,416
Total	12,453,792	661,358	13,115,150
2010 Revised budget	13,433,142	232,382	13,665,524

Consequences of a 20-40 per cent funding shortfall

- Reduced assistance for 3,000 persons will lead to more people seeking work illegally as well as exploitation and may increase the risk of detention.
- More than 200 refugees will not have their status regularized, and 50 fewer refugees will benefit from legal representation, increasing risks of exploitation, detention and deportation.
- Some 1,800 persons will not receive primary health assistance; mental health care will be reduced and no assistance provided for life-saving operations.
- Approximately 600 children will not receive sufficient education support resulting in higher non-enrolment and drop-out rates.
- At least 1,700 individuals will not receive livelihood training, prolonging their dependency and hardship.