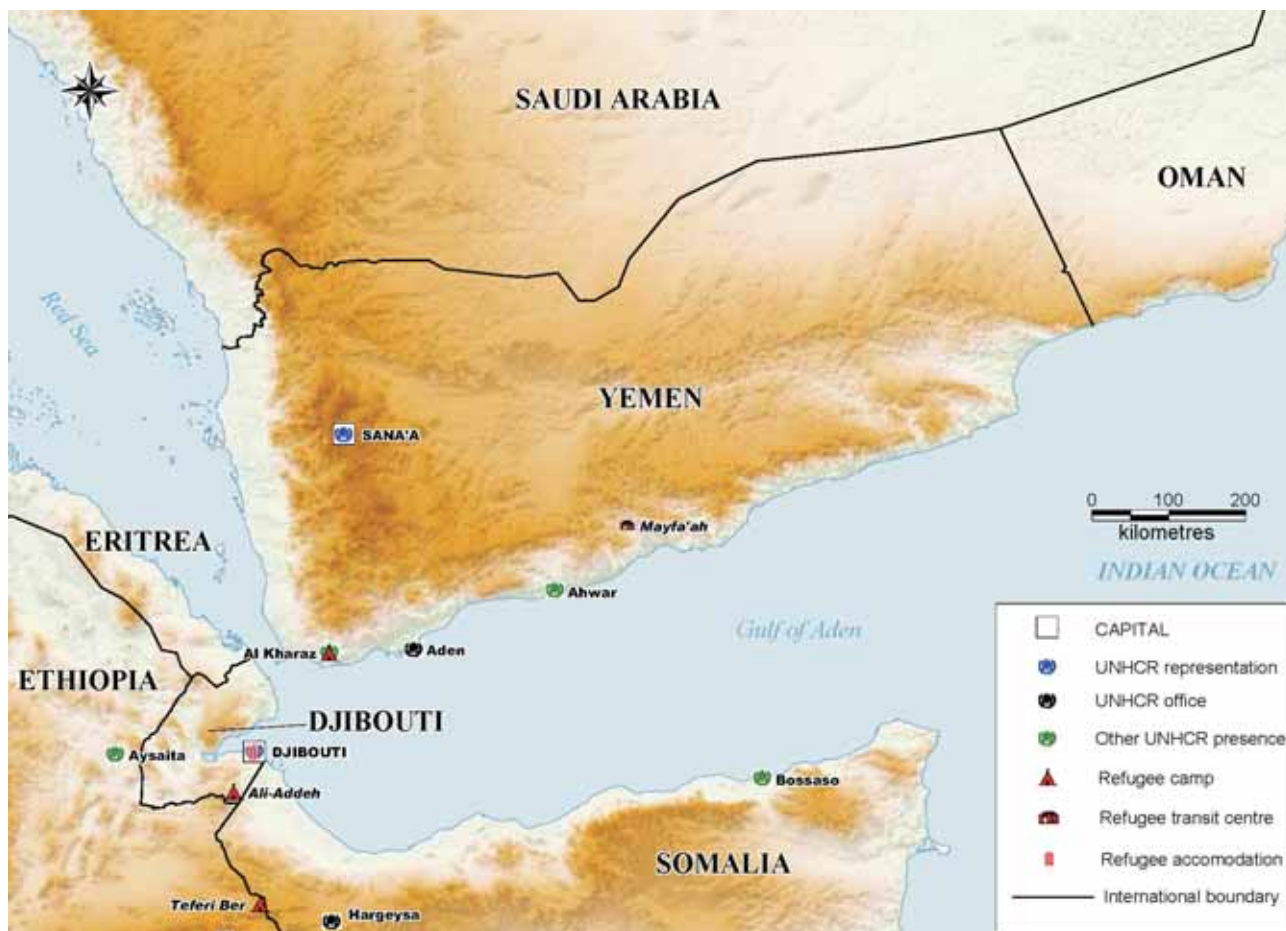


Yemen



Working environment

Yemen lies along a historic migration route linking the Horn of Africa, currently marked by poverty and political instability, and the oil-rich countries of the Gulf. As a consequence, the country faces unique challenges. It lacks the security infrastructure necessary to control its vast 2,400-kilometre-long coastline and the remote 1,800-kilometre land border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman. Through smuggling networks, an average of 25,000 people cross the Gulf of Aden each year, fleeing conflict and poverty. This trend has persisted for more 16 years despite the perils of the voyage, the ruthlessness of the smugglers and a steadily rising death toll.

In addition to the Somalis fleeing the chaos in their country, groups of Ethiopians arrive in mixed flows of asylum-seekers and economic migrants. UNHCR does not have access to these Ethiopians, some of whom are arrested for illegal entry and detained, while others are deported. Out of fear of the security forces, many migrants go underground as soon as they enter Yemen, avoiding assistance available at UNHCR's reception centres. Many intend to pass through Yemen to other countries in the Gulf region or beyond, in search of

work. However, of the few who seek asylum, only some six per cent are found to have valid claims to refugee status.

Despite limited economic resources, the Government of Yemen, which is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, has traditionally adopted an open-door policy to Somalis, recognizing them on a *prima facie* basis. However, the refugee burden has become progressively harder to bear. In 2006, more than 25,000 Somalis reached Yemeni shores. By mid-October 2007, more than 21,600 refugees, mostly Somalis, had arrived. Based on conservative estimates, some 100,000 Somalis currently live in Yemen, of whom the majority live in urban areas, and more than 9,000 are accommodated in the Kharaz refugee camp. In addition, there is an unsolved conflict in Northern Yemen creating internal displacement.

The needs

Somali refugees in both urban and camp settings are in need of greater assistance. A growing number of new arrivals are living in make-shift shelters for up to a year. In

the urban area of Basateen, outside Aden, some 14,000 persons live in desperate conditions.

The UNHCR age, gender and diversity team in Yemen conducted participatory assessments with refugee women, men and children in Basateen, in Kharaz camp, and in the capital Sana'a in 2007. The refugees focused on the fragile economic situation, lack of self-reliance opportunities, shortcomings in services and their aspirations for durable solutions, mostly resettlement. Gaps in the provision of food and non-food items both in the camp and urban areas have contributed to serious protection problems, poor health and rising crime. Within Basateen, gender-based violence, including survival sex, has become increasingly prevalent.

Total requirements

2008: USD 9,308,389

2009: USD 6,788,092

Main objectives

Annual programme

- Ensure effective protection for all refugees, asylum-seekers and others of concern.
- Work with the Government to strengthen the legal framework and institutional capacities for refugee protection and assistance.
- Provide basic humanitarian assistance and services to refugees and asylum-seekers in the refugee camp and urban areas.
- Support education for refugees both formally and through training, followed by income-generation opportunities.

Supplementary programme

- Improve reception facilities and enhance assistance for new arrivals in protection, transportation, registration and basic needs.
- Provide humanitarian assistance to new arrivals, including shelter and essential medicines, and improve services in primary health, education, camp safety and the provision of non-food items.
- Promote self-reliance opportunities for new arrivals in urban settlements.
- Implement the 10-Point Plan of Action in response to the irregular arrival of Ethiopian (and other non-Somali) arrivals, ensuring that the needs of those who have security or protection problems are identified and addressed.

Key targets for 2008-2009

Overall targets

- Refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen are protected and assisted according to international standards.
- Public awareness and outreach efforts increase awareness of the plight of refugees and result in a more tolerant attitude towards refugees.
- The legal status of undocumented refugees is regularized through collaboration with the Government.
- Refugees' self-reliance, education and participation in community-based activities receive more attention.

Targets for 2008

- All asylum-seekers in detention in immigration/local detention centres are released.
- All refugees (including non-Somalis) are properly screened and documented.
- More latrines are constructed in Kharaz camp for new refugees to reach the ratio of one for every 20 persons.
- New refugees receive hot meals at transit centres.
- All refugees have access to primary health care.
- Some 200 vulnerable refugee families living in rural areas are provided with shelter or construction materials.
- Every member of the camp population receives 2100 kcal/person/day of food.
- Some 1,000 refugees are assisted with transportation to voluntarily repatriate.
- At least 90 per cent of refugee children are enrolled in school.
- All members of the camp population receive non-food items.
- The camp population has access to 20 litres/person/day of safe drinking water.

Strategy and activities

UNHCR will work to raise international awareness of the situation in Yemen in order to encourage greater solidarity and burden sharing. Until the Government establishes an asylum system, UNHCR will continue to provide protection to refugees, asylum-seekers and persons of concern. This will include conducting refugee status determination for non-Somali asylum-seekers.



UNHCR/J. Björqvist

Exhausted survivors of the Gulf of Aden crossing wait for help on a beach in Yemen.

The office in Yemen will address assistance gaps to improve the Somalis' conditions of stay, making them more humane and sustainable. The Office aims to implement the 10-Point Plan of Action in response to the irregular arrival of Ethiopian and other non-Somali arrivals and ensure that the needs of those who may have security or protection problems are identified and addressed. The Government will be helped to build a functioning national asylum system.

Constraints

Durable solutions are currently available for a small number of refugees, and repatriation is not feasible for many Somalis as long as the situation in their country fails to improve.

While there are limited opportunities for local integration, UNHCR's initiatives to enhance self-reliance are not always welcomed by refugees who prefer resettlement. But large-scale resettlement is not a viable option due to the lack of resettlement opportunities.

UNHCR's discussions with Yemen authorities raised expectations about the level of international burden sharing in the context of the Somali Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) in 2005. In response to Government concerns about insufficient international support, UNHCR has increased its budgets and activities in Yemen in 2007 and intends to double its efforts in 2008.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Somalia	79,000	79,000	82,720	82,720	101,020	101,020
	Ethiopia	1,000	1,000	800	800	-	-
	Iraq	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
	Various	500	500	500	500	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Ethiopia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Iraq	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
	Various	500	500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total		82,000	82,000	90,520	90,520	107,520	107,520

Organization and implementation

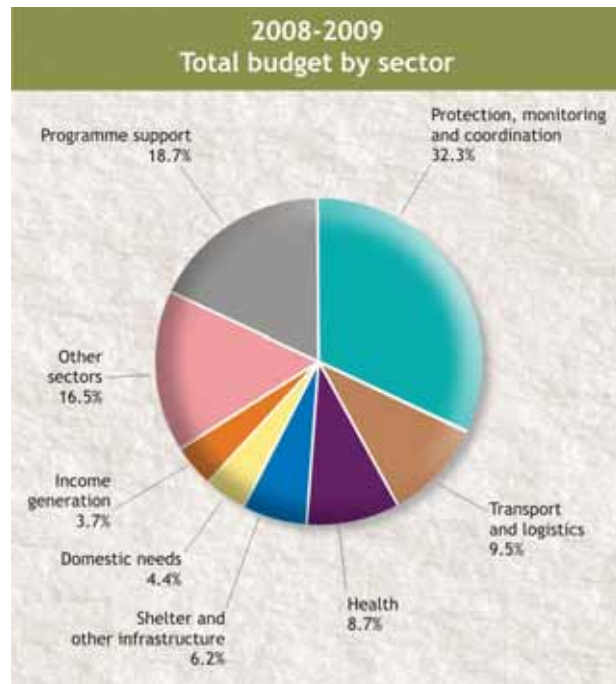
UNHCR presence

	2008	2009
Number of offices	3	3
Total staff	67	67
International	14	14
National	43	43
UNVs	10	10

Coordination

UNHCR activities are implemented in collaboration with the Government of Yemen and supported by UN agencies and NGOs. WFP supplies basic food rations to all refugees in Al Kharaz camp. Efforts to address refugees' needs within the Common Country Assessment and UN Development Assistance Framework are ongoing. The UN country team in Yemen is currently considering adopting the "Delivering as One" initiative to assist needy communities. The idea would be to share responsibilities with agencies responsible for programmes in the assistance, protection and community-services sectors. The Basateen area in Aden would benefit from such as initiative.

Partners
Operational partners
Government: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Implementing partners
NGOs: Charitable Society for Social Welfare, <i>Cooperazione Internazionale</i> , Interaction in Health and Development, Marie Stopes International (Yemen), Save the Children (Sweden), Society for Humanitarian Solidarity.



Budget (USD)							
Activities and services	2007			2008			2009
	Annual Programme Budget	Supp. Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget	Supp. Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,042,143	144,723	2,186,866	2,454,539	195,826	2,650,365	2,554,003
Community services	129,394	30,000	159,394	210,067	90,000	300,067	288,367
Domestic needs	62,332	150,000	212,332	198,766	300,000	498,766	208,833
Education	216,984	100,000	316,984	176,180	200,000	376,180	221,484
Food	92,983	0	92,983	0	0	0	0
Forestry	3,496	0	3,496	0	0	0	0
Health	361,284	155,000	516,284	538,609	330,000	868,609	538,609
Income generation	61,888	45,000	106,888	443,158	65,000	508,158	94,373
Legal assistance	266,563	60,000	326,563	62,604	140,000	202,604	262,064
Operational support (to agencies)	383,227	65,000	448,227	221,281	185,000	406,281	155,843
Sanitation	11,902	60,000	71,902	27,685	110,000	137,685	27,685
Shelter and other infrastructure	113,021	55,000	168,021	391,447	180,000	571,447	429,476
Transport and logistics	171,128	140,000	311,128	639,595	200,000	839,595	682,659
Water	53,519	40,000	93,519	90,607	90,000	180,607	90,607
Total operations	3,969,865	1,044,723	5,014,588	5,454,538	2,085,826	7,540,364	5,554,004
Programme support	785,917	193,494	979,411	1,259,375	508,650	1,768,025	1,234,087
Total	4,755,782	1,238,217	5,993,999	6,713,913	2,594,476	9,308,389	6,788,092

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget excludes a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.