



**Tala as Saadi, the youngest of eight children,** sips the remains of a breakfast of potato stew in Mazrak, a camp for Yemenis displaced by the fighting between Government forces and the *al-Houti* rebels.

# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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- The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region hosts and produces large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), while also accommodating a sizeable stateless population. Complex mixed-migration flows are also prevalent in the region.

- The region continued to be affected by the displacement of millions of Iraqis, including some 1.3 million IDPs inside Iraq and nearly 200,000 registered refugees in neighbouring countries. The main countries of asylum, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, have remained generous hosts despite their own limited resources.

- Resettlement, both as a protection tool and a burden-sharing mechanism, remained an important response to the Iraqi refugee situation.

- By the end of 2010, a total of 100,000 Iraqi refugees had been submitted for resettlement, while another 60,000 had departed for resettlement countries.

- While the number of Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR has decreased, tremendous needs still exist, particularly for the most vulnerable. Meanwhile, new asylum-seekers continue to register with UNHCR, including people belonging to religious and ethnic minority groups.

- Some 53,000 Somalis fleeing violence in their country, and others seeking better economic opportunities, arrived on Yemen's shores in 2010. Nearly 300,000 Yemeni civilians remain internally displaced, uprooted by sectarian conflict in the northern part of the country, and often living in dire circumstances. Humanitarian access to IDPs remained problematic.

- The Libyan Government closed UNHCR's Office in Tripoli in April 2010. Limited activities for refugees and asylum-seekers already registered with the Office were carried out under the umbrella of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office. High-level discussions allowed the Office to resume some activities by June 2010. However, by the end of the year a Cooperation Agreement discussed with the Libyan Government had not been concluded.

- UNHCR worked with the Government of Israel to strengthen the country's asylum laws and procedures and align them with international standards.

- The strengthening in 2010 of the partnership between UNHCR and the Government of Saudi Arabia saw the latter contribute additional funding to support refugee protection and assistance programmes.

## | Working environment |

Only seven of the 18 countries in the MENA region have ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and only Mauritania has adopted a national asylum system. Nonetheless, the countries of the region, in particular the Gulf Cooperation Council States, have shown greater interest in strategic partnerships with UNHCR.

The presence of large numbers of Iraqi refugees in both the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan continues to strain the economies and social structures of these two countries. In Iraq, while the overall security situation has improved, the situation remains volatile, particularly in Baghdad, Kirkuk and Mosul. In 2010 the numbers of violent incidents recorded in the capital, and across the country, were higher than in 2009.

The protection climate, particularly in Yemen and the North African countries, is affected by mixed-migration flows, limiting the protection space available for refugees and asylum-seekers. The North African countries are transit routes for mixed-migration

Also under the Diyala Initiative, more than 4,000 shelters were rehabilitated or reconstructed and over 6,700 non-food item kits distributed, while the construction of small-scale water facilities benefited some 370 returnees. Two water and electricity stations and five sanitation projects for four schools were completed, aiding more than 5,600 IDPs, returnees and host-community members.

Through its network of 15 Protection and Assistance Centres (PACs) and 40 mobile teams, UNHCR and its partners in Iraq worked to ensure that IDPs and returnees were able to enjoy their fundamental rights. Towards this end, protection was monitored, legal assistance provided and interventions and referrals made on behalf of people of concern. More than 16,000 cases involving IDPs, refugees and returnees were assisted by the PACs. In addition 230 protection monitoring visits were conducted and some 200 cases successfully resolved, including through the provision of documentation and representation in court.

In Syria, some 30,300 families received food assistance in 2010, while 17,300 families—16,000 of them with specific needs—received monthly financial assistance packages. In Jordan, 42



- Refugees
- Asylum-seekers
- Returnees (refugees and IDPs)
- Stateless persons
- IDPs
- Others of concern

movements, primarily from sub-Saharan African countries towards Europe. The management of mixed migration in North Africa is constrained by the absence of regional and national migration-management systems and administrative structures.

## | Achievements and impact |

In Iraq, UNHCR made considerable progress in monitoring protection and in intervening to resolve protection issues. It worked with non-government partners and the authorities as well as other agencies on joint activities, such as the Diyala Initiative.

per cent of registered Iraqis (6,260 families) and 350 non-Iraqi refugees benefited from the cash assistance programme. Of the cash beneficiaries, 41 per cent were people with vulnerabilities and specific needs.

In both Syria and Jordan, the school enrolment of Iraqi children rose, with 90 per cent of the school-age refugee children attending primary and secondary education in Jordan. The non-attendance rate in Syria declined from 39 per cent in 2009 to 30 per cent in 2010.

To enhance protection and assistance for people of concern in Lebanon, UNHCR worked with the Ministry of Social

Affairs to strengthen the capacity of 20 Social Development Centres spread across the country. Lebanon also serves as the resettlement hub for the region.

Refugees in urban centres in the Middle East were assisted to cover their basic needs. Refugees and asylum-seekers were registered and all recognized refugees were furnished with individual recognition letters. Many urban refugees availed themselves of microcredit and vocational-training opportunities to increase their self-reliance. In Israel, refugees benefited from humanitarian assistance provided by the Government, NGOs and UNHCR.

In Yemen, IDP profiling was conducted through interviews with 1,600 families, allowing for a better understanding of the displacement situation and return intentions. Some 90 per cent of IDPs in Yemen were registered at the end of 2010, a sharp rise from 26 per cent at the beginning of the year.

Egypt is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Some 39,700 refugees and asylum-seekers in the country, the majority from Sudan, are registered with UNHCR. Registration, the provision of documentation and refugee status determination (RSD) continued to be carried out by UNHCR, which also provided assistance to people of concern, with a focus on health and educational subsidies. In 2010, the number of people receiving financial assistance was increased to 25 per cent of the population of concern. Furthermore, community outreach and participatory assessments took stock of the needs of the refugees and asylum-seekers and assisted in the formulation of appropriate protection responses. The assessments were particularly helpful as Cairo was selected as one of five pilot cities for UNHCR's new urban refugee policy. As part of the implementation of the policy, the Office reviewed its health care, education and livelihood strategies.

Pending the adoption of a national refugee law and the establishment of asylum procedures, UNHCR conducted RSD in Algeria. Improved cooperation with the authorities resulted in a better protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers. Similarly, UNHCR undertook RSD in Morocco. In addition, it organized capacity-building and training activities, including round-table discussions, for judiciary and law enforcement officials and promoted the study of refugee law in universities.

The prospect of resolving the situation of Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps in

Algeria remained remote in the absence of a political solution for Western Sahara. Owing to a disagreement between the parties, from March 2010 UNHCR was unable to conduct family visits under the Confidence Building Measures (CBM) programme between locations in the Territory and the Tindouf refugee camps and the free telephone service was also interrupted.

As a result, some 1,740 potential beneficiaries lost the chance to benefit from the family visits and the communications network. UNHCR has continued to work with the parties to resolve the issues in line with the 2004 Plan of Action.

In Mauritania, UNHCR and its partners organized the repatriation of some 1,400 people, and rehabilitated schools and latrines in return communities.

Resettlement remained a major durable solution for Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries. By the end of 2010, more than 114,350 Iraqi refugees had been submitted for resettlement. More than half of this figure, some 60,750 people, departed for third-country destinations.

In the MENA region, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia are the only signatories to both the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Statelessness Convention, while Algeria and Israel are signatory to the 1954 Convention alone. In developments related to prevention and reduction of statelessness in the region, recent initiatives taken by Kuwait to tackle the issue of Bedouins in the country were encouraging. In February 2010, UNHCR, in coordination with OHCHR, conducted research to map the statelessness issues in the region and convened a regional meeting in Jordan to strengthen partnerships on the issue at national and regional levels.

## | Constraints |

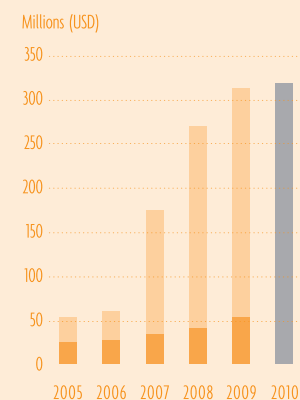
The absence of national asylum systems in the region hampered UNHCR's ability to carry out its mandate. The protection space remained weak, leading to arrests for illegal entry and lack of residency documents. Restrictions on refugees' and asylum-seekers' legal right to work, as well as a general economic decline in the region, placed additional hardships on people of concern. The security environments in Iraq and Yemen restricted UNHCR's access to people of concern and hampered programming activities. ■

## Financial information

**UNHCR's financial requirements in the Middle East and North Africa** have grown considerably over the last five years, mainly due to displacement of Iraqis. In 2010, the comprehensive requirements amounted to some USD 621 million. For the Iraq Situation, there was a 46 per cent increase in the overall budgetary requirements, while UNHCR was only able to secure 50 per cent of the funding required. This led to serious gaps in the provision of protection and humanitarian assistance.

### Expenditure in MENA 2005-2010

- Annual budget
- Supplementary budget
- Total expenditure



## BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | USD

Operations		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
<b>NORTH AFRICA</b>						
Algeria	Budget	18,743,196	0	0	0	18,743,196
	Expenditure	12,981,737	0	0	0	12,981,737
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Budget	5,106,727	0	0	0	5,106,727
	Expenditure	2,701,314	0	0	0	2,701,314
Mauritania	Budget	6,915,883	17,000	1,068,568	0	8,001,451
	Expenditure	4,873,184	15,324	0	0	4,888,508
Morocco	Budget	2,443,482	0	0	0	2,443,482
	Expenditure	1,735,638	0	0	0	1,735,638
Tunisia	Budget	1,237,472	0	0	0	1,237,472
	Expenditure	983,607	0	0	0	983,607
Western Sahara	Budget	11,480,792	0	0	0	11,480,792
	Expenditure	2,696,078	0	0	0	2,696,078
Subtotal	Budget	45,927,552	17,000	1,068,568	0	47,013,120
	Expenditure	25,971,558	15,324	0	0	25,986,882
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>						
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 Office <sup>1</sup>	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
Subtotal	Budget	345,922,573	3,101,804	68,814,000	156,619,106	574,457,483
	Expenditure	190,439,879	3,012,097	22,817,080	76,100,482	292,369,538
<b>Total</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>391,850,125</b>	<b>3,118,804</b>	<b>69,882,568</b>	<b>156,619,106</b>	<b>621,470,604</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>216,411,437</b>	<b>3,027,421</b>	<b>22,817,080</b>	<b>76,100,482</b>	<b>318,356,420</b>

<sup>1</sup> Covers 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 AND NORTH AFRICA | USD

<i>Donor</i>	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
African Union				50,000	50,000
Australia	2,258,885		419,463		2,678,349
Austria	269,179				269,179
Brazil	100,000				100,000
Canada				3,470,919	3,470,919
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)			2,500,002		2,500,002
Charities Aid Foundation				191	191
Denmark	5,293,174		2,751,561		8,044,735
<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe</i> (Germany)	63,532		188,425		251,958
European Commission	11,932,608	3,739,442	2,806,602		18,478,651
Finland	397,731			2,886,003	3,283,733
France			269,906		269,906
Germany	2,271,967		1,326,260		3,598,227
HQ online donations				223	223
Italy	3,155,705				3,155,705
Japan	2,000,000			4,305,705	6,305,705
Kuwait				1,052,265	1,052,265
Lego	237,725				237,725
Liechtenstein				97,087	97,087
Monaco	28,860				28,860
Netherlands	1,403,039				1,403,039
Norway	212,872			286,775	499,647
OPEC Fund for International Development	1,000,000				1,000,000
Private donors in Lebanon				6,843	6,843
Procter and Gamble	538,918				538,918
Republic of Korea	100,000				100,000
Saudi Arabia				72,538	72,538
Sheikha Fatima Fund for Refuge	299,982				299,982
Spain	1,766,873		613,495		2,380,368
<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i> (Netherlands)	105,654				105,654
Sweden	4,132,231			7,491,479	11,623,711
Switzerland	2,055,654		505,650	588,034	3,149,338
UN Central Fund for Influenza Action	187,031				187,031
UN Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund	106,909				106,909
UNDG Iraq Trust Fund	125,000	540,600	111,870	45,680	823,150
United Kingdom	2,400,000		1,849,052		4,249,052
United States of America	2,971,965		4,900,000	221,000,000	228,871,965
USA for UNHCR	90,600				90,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,506,095</b>	<b>4,280,042</b>	<b>18,242,285</b>	<b>241,353,743</b>	<b>309,382,165</b>

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.