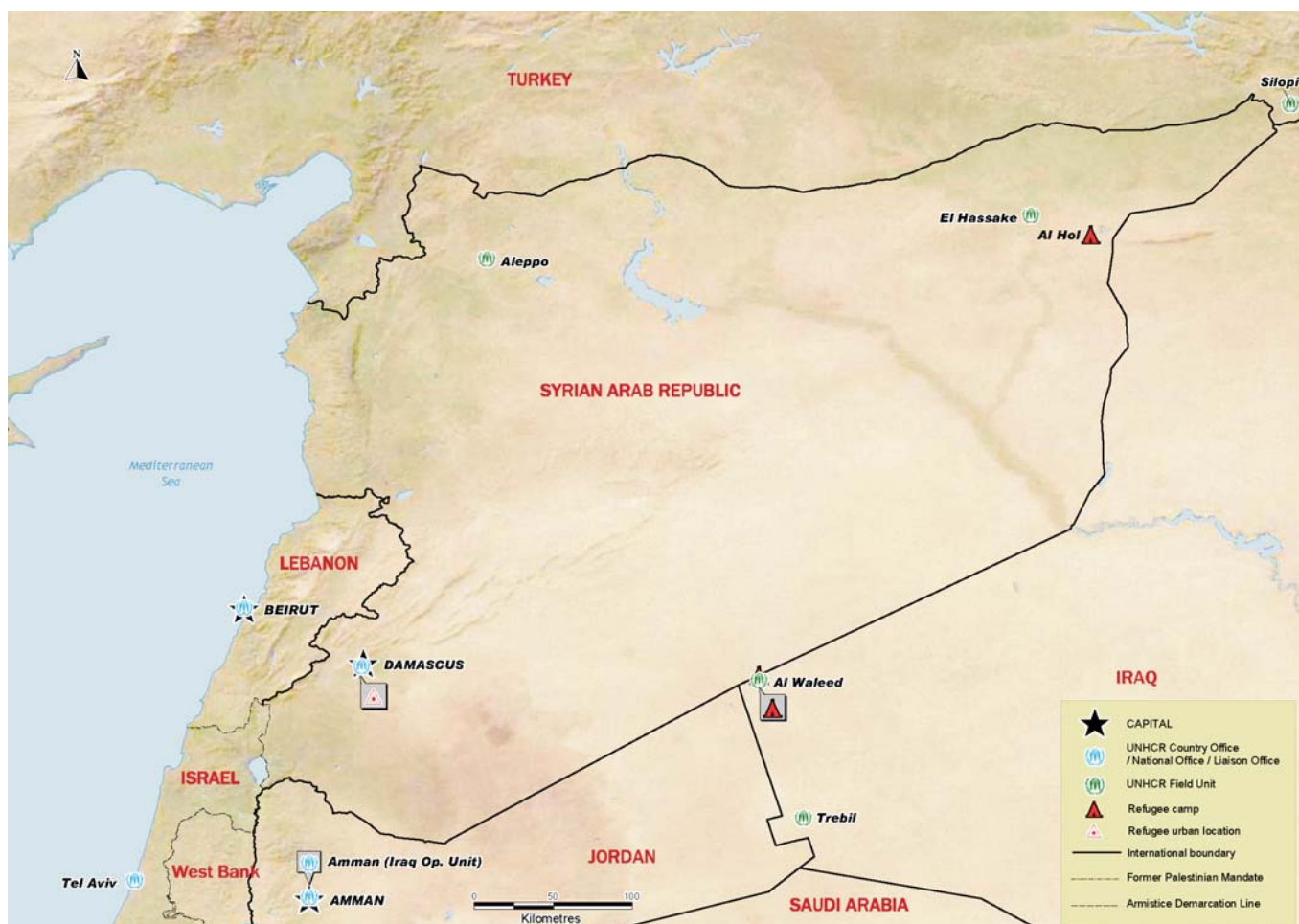


SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



Working environment

The context

The Syrian Arab Republic hosts one of the largest urban refugee populations in the world, with nearly half a million Palestinians and hundreds of thousands of displaced Iraqis.

The Government allows Iraqi refugees access to its territory, and permits them to benefit from available basic services.

UNHCR, with the support of the international community,

works to strengthen this favourable protection environment through its assistance programmes.

Cooperation with UNHCR's national partner, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, allows UNHCR to reach those refugees who have specific needs. A Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and the Syrian Ministry of Social Affairs has paved the way for cooperation with local associations, under the Ministry's responsibility. This will mean that UNHCR—which already has a partnership with the Syrian Women's Union—will be able to provide more assistance to vulnerable refugees.

Planning figures for the Syrian Arab Republic

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Iraq	1,000,000	126,000	1,000,000	106,000
	Somalia	2,700	2,700	2,900	2,900
	Afghanistan	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
	Various	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600
Asylum-seekers	Somalia	300	300	350	350
	Sudan	100	100	130	130
	Afghanistan	150	150	180	180
	Various	50	50	100	100
Stateless	Stateless	300,000	0	300,000	0
Total		1,306,000	132,000	1,306,460	112,460

● *The needs*

Each month, some 2,000 Iraqis approach UNHCR for registration. Currently, 151,000 Iraqi refugees and 6,500 refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries are registered with UNHCR. Some 41 per cent of those registered have special needs.

In the absence of legal employment or opportunities for self-reliance, refugees are becoming more vulnerable to protection risks. Providing for their essential needs, such as food, shelter, health and education, continues to pose major difficulties for refugees. The joint assessment mission, conducted by UNHCR and its partners in 2009, already revealed that refugees' largest item of expenditure was food, followed by housing and medical treatment.

The personal savings of many refugees have now been exhausted, due to their prolonged stay in the country, triggering new protection problems. Financial assistance has become an essential component of UNHCR's programme to help refugees attain minimum living standards.

Health care has become a major concern among the refugees, as some 20 per cent of the registered Iraqi refugees suffer from chronic illnesses. Cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is essential if these refugees are to be provided with quality health care.

| Strategy and activities in 2011 |

UNHCR will work with the Government of Syria to maintain and consolidate a favourable protection environment. A timely and effective registration programme will ensure that refugees have proper documentation.

In collaboration with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, UN agencies, national institutions and international partners in Syria, UNHCR will develop and implement innovative and targeted response programmes. Access to basic services, particularly primary, secondary and limited tertiary health care, will remain high priorities.

Main objectives and targets

Favourable protection environment

- Access to territory is improved for persons seeking protection.
 - ☞ *The protection space in Syria is improved.*
- The national legal framework is strengthened.
 - ☞ *An asylum law is drafted.*

Fair protection processes

- Standards in registration and profiling are maintained or improved.
 - ☞ *All asylum-seekers and refugees are registered with UNHCR in a timely manner.*

Security from violence and exploitation

- The protection of children is strengthened.
 - ☞ *Some 500 best interest determination (BID) interviews are conducted.*
- Arbitrary detention is eliminated or reduced.
 - ☞ *At least 1,200 interventions are made.*
- The risk of sexual and gender-based violence is reduced and the quality of response improved.
 - ☞ *Some 1,200 persons are counselled.*

Basic needs and services

- Services for groups with specific needs are strengthened.
 - ☞ *Some 15,500 vulnerable refugee families receive monthly financial assistance.*
 - ☞ *All women, young children and elderly refugees receive sanitary materials.*
 - ☞ *Some 47,000 people benefit from social counselling.*

- The health of the population improves or remains stable.
 - ☞ *Some 100,000 refugees are provided with primary health care.*
 - ☞ *Some 8,000 refugees are provided with secondary and tertiary health care.*
- The population has optimal access to education.
 - ☞ *At least 20,000 refugee children in formal education systems are assisted.*
 - ☞ *Some 4,000 children participate in non-formal educational activities.*

Community participation and self-management

- Participatory assessments and community mobilization activities are improved.
 - ☞ *Some 1,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of different ages and genders participate in two participatory assessments and regular focus group discussions.*
- Community self-management programmes, with equal representation of women, are strengthened and expanded.
 - ☞ *Some 150 refugee-outreach and support group volunteers are trained to support UNHCR's protection and community services programmes.*
- The level of self-reliance and livelihoods is improved.
 - ☞ *Some 10,000 persons receive vocational training.*

Durable solutions

- The potential for voluntary return is realized.
 - ☞ *Some 2,000 persons receive voluntary return assistance.*
 - ☞ *Some 200,000 persons receive information regarding voluntary repatriation through information campaigns.*
- The potential for resettlement is realized.
 - ☞ *Some 3,500 families are submitted for resettlement.*
 - ☞ *At least 12,000 persons are assisted with their departures to resettlement countries.*

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	3
□ Total staff	376
International	26
National	158
JPOs	1
UNVs	13
Others	178

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Ministries of Education, Health, and Higher Education

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Governorate of Hassakah

NGOs:

Action Contre la Faim (Spain)

Danish Refugee Council

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch

Première Urgence

Others:

Evangelical Church

Syrian Arab Red Crescent

Syrian Women's Union

Operational partners

NGOs:

HELP

IECD

International Medical Corps

International Blue Crescent

Islamic Relief France

Médecins du Monde

Mercy Corps

Ricerca e Cooperazione

Terre des Hommes Italy

Others:

IFRC

ILO

IOM

UNDP

UNFPA

UNICEF

UNRWA

UNV

WFP

WHO

Protection and community mobilization activities will continue. These will include the provision of financial assistance to prevent the abuse and exploitation of groups most at risk, and psychosocial counselling for victims of torture or trauma.

UNHCR will augment its voluntary repatriation programme by providing more detailed information to refugees. In parallel with these repatriation efforts, UNHCR will continue to advocate for resettlement programmes for those refugees who do not envisage return, and who are particularly vulnerable. The Office hopes to submit some 16,000 individuals for resettlement in 2011. In addition to Iraqi refugees, UNHCR will continue to advocate for at least 600 resettlement places for non-Iraqi refugees.

Efforts will be made to encourage families to enrol their children in schools or find other educational solutions. UNHCR will provide financial incentives, individual support to children with physical needs and assistance with documentation and enrolment.

The closure of the Al Tanf Camp in early 2010 has left Al Hol as the only camp in Syria hosting Palestinian refugees from Iraq. UNHCR will provide food, health and education services to the 400 Palestinians in the camp and ensure that they have satisfactory sanitary conditions, while redoubling efforts to make sure that those eligible are accepted swiftly by resettlement countries. It is the joint objective of the Syrian Government and UNHCR to close Al Hol camp by early 2011.

Advocacy to prevent and reduce statelessness will continue. UNHCR will also lobby for the implementation of relevant international instruments and treaties ratified by the Syrian Government.

○ Constraints

The protection framework remains frail, with little prospect of opportunities for local integration. Owing to their prolonged presence, public sympathy for the plight of the refugees may decrease. Political developments within the region could have a negative impact on refugees in the country.

Organization and implementation

○ Coordination

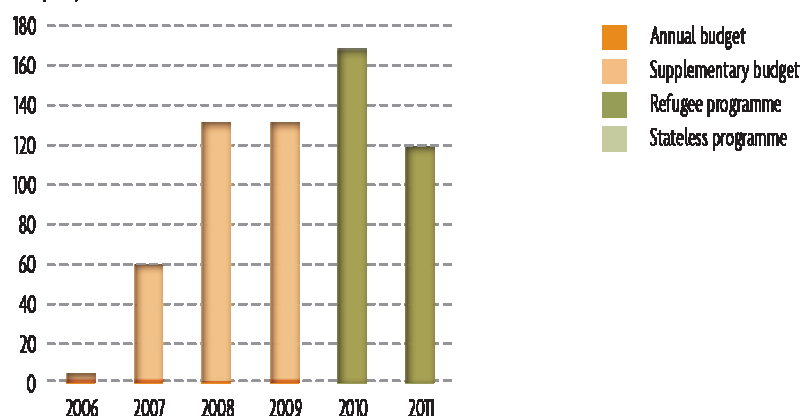
A consolidated interagency action plan outlining the strategic priorities in addressing refugee needs is due at the end of 2010. As an integral component of the Regional Response Plan for Iraqi Refugees, UNHCR will continue to lead the process to ensure that all actors involved in providing assistance and protection will be working in a coordinated and effective manner.

Financial information

In 2009, the supplementary budget increased significantly in response to the large number of Iraqi refugees residing in Syria. Major interventions included the provision of basic services such as financial assistance, health care, education and services for persons with specific needs. The 2011 comprehensive budget foresees an increase in the provision of basic services, with particular attention paid to community-based activities and to vocational training targeting the youth.

UNHCR's budget in Syria 2006 – 2011

Millions (USD)



Al Hol camp is expanded to absorb the additional 300 Palestinian refugees who were recently transferred from Al Tanf camp.

UNHCR / B. DIAB



Consequences of a 20-40 per cent funding shortfall

- More than 50,000 Iraqi refugees outside Damascus will have no access to protection and assistance.
- Cash assistance will be provided only to some of the planned 15,500 families, and the amount of assistance will not be increased as needed.
- Support for families of school children will be cut, and may result in a reduction in the number of children attending school.
- Only 50,000 people will receive primary health care.
- 4,000 children and adolescents will not benefit from vocational training or other forms of non-formal education, increasing the risk of exposure to exploitation and abuse.
- UNHCR's capacity to identify people in need of resettlement will be reduced.
- Transport and repatriation allowances will be provided only to a limited number of refugees, instead of the planned 2,000.

2011 UNHCR Budget for Syria (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment			
International and regional instruments	0	21,305	21,305
National legal framework	460,237	21,305	481,542
National administrative framework	0	100,239	100,239
National and regional migration policy	253,076	0	253,076
Prevention of statelessness	0	21,305	21,305
Cooperation with partners	453,060	0	453,060
National development policies	0	21,305	21,305
Access to territory	133,700	0	133,700
Non-refoulement	230,124	0	230,124
Emergency management	17,977	0	17,977
Subtotal	1,548,174	185,458	1,733,632
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Registration and profiling	2,961,823	0	2,961,823
Fair and efficient status determination	953,144	0	953,144
Family reunification	153,664	0	153,664
Individual documentation	376,033	0	376,033
Civil status documentation	116,243	39,008	155,251
Subtotal	4,560,907	39,008	4,599,915
Security from violence and exploitation			
Gender-based violence	1,148,283	0	1,148,283
Protection of children	311,697	0	311,697
Non-arbitrary detention	109,149	0	109,149
Access to legal remedies	313,559	0	313,559
Subtotal	1,882,687	0	1,882,687

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Basic needs and essential services			
Food security	314,236	0	314,236
Water	170,031	0	170,031
Shelter and other infrastructure	159,644	0	159,644
Basic domestic and hygiene items	179,217	0	179,217
Primary health care	12,871,754	0	12,871,754
Education	11,930,158	0	11,930,158
Sanitation services	66,346	0	66,346
Services for groups with specific needs	66,698,592	0	66,698,592
Subtotal	92,389,979	0	92,389,979
Community participation and self-management			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	734,049	0	734,049
Community self-management and equal representation	885,584	0	885,584
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,807,503	0	1,807,503
Subtotal	3,427,136	0	3,427,136
Durable solutions			
Voluntary return	932,848	0	932,848
Resettlement	2,981,126	0	2,981,126
Reduction of statelessness	0	47,306	47,306
Subtotal	3,913,974	47,306	3,961,280
External relations			
Resource mobilisation	168,135	0	168,135
Partnership	0	31,829	31,829
Public information	260,151	0	260,151
Subtotal	428,286	31,829	460,116
Logistics and operations support			
Supply chain and logistics	6,299,758	0	6,299,758
Programme management, coordination and support	3,283,371	106,248	3,389,619
Subtotal	9,583,129	106,248	9,689,377
Total	117,734,272	409,849	118,144,121
2010 Revised budget	166,203,239	552,969	166,756,208