

Saudi Arabia

February 2024

With a population of 32 million, including a significant expatriate community, and a thriving business and economic sector, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a prominent actor in the region and globally.

As part of its 2030 vision, Saudi Arabia has been focusing on developing its local infrastructure and on asserting its regional and international position through enhanced strategic bilateral and multilateral engagement.

Saudi Arabia's humanitarian and development programmes have expanded significantly in the last decade, and so has its role as an important strategic actor in the region and beyond.

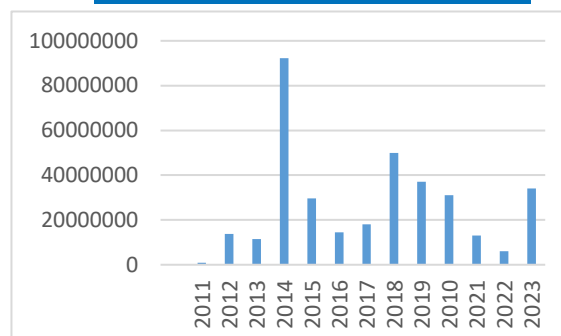
Saudi Arabia has been a long-time partner of UNHCR, both strategically and on a funding level. It has supported many UNHCR's programs and continues to provide assistance to UNHCR's life-saving operations.

According to authorities, the country hosts more than one million people from refugee producing countries, like Syria, Yemen, Palestine and Rohingya. UNHCR in KSA undertakes asylum procedures and identifies durable solutions for asylum-seekers. It continues to forge strategic partnerships with government counterparts, national institutions, and the private sector to provide protection and support to the people with and for whom it works.

KEY FIGURES

- **5525** total asylum seekers and refugees in KSA, Bahrain and Oman
- **3918** asylum-seekers in KSA
- **1062** refugees registered across KSA, Bahrain and Oman
- **512** registered refugees in KSA

FUNDING CONTRIBUTED, 2011-2023 \$MORE THAN US\$350 MILLION



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- **16** National Staff (GS/NP/Affiliates)
- **06** International Staff

Office:

- **01** Multi-Country Office (MCO) in Riyadh covering Bahrain and Oman and the UAE. The office is located in the Diplomatic Quarters, in the capital city of Riyadh.



MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- UNHCR's Multi-Country Office (**MCO**) in Riyadh oversees activities in KSA as well as Bahrain and Oman.
- As of end February 2024, the total number of registered refugee cases in the reporting countries of the GCC is 299 consisting of 1,062 individuals in total, all of them living in urban settings. The great majority of refugees comes from Iraq, followed by Syria. As for asylum seekers, the number of cases records 980 amounting to a total number of 4,463 asylum seekers and are Syrians in their majority.
- The Government of Saudi Arabia continues to maintain a generally tolerant approach towards Palestinian, Rohingya, Syrian, Sudanese and Yemeni nationals.
- UNHCR conducts a range of protection activities for forcibly displaced people, including refugee status determination(RSD), capacity developpemnt, and implements multipurpose **cash assistance** for refugees and asylum-seekers in KSA and continues to advocate for a strengthened **protection** environment and unconditional access to basic public services for registered refugees and asylum seekers regardless of their legal status..
- UNHCR is also expanding its **partnership** and coordination with key ministries (i.e., Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development), National Agencies (i.e., Human Rights Commission), and Civil Society Organizations, to strengthen referral mechanisms for more protection services, including essential services for people with acute protection needs, people with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence, and others with specific vulnerabilities.
- UNHCR has a dedicated **help page** and other accessible communication channels with the communities to receive and follow up on asylum claims and provide information on available services.

Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

- UNHCR's main government partners are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (**MoFA**), King Salman Humanitarian Aid And Relief Centre (**KSrelief**), KSA's Humanitarian Arm as well as the Saudi Fund for Development (**SFD**), the country's development arm. UNHCR maintains a clsoe stratgic partnership with these, and other, major government stakeholders in support of refugees and internally displaced people in the region and globally.
- KSA is a key regional and global donor. In 2023, Saudi Arabia was UNHCR's top GCC donor government in rank and among the top 20 donors globally.
- As part of its engagement with various multilateral organisations headquartered in KSA, UNHCR has been enhancing its partnership with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and its various sub-entities, mainly the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) with whom UNHCR has launched the Global Islamic Fund for Refugees (a first of its kind Shariah-compliant financing tool to provide innovative sustainable financial resources in support of developmental and humanitarian assistance to displacement crises.) and The Afghanistan Humanitarian Trust Fund (AHTF).
- UNHCR in KSA is working diligently to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ties with private sector stakeholders and charitable foundations. Its partnership with private sector entities, foundations and civil society stakeholders continues to make great strides in diversifying and enhaning collaboration and joint efforts in favor of the forcibly displaced and their host communities.

- In 2023, **Muslim World League (MWL)** provided significant support to improving food security and increasing the income of refugee and host community households in Uganda, in addition to supporting livelihood opportunities in Greece.
- Earlier in the year, **World Assembly for Muslim Youth (WAMY)** provided valuable support for UNHCR's response to Turkey and Syria Earthquake Emergency shelter activities, and later towards the end of the year, provided support to shelter activities for Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia.
- During the year also, **Bahrain's Royal Humanitarian Foundation** supported UNHCR's response to Syria Earthquake by rehabilitating 4 schools and 3 healthcare centers in Irbid and Aleppo, in addition to providing support to UNHCR's Afghanistan Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) through Cash for Work Project.
- In 2022, and 2023, UNHCR KSA participated in the largest international online charity gaming tournaments, **Gamers Without Borders**, and with the support of the gamers, mobilized much needed funds to support UNHCR's activities in Bangladesh.

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Links

<http://www.unhcr-arabic.org> • <http://www.withrefugees.org> • [@UNHCR_GCC](https://twitter.com/UNHCR_GCC) • [@UNHCR_Arabic](https://twitter.com/UNHCR_Arabic)