



Bahrain

Egypt

Iraq

Israel

Jordan

Kuwait

Lebanon

Oman

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Arab Republic

United Arab Emirates

Yemen

A refugee woman living in Basateen, Aden, in Yemen.

Middle East

| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- UNHCR worked with the Governments of the countries most directly affected by the situation in Iraq to preserve protection space and expand access to basic services for Iraqi refugees. Despite the absence of legal frameworks governing the status of refugees, the principle of *non-refoulement* was largely respected.
- In Iraq, nine months of political stalemate following the March national elections aggravated the already unstable security conditions in the country. Nevertheless, UNHCR was able to continue with shelter support for returnees, particularly through the Diyala Initiative, as well as to increase support for the IDPs in settlements and enhance protection by increasing the capacity of Return and Assistance Centres.
- In Egypt, UNHCR registered, documented and conducted refugee status determination (RSD) for all those who approached the Office, besides providing basic assistance to persons of concern.
- In Yemen, UNHCR helped the Government to strengthen its ability to manage refugee affairs, in addition to assisting the authorities to adopt national refugee legislation. UNHCR also assisted the 300,000 people internally displaced by the conflict between the Government and the *Al-Houti* rebel movement in the north of the country.
- UNHCR strengthened its partnership with the Gulf Cooperation Council States, and signed agreements with NGOs in the region.



Working environment

Countries in the Middle East subregion both host and produce a considerable number of refugees, IDPs and stateless people. Most reside in urban areas, where they are forced to compete with local populations for resources, adding to the socio-economic burdens of the host countries.

The lack of national asylum systems and refugee legislation, as well as the absence of durable solutions for most refugees, adds uncertainty to the situation of people of concern in the subregion. Despite these complex circumstances, however, most host States were generous in their treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR worked with national authorities to assist people of concern, while exploring ways to enhance protection and find durable solutions.

Achievement and impact

Resettlement was used strategically in the region, in particular as a solution for Iraqi refugees. From 2007 until the end of 2010, some 114,300 Iraqi refugees were submitted for resettlement, while more than 60,700 departed for third-country destinations.

In northern Yemen, the situation remained fragile despite a ceasefire signed in February 2010 between the Yemeni Government and the *Al-Houthi* rebels. Conditions for return were not conducive for the displaced; only some 20,000 IDPs have reportedly returned to Sa'ada governorate. Many IDPs point to the lack of security, fear of reprisals, new fighting and extensive destruction of houses and infrastructure as the key obstacles to return. Land mines and unexploded ordnance also remain a serious threat.

UNHCR worked to strengthen partnerships with Governments and institutions in the Gulf. The Saudi Fund for Development contributed USD 20 million for UNHCR operations in Pakistan.

UNHCR cooperated with Governments wherever possible to reduce and prevent statelessness. A regional expert meeting was organized by UNHCR and OHCHR in February 2010 to review the findings of two joint studies on statelessness.

Constraints

The absence of national asylum systems and procedures remained a major obstacle for UNHCR in fulfilling its mandate in the subregion. Security considerations in some areas limited access to people of concern and advocacy on their behalf.

Operations

Operations in **Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic** and **Yemen** are covered in separate chapters.

In **Israel**, the Government took steps to find a more comprehensive approach to address the influx of asylum-seekers into the country, which averages 1,000-1,200 new arrivals per month. The authorities are considering establishing reception centres for new arrivals. UNHCR continued to advocate for the development of a refugee law.

UNHCR's operations in **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia** and **the United Arab Emirates** were managed by the Regional Office in Saudi Arabia. The Office was able to monitor protection concerns, conduct RSD

missions to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and process eligible cases for resettlement in third countries.

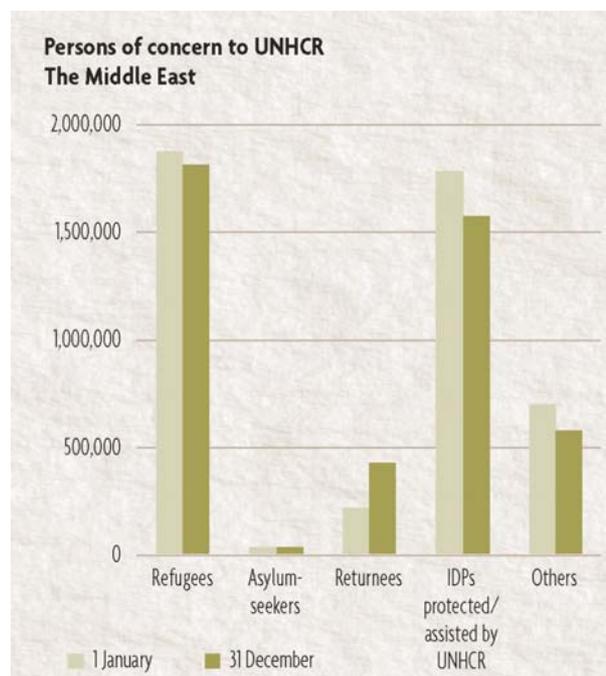
In **Saudi Arabia**, UNHCR worked to address the humanitarian situation in north Yemen. Regular cross-border missions were conducted to assess the situation of thousands of Yemeni IDPs in the area, which is accessible only from Saudi Arabia. Non-food items (NFIs) from Saudi Arabia were transported to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Yemen.

At the end of 2010, some 660 refugees and 715 asylum-seekers were registered in **Kuwait**. Most were from Afghanistan, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Somalia. Some 140 refugees were submitted for resettlement. The Government established a committee to address the situation of stateless Bedouins in the country.

In the **United Arab Emirates**, UNHCR undertook RSD and helped the authorities to address the needs of asylum-seekers at the airport and in detention centres.

Financial information

In 2010, the requirements for the Iraq Situation amounted to some USD 508 million, compared to USD 398 million in 2009, a 27 per cent increase. However, UNHCR secured funding to cover only 54 per cent of these requirements. The shortfall resulted in serious gaps in the provision of



protection and assistance to Iraqi refugees and IDPs, as well as returnees inside Iraq. In Yemen, UNHCR received funding for only 64 per cent of needs, curtailing support for refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and host communities.

Budget and expenditure in the Middle East | USD

| Country | | PILLAR 1 | PILLAR 2 | PILLAR 3 | PILLAR 4 | Total |
|---|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | Refugee programme | Stateless programme | Reintegration projects | IDP projects | |
| Egypt | Budget | 13,602,088 | 331,304 | 0 | 0 | 13,933,392 |
| | Expenditure | 10,301,882 | 316,563 | 0 | 0 | 10,618,445 |
| Iraq | Budget | 32,258,926 | 1,297,000 | 68,814,000 | 136,636,001 | 239,005,927 |
| | Expenditure | 21,570,875 | 1,288,265 | 22,817,080 | 61,317,237 | 106,993,457 |
| Israel | Budget | 2,898,365 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,898,365 |
| | Expenditure | 2,356,068 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,356,068 |
| Jordan | Budget | 62,767,339 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62,767,339 |
| | Expenditure | 30,894,850 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30,894,850 |
| Lebanon | Budget | 13,067,443 | 470,500 | 0 | 0 | 13,537,943 |
| | Expenditure | 8,789,811 | 450,797 | 0 | 0 | 9,240,608 |
| Saudi Arabia Regional Office¹ | Budget | 3,381,066 | 428,000 | 0 | 0 | 3,809,066 |
| | Expenditure | 2,544,661 | 426,864 | 0 | 0 | 2,971,525 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | Budget | 164,873,971 | 525,000 | 0 | 0 | 165,398,971 |
| | Expenditure | 89,626,962 | 491,135 | 0 | 0 | 90,118,097 |
| United Arab Emirates | Budget | 1,657,410 | 50,000 | 0 | 0 | 1,707,410 |
| | Expenditure | 1,255,470 | 38,473 | 0 | 0 | 1,293,943 |
| Yemen | Budget | 32,561,771 | 0 | 0 | 19,983,105 | 52,544,876 |
| | Expenditure | 21,194,829 | 0 | 0 | 14,783,245 | 35,978,074 |
| Regional activities | Budget | 18,854,194 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18,854,194 |
| | Expenditure | 1,904,471 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,904,471 |
| Total budget | | 345,922,573 | 3,101,804 | 68,814,000 | 156,619,106 | 574,457,483 |
| Total expenditure | | 190,439,879 | 3,012,097 | 22,817,080 | 76,100,482 | 292,369,538 |

¹Covers the Arab Gulf States including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

Voluntary contributions to the Middle East | USD

| Earmarking / Donor | PILLAR 1 Refugee programme | PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects | PILLAR 4 IDP projects | All pillars | Total |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| MIDDLE EAST SUBREGION | | | | | |
| Australia | 2,097,315 | | | | 2,097,315 |
| Finland | | | | 1,443,001 | 1,443,001 |
| Netherlands | 1,398,600 | | | | 1,398,600 |
| Sweden | 1,377,410 | | | 2,092,050 | 3,469,461 |
| United States of America | | | | 191,300,000 | 191,300,000 |
| Middle East subtotal | 4,873,326 | 0 | 0 | 194,835,052 | 199,708,378 |
| EGYPT | | | | | |
| African Union | | | | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| UN Central Fund for Influenza Action | 187,031 | | | | 187,031 |
| United States of America | | | | 2,400,000 | 2,400,000 |
| Egypt subtotal | 187,031 | 0 | 0 | 2,450,000 | 2,637,031 |
| IRAQ | | | | | |
| Australia | | | 419,463 | | 419,463 |
| Brazil | 100,000 | | | | 100,000 |
| Canada | | | | 2,532,833 | 2,532,833 |
| Charities Aid Foundation | | | | 191 | 191 |
| Denmark | | | 2,751,561 | | 2,751,561 |
| European Commission | | 3,739,442 | | | 3,739,442 |
| Germany | | | 1,326,260 | | 1,326,260 |
| HQ online donations | | | | 175 | 175 |
| Japan | | | | 2,152,853 | 2,152,853 |
| Norway | | | | 286,775 | 286,775 |
| Procter & Gamble | 198,736 | | | | 198,736 |
| Sweden | 2,754,821 | | | | 2,754,821 |
| Switzerland | 193,032 | | 343,691 | | 536,723 |
| UNDG Iraq Trust Fund | 125,000 | 540,600 | 111,870 | 45,680 | 823,150 |
| Iraq subtotal | 3,371,589 | 4,280,042 | 4,952,845 | 5,018,506 | 17,622,982 |
| JORDAN | | | | | |
| Denmark | 1,840,908 | | | | 1,840,908 |
| European Commission | 1,515,072 | | | | 1,515,072 |
| United States of America | | | | 4,680,000 | 4,680,000 |
| Jordan subtotal | 3,355,980 | 0 | 0 | 4,680,000 | 8,035,980 |
| LEBANON | | | | | |
| European Commission | 188,729 | | | | 188,729 |
| Norway | 212,872 | | | | 212,872 |
| Private donors in Lebanon | | | | 6,633 | 6,633 |
| United States of America | | | | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Lebanon subtotal | 401,601 | 0 | 0 | 506,633 | 908,234 |
| SAUDI ARABIA | | | | | |
| Saudi Arabia | | | | 72,538 | 72,538 |
| Saudi Arabia subtotal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72,538 | 72,538 |

| Earmarking / Donor | PILLAR 1 Refugee programme | PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects | PILLAR 4 IDP projects | All pillars | Total |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC | | | | | |
| Australia | 161,570 | | | | 161,570 |
| Denmark | 3,452,266 | | | | 3,452,266 |
| European Commission | 5,516,873 | | | | 5,516,873 |
| Germany | 1,385,538 | | | | 1,385,538 |
| Italy | 900,000 | | | | 900,000 |
| Monaco | 28,860 | | | | 28,860 |
| Netherlands | 4,439 | | | | 4,439 |
| Republic of Korea | 100,000 | | | | 100,000 |
| Spain | 1,079,622 | | | | 1,079,622 |
| Switzerland | 756,556 | | | 75,739 | 832,295 |
| United Kingdom | 2,400,000 | | | | 2,400,000 |
| United States of America | | | | 11,520,000 | 11,520,000 |
| Syrian Arab Republic subtotal | 15,785,725 | 0 | 0 | 11,595,739 | 27,381,464 |
| YEMEN | | | | | |
| Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) | | | 2,500,002 | | 2,500,002 |
| Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe (Germany) | | | 188,425 | | 188,425 |
| European Commission | 1,677,635 | | 2,806,602 | | 4,484,237 |
| Finland | | | | 1,443,001 | 1,443,001 |
| France | | | 269,906 | | 269,906 |
| Germany | 616,523 | | | | 616,523 |
| HQ online donations | | | | 48 | 48 |
| Italy | 1,540,565 | | | | 1,540,565 |
| Japan | 2,000,000 | | | 1,076,426 | 3,076,426 |
| Kuwait | | | | 52,265 | 52,265 |
| Lego | 237,725 | | | | 237,725 |
| Private donors in Lebanon | | | | 210 | 210 |
| Procter & Gamble | 340,182 | | | | 340,182 |
| Sheikha Fatima Fund for Refuge | 299,982 | | | | 299,982 |
| Spain | 61,269 | | 613,495 | | 674,764 |
| Stichting Vluchteling (Netherlands) | 105,654 | | | | 105,654 |
| Sweden | | | | 796,919 | 796,919 |
| Switzerland | 655,501 | | 161,959 | 512,295 | 1,329,755 |
| United Kingdom | | | 1,849,052 | | 1,849,052 |
| United States of America | 2,168,845 | | 4,900,000 | 3,900,000 | 10,968,845 |
| USA for UNHCR | 90,600 | | | | 90,600 |
| Yemen subtotal | 9,794,479 | 0 | 13,289,440 | 7,781,164 | 30,865,084 |
| Total | 37,769,732 | 4,280,042 | 18,242,285 | 226,939,633 | 287,231,691 |

Note: Includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) reserve.