

Lawza an internally displaced woman in Yemen. She and her family were forced to flee their home and now live in an ad hoc shelter in Marib. Photo: © UNHCR/Gregory Doane

2024 NEEDS OVERVIEW AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF UNDERFUNDING

The Middle East and North Africa

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in 2024 amount to **$2.342 billion**, which will address the needs of almost 16 million forcibly displaced and stateless people across the region.

Protracted refugee situations, new emergencies and multiple and overlapping crises are pushing forcibly displaced people and the communities hosting them to the brink; millions struggle to meet their everyday needs without critical support from UNHCR and the international community.

The downward trend of funding to UNHCR is concerning, and particularly in the MENA region, which has seen the greatest decline in earmarked funding: in 2023, UNHCR received approximately **$214 million less** in funding for its MENA programmes than in 2022. Winter support (including cash and core relief assistance) that has previously been provided to the most vulnerable displaced populations to help them better cope with the harsh weather conditions was not delivered in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan or Lebanon, countries which collectively host over 2.3 million registered refugees and asylum-seekers[1].

While continuously searching for efficiencies, UNHCR is nevertheless preparing for a potential shortfall in contributions for its 2024 programmes and will likely be faced with the difficult decision of how to reduce and prioritize essential aid – at a time when needs are rising.

[1] This includes over 793,000 registered refugees in Lebanon. With the registration of Syrian refugees suspended by the Lebanese Government since 2015, the official Government estimate of Syrian refugees and the figure used to plan assistance is 1.5 million displaced Syrians in the country.

Without sufficient funding, UNHCR will have to stop or scale back its interventions across MENA. Forcibly displaced and stateless people will face heightened protection risks and the burden on host countries and communities will be amplified.

3.7 million
refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and returnees will not receive protection services

1.4 million
forcibly displaced and stateless people will not be supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation

3.6 million
refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs will not receive cash assistance

2.1 million
refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs will not receive shelter and housing assistance

2 million
individual consultations will not be provided for UNHCR-supported health care services

Syria situation

The Syria crisis, currently entering its 13th year, remains the largest displacement crisis in the world, with over 12 million Syrians forcibly displaced in the region. Neighbouring countries continue to generously host almost 6 million Syrian refugees while local socioeconomic conditions worsen and vulnerabilities deepen.

UNHCR will continue to co-lead the Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) with UNDP, coordinating the work of more than 270 partners in support of national efforts in the main Syrian refugee-hosting countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye. Notwithstanding funding constraints, 3RP partners in 2024 remain focused on protecting people, promoting durable solutions and resilience, contributing to dignified lives, and enhancing local and national capacities with a long-term, solutions-oriented response.



In Zaatari Camp, Jordan, persistent heavy rain transforms the roads into muddy paths, posing a significant obstacle for the 22,000 children trying to reach schools. Bisan, 7 years old, wearing plastic bags on her feet to reach school. Photo: © UNHCR/ Shawkat Alharfoush

Mixed movements

Suffering and loss of life continue unabated for refugees and migrants traveling across Africa or northward toward and across the Mediterranean. In **North Africa**, UNHCR will work with national and local authorities and partners to strengthen the protection available for people in need and enhance their identification and referrals to UNHCR and partners. The office will strengthen two-way communication with refugees and asylum-seekers on the move to advise them of risks and how to access protection and assistance, as well as working to ensure better access to services and creating opportunities to increase self-reliance. UNHCR will continue to advocate for increased access to safe and legal solutions, including through resettlement and complementary pathways, to provide viable alternatives to dangerous and often fatal journeys.

Internal displacement

A total of 11.7 million people in the region were displaced within their own country at the start of 2024, and UNHCR hopes to reach 5.8 million of them with assistance during the year. Internally displaced people in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen are supported by UNHCR with essential assistance and to ensure they receive effective protection and to find durable solutions to their displacement.

Sudan situation

Since the start of the conflict in Sudan in April 2023, over 7.5 million civilians have been forced to flee, including people who were already internally displaced and refugees from other countries who had sought safety in Sudan. Over one million people have fled into neighbouring countries or returned home in adverse circumstances as a result of the fighting. By the start of 2024, UNHCR in Egypt had provided appointments to over 349,000 newly arrived people from Sudan, of whom over 168,000 (50%) had successfully registered with UNHCR for assistance and protection. The Sudanese refugee population is now the largest in Egypt with 242,770 Sudanese, surpassing the 155,000 Syrians. UNHCR recently launched the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan for 2024, focused not only on addressing the immediate needs of Sudanese refugees but also on fostering resilience.



Escaping the fighting in Sudan, Hanina and her 2-year-old daughter Mariam found safety in Egypt, where they registered with UNHCR. In this photo, UNHCR staff member talks to Hanina in Cairo. Photo: © UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Sahel situation

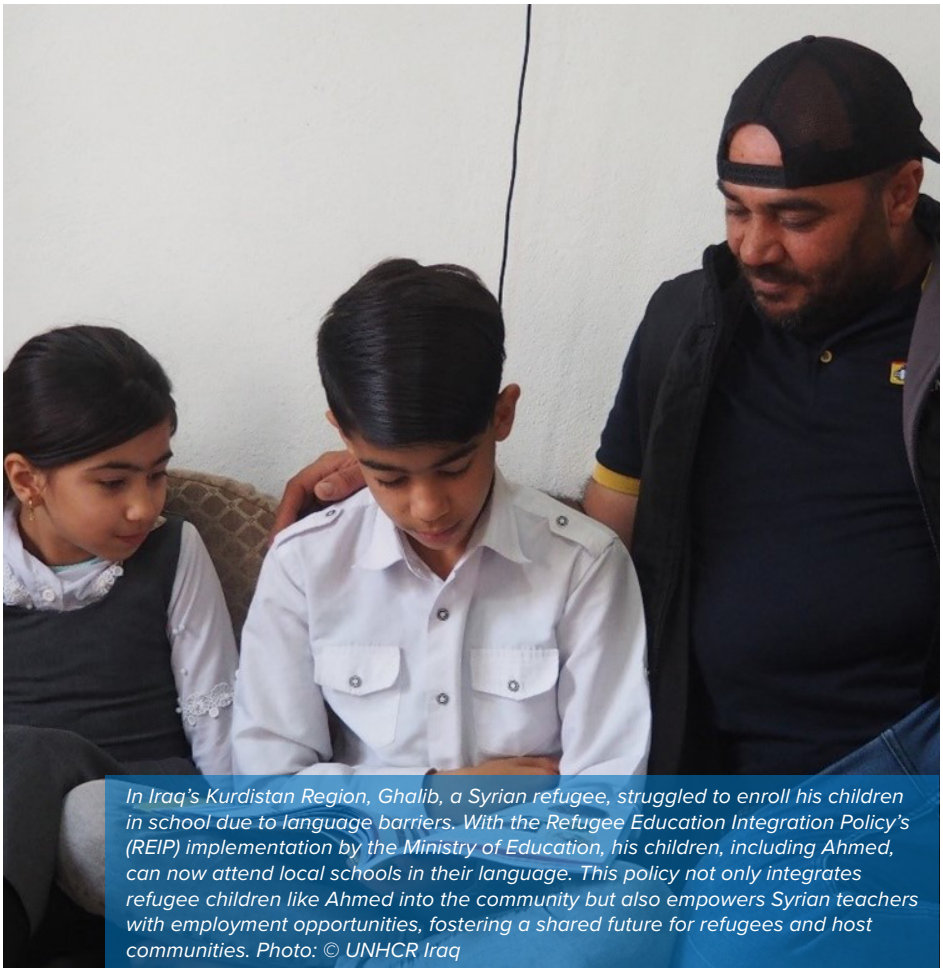
The central Sahel region, which is witnessing large-scale movements of both refugees and migrants, is facing a severe humanitarian and protection crisis that has already driven millions of people from their homes. Mauritania had received an influx of some 55,000 new arrivals from Mali and a further 8,000 Mauritanian returnees by the end of 2023, due to political instability coupled with the withdrawal of the UN Stabilization Mission in that country. New arrivals are in urgent need of clean water, health care, and sanitation facilities. UNHCR supports basic services, including cash assistance and psychosocial counselling, and conducts registration and provides documentation for new arrivals.

Statelessness

UNHCR continues to support communities affected by statelessness in the MENA region. This vital work includes legal assistance to affected individuals and support to governments to facilitate the issuance of civil documentation, as well as advocacy and capacity building efforts. There are over 401,000 stateless persons in the region, with many more communities affected by or at risk of statelessness.

Humanitarian-Development Nexus

UNHCR is scaling up its efforts to empower IDPs, refugees, stateless persons and host communities, enhancing their resilience and ability to mitigate protection risks and access solutions. In Iraq, such efforts include promoting IDP and refugee inclusion in social protection systems, advocating for refugee and IDP access to public services, as well as improving refugee access to the labour market and livelihood opportunities. In Mauritania, UNHCR seeks to promote forcibly displaced and stateless people's autonomy and resilience though investments in community leadership, cash-based interventions and development-focused, peace-reinforcing and climate-adapted solutions designed by refugee and host communities themselves.



In Iraq's Kurdistan Region, Ghalib, a Syrian refugee, struggled to enroll his children in school due to language barriers. With the Refugee Education Integration Policy's (REIP) implementation by the Ministry of Education, his children, including Ahmed, can now attend local schools in their language. This policy not only integrates refugee children like Ahmed into the community but also empowers Syrian teachers with employment opportunities, fostering a shared future for refugees and host communities. Photo: © UNHCR Iraq

Middle East situation

The war in Gaza has had widespread implications for the region, including an intensification of cross-border clashes between Lebanon and Israel. More than 87,000 people from South Lebanon have been displaced to other parts of the country as of 8 February, including some 7,300 Syrian refugees, and UNHCR and partners are supporting the Government of Lebanon's emergency response. In Egypt, UNHCR is working with the Government, through the Egyptian Red Crescent, to send humanitarian aid to Gaza and stock relief items.

For more information on MENA country operation plans in 2024, please visit Global Focus, UNHCR's operational reporting website.

Budget by Outcome Area

Outcome Area (OA)	Budget $
OA1: Access to territory, registration and documentation	108,446,003
OA2: Refugee status determination	14,335,448
OA3: Protection policy and law	34,420,48
OA4: Gender-based violence	51,847,456
OA5: Child protection	57,672,149
OA6: Safety and access to justice	63,037,663
OA7: Community engagement and women's empowerment	122,394,337
OA8: Well-being and basic needs	1,087,157,652
OA9: Sustainable housing and settlements	272,743,993
OA10: Healthy lives	187,768,431
OA11: Education	71,377,396
OA12: Clean water, sanitation and hygiene	23,924,729
OA13: Self reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	62,401,055
OA14: Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	17,448,345
OA15: Resettlement and complementary pathways	24,931,547
OA16: Local integration and other local solutions	64,118,276
Enabling areas	77,735,944
TOTAL	**2,341,760,908**

Budget by MENA Operation

Operation	Budget $
Algeria	42,247,604
Egypt	134,671,632
Iraq	203,601,700
Israel	8,454,133
Jordan	374,786,849
Lebanon	545,197,528
Libya	67,546,716
Mauritania	45,564,660
Morocco	11,299,997
Other operations in the Middle East	24,099,259
Regional activities	37,670,702
Saudi Arabia multi-country office	12,324,040
Syrian Arab Republic	466,631,381
Tunisia	8,772,957
Western Sahara (Confidence-building measures)	4,463,660
Yemen	354,428,089
Total	**2,341,760,908**

Financial requirements

In 2024, UNHCR has appealed for $2.342 billion to provide assistance to some 16 million forcibly displaced and stateless people across 19 operations in the Middle East and North Africa.

Donors

UNHCR is grateful for the support of donors who contributed to its operations in the MENA region with unearmarked and earmarked funds, including private donors: