

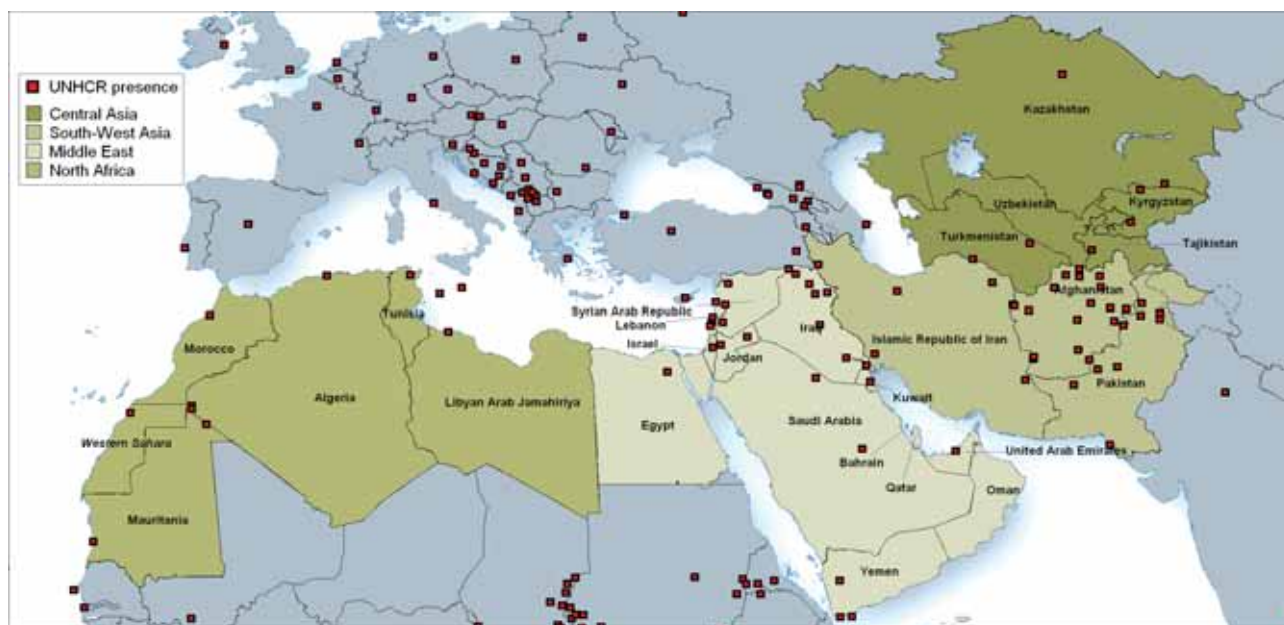
CASWANAME

North Africa
The Middle East
South-West Asia
Central ASIA

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)

Earmarking	Donor	AB	SB
CASWANAME			
	Japan Association for UNHCR	611	0
	Switzerland	0	1,141,407
	United States	0	7,967,996
Total		611	9,109,403

CASWANAME



Operational highlights

- The Central Asia, South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East (CASWANAME) region generated many protection challenges in 2006. The Middle East and North Africa presented the sharpest needs: in the former, due to the Iraq situation and the Lebanese displacement crisis; in the latter, as a result of mixed flows of migrants and asylum-seekers.
- Escalating violence in Iraq produced mass internal and external displacement. At the time of writing, almost four million Iraqis had been uprooted, with some two million of them becoming refugees after having fled to Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon, Egypt and further afield.
- A less visible emergency was developing in Yemen, which saw a surge in arrivals who crossed the Gulf of Aden from the Horn of Africa.
- In South-West Asia, some 139,000 Afghans returned home in 2006 with UNHCR's assistance, the lowest number in five years. Deteriorating security in some provinces, difficult economic and social conditions and factors related to prolonged exile are some of the reasons behind the reluctance of the more than three million remaining Afghan refugees to return home.
- There was notable progress in compiling an overall analysis of the Afghan presence in the region. Comprehensive registration exercises were conducted in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.
- Progress towards durable solutions in Central Asia was exemplified by the naturalization of Tajik refugees in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, and by the resettlement of Afghan refugees from Tajikistan in third countries.

Working environment

The working environment in the Middle East and North Africa region was marked by political and social challenges as well as security concerns. In 2006, acute humanitarian emergencies affected the region and generated mass internal and external displacement affecting Iraq, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. The security situation in Iraq forced UNHCR to rely on "remote" management and work through local and international partners. The sharp deterioration in the circumstances of some 50,000 refugees from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Sudan inside Iraq was of particular concern to UNHCR.

The North African region saw an increase in the mixed flows of migrants and asylum-seekers from sub-Saharan Africa passing through on their way to Europe. The migrants continued to arrive spontaneously and by means of a global trafficking network. The absence of national strategies to address these challenges often resulted in loss of life and serious human rights violations. UNHCR has focused on identifying those in need of international protection within these mixed movements.

In Yemen, the number of asylum-seekers and migrants crossing the Gulf of Aden from the Horn of Africa rose to more than 25,000 in 2006. The extremely dangerous journeys, usually managed by ruthless smuggling networks, have taken a high toll in lives. The growing influx has prompted the Government of Yemen to seek more international help to fortify its asylum regime.

Security emerged as the critical determinant of progress towards solutions for displacement within and from Afghanistan. The resurgence of violence in the country's southern and eastern provinces and instability in the frontier regions of both Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran have had a serious impact on reconstruction and development and have reduced access for humanitarian agencies.

A total of 139,000 people returned to Afghanistan with UNHCR's assistance in 2006. This was the lowest number of returnees since 2002. The downward trend may be attributed primarily to deteriorating security in some provinces in Afghanistan and the challenging economic and social conditions in the country. Equally important is the reluctance of the remaining refugees, most of whom have lived in exile for more than 20 years, to uproot themselves once again. Solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) too were affected by the resurgence in conflict in Afghanistan and its impact on aid programmes.

The tripartite agreements between UNHCR and Afghanistan and the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, supported by regular meetings of their respective tripartite commissions and technical working groups, provided legal and operational continuity to the voluntary repatriation programmes.

In general, UNHCR's access to asylum-seekers in Central Asia has been restricted. Indeed, Central Asia has shifted from a region that mainly hosted refugees from beyond the region to one that is producing refugees who seek asylum within it. The decision of the Government of Uzbekistan to close the UNHCR office in April 2006 is clear evidence of the changed working environment.

Achievements and impact

In 2006 UNHCR's overarching goals in the region were to advocate for and support governments in the creation and maintenance of an international protection regime; ensure international standards of protection for all people of concern; and pursue voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration, resettlement or local integration for refugees, with a special focus on protracted refugee situations.

Global Strategic Objective (GSO) No. 1: Advocate for and support governments in the creation and maintenance of an international protection regime

Developments in Iraq in 2006 compelled UNHCR to review its programme and move its focus away from durable solutions towards protection and assistance for Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries, such as Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Egypt. The Office also sought to protect and assist IDPs and non-Iraqi

refugees inside Iraq. The deteriorating security situation prompted the closure of Al Tash refugee camp near Falluja in Anbar Governorate. Some 1,300 people from Al Tash were relocated to the Kawa temporary camps in Erbil, while the remainder went to Sulaymaniyah.

In Lebanon, UNHCR provided emergency protection and assistance to some 150,000 IDPs and refugees within the country. It also helped more than 20,000 Lebanese refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic. UNHCR mobile field teams distributed more than 1,600 tonnes of relief items.

In North Africa, UNHCR initiated a collaborative approach to implement its Ten-Point Plan of Action for Addressing Mixed Migratory Movements. UNHCR also raised awareness of, and responded to, the growing number of asylum-seekers and migrants driven into Yemen by instability in the Horn of Africa.

Although the number of refugees returning to Afghanistan declined in 2006, the voluntary nature of the repatriation, critical to the success and sustainability of repatriation as a durable solution, was safeguarded. Returnee monitoring throughout Afghanistan underlined that this fundamental protection principle had been respected.

All offices in Central Asia increased their capacity-building activities in order to make protection regimes sustainable and counter the increasingly restrictive approach to asylum. A joint European Union-UNHCR project on institutional capacity building in Central Asia was begun in July 2006 to fill gaps in refugee protection regimes.

GSO No. 2: Ensure that international standards of protection are met for all persons of concern to UNHCR, taking into account their age, gender or personal background

UNHCR strengthened its representation in Israel to support the Government with the registration and status determination of asylum-seekers, train the authorities in asylum procedures and explore areas of legislation to enhance protection. It also strengthened its partnerships with intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental actors in the Gulf region and supported an NGO network, which is instrumental in providing protection to refugees.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government registration process enumerated some 920,000 Afghans. An agreement with the Government of Pakistan to register the estimated 2.4 million Afghans in the country began to be implemented towards the end of the year. For the first time, detailed and comprehensive data will be available to guide policy and operational arrangements. The registration agreement in Pakistan will also provide Afghans with individual identity documents valid for three years.



This UNHCR-funded water project in Afghanistan diverted water for use in irrigation.

In Central Asia, UNHCR offices made additional efforts to protect asylum-seekers and refugees in response to the fallout from the Andijan events that took place in 2005. RSD efforts have been strengthened in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. UNHCR was able to protect most refugees and asylum seekers in the region – with the exception of four Uzbek mandate refugees and one Uzbek asylum seeker who were extradited and some Uzbek asylum-seekers who “disappeared” during the summer of 2006 in Kyrgyzstan.

GSO No. 3: Pursue voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration, resettlement or local integration for refugees, with a special focus on those in protracted refugee situations

Greater awareness of the difficulty of finding durable solutions for the more than three million remaining Afghan refugees was reflected in the policy provisions of the Afghanistan Compact. It was also apparent in increased international, regional and bilateral understanding of the range of population movements occurring outside the refugee and humanitarian framework. The formulation of policy was supported by research on transnational networks, reintegration and the economic impact of Afghan returnees.

In Pakistan, needs assessments in key sectors – health, education, water and sanitation – were carried out in 38 key districts hosting Afghans. They underlined that both Afghans and Pakistanis live together in some of the poorest areas of the country, where social indicators fall well below international standards and benchmarks. It is anticipated that this first phase of data collection will feed into planning for an eventual refugee-affected areas programme to support communities hosting large numbers of Afghans in Pakistan.

The cessation of refugee status for Tajik refugees came into force in June 2006, allowing UNHCR to stop support for repatriation and phase out its reintegration programme. Local integration of Tajiks in their host countries has been advanced through a naturalization campaign in Kyrgyzstan, whereby more than 9,300 Tajik refugees have received Kyrgyz citizenship, and in Turkmenistan, where all the 9,500 Tajik refugees in the country have been granted Turkmen citizenship. Furthermore, some 2,500 Tajiks in Turkmenistan had been given residence permits by the end of the year. This comes as a result of a joint UNHCR-Government of Turkmenistan registration exercise conducted at the beginning of 2005.

Constraints

Access inside Iraq has been severely hampered by the security situation, prompting the office to implement its programmes by remote management. Similar challenges exist in the Horn of Africa, limiting the Office's capacity to respond to root causes of displacement. In the five Maghreb countries, UNHCR's modest presence limits the Office's capacity to respond to the continuing flow of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa.

The momentum of repatriation to Afghanistan was largely determined by the evolving circumstances in the country and the policies implemented by the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. In view of the long-staying character of the remaining caseload on the one hand, and the insistence of the asylum-country governments that all Afghans return home on the other, UNHCR faced challenges in maintaining the voluntary and gradual character of repatriation and improving the conditions for the temporary stay of Afghans in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

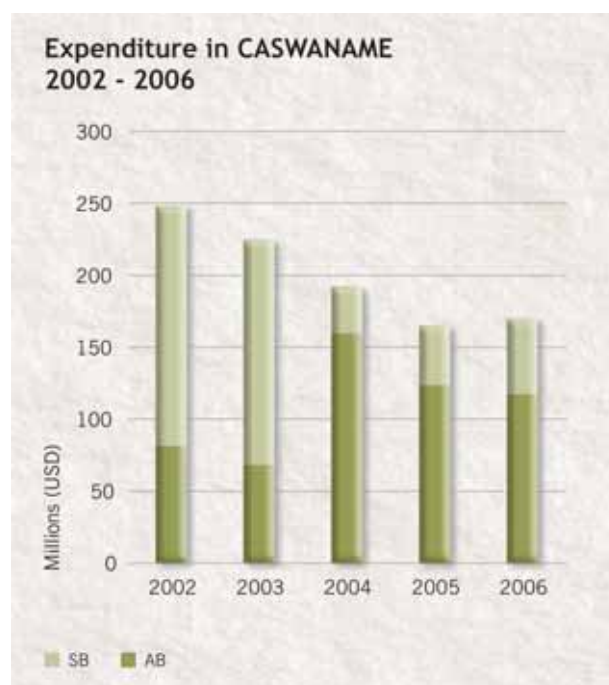
UNHCR operations in Central Asia were confronted by a deterioration of the protection environment, an increase in the number of highly politicized asylum cases, and the gradual shrinking of asylum space. In addition, Central Asia continued to be a potential conflict region, requiring considerable attention to contingency planning and emergency preparedness.

Financial information

Funding for the CASWANAME region in 2006 was unpredictable, and the capping of the 2006 budget and other austerity measures affected protection and assistance to refugees. During the year, UNHCR offices in the region were requested to postpone a number of

important activities related to durable solutions, emergency preparedness, capacity-building, refugee status determination, community services and procurement.

UNHCR's expenditures in the CASWANAME region have steadily decreased from USD 248.6 million in 2002 to USD 170 million in 2006. From 2002 to 2003 there were very large expenditures as a result of the largest repatriation operation in the history of UNHCR, in which the Office facilitated the large-scale return of Afghan refugees. The subsequent decrease in expenditures is explained by the phase down of the large-scale Afghanistan operation at the end of 2005. However, UNHCR's involvement in the emergency response to both the South Asia earthquake and the Lebanon crisis resulted in a slight increase of expenditures in 2006, compared to 2005.



Budget and expenditure (USD)						
Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	AB	SB ¹	Total	AB	SB	Total
North Africa						
Algeria	7,375,706	0	7,375,706	5,983,094	0	5,983,094
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1,113,023	0	1,113,023	798,743	0	798,743
Mauritania	1,232,910	0	1,232,910	837,144	0	837,144
Morocco	1,241,293	0	1,241,293	765,891	0	765,891
Tunisia	314,641	0	314,641	308,099	0	308,099
Western Sahara	0	3,516,232	3,516,232	0	1,327,123	1,327,123
Regional activities ²	758,210	0	758,210	634,770	0	634,770
Sub-total North Africa	12,035,782	3,516,232	15,552,014	9,327,742	1,327,123	10,654,865
Middle East						
Egypt	5,910,384	1,160,081	7,070,465	4,383,062	116,903	4,499,965

Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	AB	SB ¹	Total	AB	SB	Total
Iraq	2,562,465	18,952,834	21,515,299	1,260,055	15,732,733	16,992,788
Israel	232,138	0	232,138	219,801	0	219,801
Jordan	2,278,593	3,084,070	5,362,663	1,627,292	1,729,313	3,356,605
Lebanon	3,066,729	8,663,765	11,730,494	1,588,264	4,382,149	5,970,413
Saudi Arabia	3,341,680	0	3,341,680	1,940,632	0	1,940,632
Syrian Arab Republic	2,441,632	1,502,202	3,943,834	1,703,102	1,058,990	2,762,092
United Arab Emirates	323,049	0	323,049	149,240	0	149,240
Yemen	4,689,993	0	4,689,993	4,393,755	0	4,393,755
Regional activities ³	0	9,794,891	9,794,891	0	8,462,616	8,462,616
Sub-total Middle East	24,846,662	43,157,843	68,004,505	17,265,203	31,482,704	48,747,907
South-West Asia						
Afghanistan	58,841,464	0	58,841,464	47,532,717	0	47,532,717
Islamic Republic of Iran	16,485,204	849,867	17,335,071	12,491,737	507,978	12,999,715
Pakistan	28,115,024	21,696,451	49,811,475	23,728,248	19,381,532	43,109,780
Regional activities ⁴	1,700,540	0	1,700,540	1,463,407	0	1,463,407
Sub-total South-West Asia	105,142,231	22,546,318	127,688,549	85,216,110	19,889,510	105,105,619
Central Asia						
Kazakhstan	2,197,615	0	2,197,615	1,594,336	0	1,594,336
Kyrgyzstan	1,702,731	0	1,702,731	1,373,149	0	1,373,149
Tajikistan	1,590,183	0	1,590,183	1,052,475	0	1,052,475
Turkmenistan	1,145,685	0	1,145,685	858,871	0	858,871
Uzbekistan	1,153,730	0	1,153,730	592,159	0	592,159
Regional activities ⁵	302,410	0	302,410	223,428	0	223,428
Sub-total Central Asia	8,092,354	0	8,092,354	5,694,417	0	5,694,417
Total CASWANAME	150,117,031	69,220,393	219,337,424	117,503,471	52,699,337	170,202,807

¹ Does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

² Includes institution-building for asylum and comprehensive responses to mixed migratory movements.

³ Includes reintegration and repatriation of Iraqi refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR and emergency assistance to internally displaced people in the Middle East.

⁴ Includes repatriation of Afghans from various countries and comprehensive solutions for Afghan displacement.

⁵ Includes institutional and capacity-building activities to strengthen asylum systems in Central Asia.

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)

Donor	AB	SB	Total
Al Walid Ben Talal Foundation (Saudi Arabia)	0	100,000	100,000
<i>Amitié sans Frontières</i> (Monaco)	0	48,368	48,368
<i>Association française de soutien à l'UNHCR</i>	0	118,484	118,484
Australia	2,688,372	0	2,688,372
Australia for UNHCR	90,473	388,809	479,282
Austria	7,094	0	7,094
Canada	0	884,956	884,956
Denmark	3,284,106	841,751	4,125,857
<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe E.V.</i>	637,755	191,327	829,082
<i>España con ACNUR</i>	31,896	4,463	36,359
Estonia	0	40,760	40,760
European Commission	18,600,126	3,980,232	22,580,357
Finland	0	1,389,562	1,389,562
France	241,838	1,275,510	1,517,348

Donor	AB	SB	Total
Germany	2,625,129	637,756	3,262,884
Ireland	0	910,018	910,018
Islamic Association of Bahrain	0	9,970	9,970
Italy	0	84,643	84,643
Japan	7,000,000	1,000,000	8,000,000
Japan Association for UNHCR	165,618	279,644	445,262
Kuwait	0	500,000	500,000
Lebanon	68,000	0	68,000
Liechtenstein	71,280	0	71,280
Luxembourg	120,919	318,878	439,797
Netherlands	2,509,175	0	2,509,175
Norway	1,921,807	2,718,934	4,640,741
Online donations (Headquarters)	0	46,217	46,217
Private donors in Austria	1,568	3,526	5,094
Private donors in Brazil	0	1,945	1,945
Private donors in Canada	0	295,122	295,122
Private donors in Czech Republic	148	0	148
Private donors in Greece	2,086	168,259	170,345
Private donors in Italy	160,111	92,831	252,943
Private donors in New Zealand	688	0	688
Private donors in the United Kingdom	1,765	3,565	5,330
Private donors in the United States	0	500	500
Red Crescent Society (United Arab Emirates)	4,995	0	4,995
Russian Federation	50,000	0	50,000
Saudi Arabia	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
Shinnyo-en Foundation (Japan)	0	50,000	50,000
<i>Société Générale Paris La Défense (France)</i>	20,400	0	20,400
Spain	1,894,399	1,370,281	3,264,680
Sweden	11,305,276	1,103,448	12,408,724
Switzerland	1,200,625	1,385,436	2,586,061
UN Trust Fund for Human Security	7,493	0	7,493
UNDG Iraq Trust Fund	0	1,972,000	1,972,000
United Kingdom	948,650	265,905	1,214,555
United States	33,664,387	12,167,996	45,832,383
USA for UNHCR	310,835	166,525	477,360
World Assembly of Muslim Youth (Saudi Arabia)	0	5,000	5,000
Total	89,637,015	35,822,620	125,459,635