

Keeping Lifelines Open: **Critical funding needs across the Middle East and North Africa**



A resident carries personal belongings through a damaged street in Tyre, southern Lebanon. Many residents returned to affected neighborhoods to inspect homes and assess losses. © UNHCR

US\$122 million is urgently required across ten operations to keep essential services open, prevent irreversible harm and safeguard progress before the end of 2026.

Across the Middle East and North Africa, years of investment in protection, inclusion, self-reliance and solutions are under strain. Operations are reducing assistance and services that had already been tightly prioritised, leaving families with less access to cash, shelter, documentation, health care, safe water, education and specialised protection. Timely, flexible funding can prevent today's shortfalls from becoming longer-term protection setbacks, while preserving critical services and nationally anchored pathways to inclusion and sustainable return.



US\$122 million
Requirement
Across ten operations

US\$87 million
Immediate household needs
Largest thematic requirement

84%
Of total ask
Combined share for Yemen, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq

US\$12 million
Small asks, high impact
Five operations at or below US\$5m

Small asks, high impact: Across **Algeria, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania and Morocco**, targeted funding would help keep critical health, water, protection, camp safety and asylum services running in smaller operations where modest gaps can have disproportionate consequences.

WHY TIMELY FUNDING MATTERS

Prevent irreversible harm: When protection against gender-based violence, specialized referrals, shelter repairs, and clean water stop, the consequences are immediate and life-threatening.

Protect hard-won progress: Funding sustains national inclusion, government-led services, local systems and community capacity.

Reduce future costs: Early support helps prevent eviction, emergency hospitalisation, renewed displacement and harmful coping strategies such as school dropout, before today's funding gaps become more costly setbacks for protection and solutions.

This is a focused ask, not a statement of total needs. Requirements are reported as of 1 September 2026 and cover selected, urgent activities that can still be implemented before the end of 2026. Country totals in the consolidated regional funding overview at the end of the document include requirements presented across all three priority areas.

Priority 1: Meeting immediate household needs

US\$87 million is required to keep essential assistance within reach. Timely funding would help families cover rent, food, medicine, urgent return costs and winter essentials, while ensuring that vulnerable and displaced households can access safe shelter. This support protects dignity and choice, sustains local economies and helps families avoid eviction, homelessness, debt, child labour, school dropout and other harmful coping strategies.

Yemen (US\$33.6 million): Responding to escalating displacement and urgent shelter needs

As the current emergency drives new displacement and compounds already severe vulnerabilities, cash assistance would help 193,200 vulnerable refugees and internally displaced people meet essential needs and avoid harmful coping strategies, while shelter support would enable 156,000 people to access safer and more adequate living conditions. Without timely funding, newly displaced and vulnerable families will face heightened risks of hunger, debt, eviction and untreated illness, while more people may be left in overcrowded, makeshift or deteriorating shelters.

Syria (US\$20 million): Sustaining return

Cash support in the first months after return can determine whether families are able to stay and rebuild. Funding would help 162,500 vulnerable returnees meet immediate needs, reduce protection risks and regain a minimum level of stability during the critical window for sustainable reintegration.

Lebanon (US\$21 million): Preventing a sharp deterioration in living conditions

More than 110,000 Syrian refugees remain without cash assistance, while nearly 25,000 refugees and displaced Lebanese may not receive adequate shelter support. Timely funding would help limit eviction, homelessness, unsafe living conditions, debt, child labour and further cuts to food and medicine.

Egypt (US\$5 million): Stopping cuts from deepening

Support had already fallen by nearly half between January and May 2026, leaving more than 650,000 highly vulnerable refugees without cash assistance. Additional funding would sustain basic support for approximately 96,000 refugees through year-end and help prevent further hunger, eviction, debt and untreated illness.

Iraq (US\$2.6 million): Bridging families towards national systems

Six months of targeted cash support would reach 11,300 of the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers while UNHCR works with national partners on longer-term inclusion in social protection. Without this bridge, families face increased risks of eviction, debt, reduced meals and school drop-out.

Mauritania (US\$2.7 million): Protecting families with specific vulnerabilities

Cash assistance and essential items would support 8,200 refugees with specific needs and vulnerable family members, including children at risk. Funding would help avert food insecurity, eviction, child labour and reduced access to health and education.

Morocco (US\$0.6 million): A small ask to keep vulnerable people from falling through the cracks

Around **1,000** vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers risk losing temporary assistance. Predictable support would help households maintain basic stability while they move towards national social-protection mechanisms and greater self-reliance.

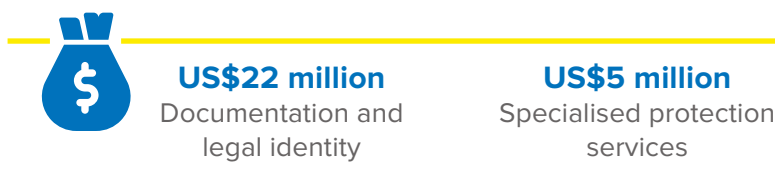
ADDITIONAL BASIC-NEEDS REQUIREMENT

Algeria (US\$1.6 million): Preserving basic dignity and camp-wide services

Funding would provide specialised hygiene supplies for 1,200 people with severe disabilities and cooking gas for Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps.

Priority 2: Preserve access to protection and rights

US\$27 million is required to preserve access to protection and rights. Registration, documentation, legal aid and targeted protection support are not stand-alone services: they are gateways to safety, essential services, inclusion and solutions. When access is reduced or delayed, people face longer waits, greater exposure to arrest, detention or exploitation, and new barriers to health care, education, livelihoods and legal remedies.



DOCUMENTATION AND LEGAL IDENTITY AT RISK

Registration, documentation and status procedures affecting hundreds of thousands of refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs are at risk across Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Morocco and Algeria.

In **Iraq**, funding would maintain registration and document renewal while supporting the transition towards a government-run system that meets international standards. In **Yemen**, reduced support for civil and legal documentation would leave refugees and internally displaced persons with fewer pathways to obtain or renew identity documents, birth certificates and proof of legal stay, increasing protection risks and limiting access to services. In **Lebanon**, reduced registration and documentation capacity would delay access to assistance, health care and education, and limit refugees' access to civil documentation, legal counselling and other essential services, creating barriers to durable solutions. In **Morocco**, an existing asylum backlog may grow, leaving people waiting longer for documentation and protection and increasing exposure to protection incidents and secondary movements. In **Algeria**, shortages of essential equipment and supplies could interrupt the issuance, renewal and management of identification documents for Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps, creating backlogs and restricting access to rights and services.

SPECIALISED PROTECTION SERVICES AT RISK

Specialised protection services for nearly 20,000 people are at risk, including survivors of violence, children, people with specific needs and refugees facing legal or protection concerns.

In **Lebanon**, funding would sustain gender-based violence prevention, case management and psychosocial support for refugee women and girls. In **Libya**, survivor-centred assistance and dignity, hygiene and prevention materials would help keep pathways to safety open for survivors of violence and refugees at risk. In **Egypt**, legal aid, case management and community-based support would remain available for people with specific needs and those facing protection risks. In **Mauritania**, child protection and community-based case management would help children and caregivers facing exploitation, child labour and early marriage.

Priority 3: Sustain health, water, safe camps and education

Across the region, around **US\$7 million** would help sustain critical health care, safe water and sanitation, safe camp management, and education services for refugees and displaced people, preventing avoidable service disruptions in areas where relatively modest investments can avert serious protection and public health risks.



US\$2.6 million

Health care

US\$2.1 million

Water, sanitation and hygiene

US\$1.6 million

Safe camps / camp management

US\$1 million

Education

HEALTH CARE AT RISK

Essential and specialist health care could be reduced for refugees in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Libya.

In **Egypt**, urgent medical support is at risk despite already severe reductions in health programming. In **Jordan**, life-saving and emergency services in Azraq and Zaatari camps may stop after October. In **Morocco**, stricter prioritisation would leave more people without access to secondary and tertiary care, while in **Libya** refugees with serious or chronic conditions risk losing pathways to specialist treatment.

SAFE WATER AND SANITATION AT RISK

Water, sanitation and hygiene systems are at risk in Algeria and Mauritania.

In the **Tindouf camps**, interruptions to waste management and local bleach production would compromise water chlorination and health-facility hygiene for Sahrawi refugees. In **Mauritania**, delayed maintenance and rehabilitation would increase the risk of water shortages, sanitation breakdowns and waterborne disease for refugees and host communities.

CAMP MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY AT RISK

Camp management, safety and orderly service delivery are at risk in Iraq and Jordan.

In **Iraq**, reduced support would undermine the managed transition of camps towards sustainable settlements linked to municipal services. In **Jordan**, camp administration, safety, police and fire-brigade support in Azraq and Zaatari may weaken after October, increasing protection risks and placing additional pressure on national authorities.

EDUCATION AND SPECIALISED LEARNING AT RISK

Protective learning environments and specialised education services are at risk in the Tindouf camps.

Funding would help keep schools functioning, retain educators, maintain basic supplies and preserve specialised learning and vocational support for children and young people with specific needs. Without it, staff attrition, classroom disruption and loss of adaptive support would heighten protection risks and caregiver strain.

A PATHWAY BEYOND PARALLEL HUMANITARIAN SYSTEMS

A further **US\$1.6 million in Iraq** would preserve policy engagement and technical support helping some 350,000 refugees and asylum-seekers access public services, social protection and formal employment.

Across the region, critical activities connect immediate protection with longer-term change: government-led registration, national health referrals, social-protection pilots, municipal service delivery, durable water infrastructure, local markets and community-managed education.

IMMEDIATE EFFECT

Essential services remain open.

SYSTEM EFFECT

National and local capacity is protected.

LONGER-TERM EFFECT

Inclusion, self-reliance and sustainable return remain achievable.

Consolidated regional funding overview

Operation	Requirement (US\$)	Main activities at risk	Consequence of funding inaction
Yemen*	41 million	Shelter, cash, documentation and registration	193,200 refugees and internally displaced people may go without cash assistance to meet essential needs; 156,000 internally displaced people , including newly displaced families, may remain without safe and adequate shelter; and 42,600 refugees and internally displaced people face reduced access to documentation and registration support.
Lebanon	27 million	Cash, shelter, documentation, gender-based violence response	110,600 Syrian refugees remain without cash assistance; nearly 25,000 people lack adequate shelter support; 11,000 refugees face delays in registration/documentation; 13,800 women and girls may lose GBV prevention and response support.
Syria	20 million	Return and reintegration cash	162,500 individuals may not receive return and reintegration cash, undermining sustainable return during the first months after return.
Iraq	15 million	Documentation, camps, cash, inclusion	Up to 124,000 refugees and asylum-seekers may be unable to obtain or renew documentation; 90,000 camp residents face reduced camp management support; 11,300 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers lose targeted cash assistance.
Egypt	7 million	Cash, health, legal and community protection	Approximately 96,000 refugees may not receive minimum cash support through year-end, while more than 650,000 highly vulnerable refugees are already without assistance; almost 3,000 people risk losing urgent medical support; 2,700 people may lose legal aid and case management.
Mauritania	5 million	Cash, water and sanitation, child protection	8,200 vulnerable refugees lose cash/basic-needs support; 15,750 refugees and host community members face reduced water and sanitation services; 800 children and caregivers lose child protection support.
Algeria	3 million	Basic needs, documentation, water and sanitation, education	Sahrawi refugees face risks across documentation, cooking gas, WASH and camp services; 1,200 people with severe disabilities lose hygiene support; over 37,000 children and youth face education disruption.
Morocco	2 million	Health, cash, registration and refugee status determination	Over 3,800 people face reduced health care; 1,000 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers risk losing cash support; 10,841 asylum-seekers remain affected by registration/refugee status determination backlog.
Jordan	1 million	Camp safety and emergency health	Nearly 80,000 refugees in Azraq and Zaatari may see camp safety and management support reduced; 4,167 refugees risk losing essential health services after October.
Libya	1 million	Gender-based violence response and specialist health care	1,000 survivors of violence and refugees at risk may lose GBV prevention, dignity and hygiene support; around 30 refugees per month risk losing secondary and tertiary health care assistance.
Total	122 million		

* Yemen's US\$41 million requirement reflects broader critical funding needs through the end of 2026. UNHCR's [Regional Response and Preparedness Appeal for the Yemen Situation](#) includes a more tightly prioritized US\$25 million requirement for the emergency response inside Yemen over the same period. The two requirements cover overlapping areas of intervention, including cash, shelter and protection, and should not be considered additive.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING PARTNERS TO DO

- ◆ **Provide** timely and flexible funding for urgent activities that can still be implemented before the end of 2026, keeping essential services open and running and preserving protection, inclusion and solutions pathways.
- ◆ **Protect** continuity where abrupt closures would create immediate health, protection or displacement risks and be more costly to reverse later.
- ◆ **Sustain** pathways toward inclusion, local stability and safe return.
- ◆ **Prioritise** those most exposed to harm, including people with specific needs, survivors of violence, children and severely vulnerable households, in funding decisions.

UNHCR is grateful for the support of donors who contributed to its response in the region in 2026, including:

Australia | Australia for UNHCR | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Central Emergency Response Fund | Country-based pooled funds | Denmark | España con ACNUR | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Japan for UNHCR | Luxembourg | Monaco | Netherlands (Kingdom of) | Norway | Online donations through Islamic philanthropy platforms | Poland | Private donors in Bahrain | Private donors in Canada | Private donors in China | Private donors in France | Private donors in Italy | Private donors in Japan | Private donors in Qatar | Private donors in the Netherlands | Private donors in the Republic of Korea | Private donors in the United Arab Emirates | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Sweden for UNHCR | Switzerland | UK for UNHCR | UN Joint Programmes | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United Nations Peacebuilding Fund | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe | USA for UNHCR |
