

# LEBANON

## | Working environment |

### • The context

The political and security situation in Lebanon and the surrounding region remains unstable. Though the country hosts refugees, its legal framework has not been friendly towards them. Refugees who work illegally are often exploited, while detention and deportation, though on the decrease, remain major concerns.

Most of the registered Iraqi refugees in Lebanon do not wish to return home but may be compelled to do so if the authorities apply stricter policies towards them. At the same time, the unstable situation in some parts of Iraq may increase the number of asylum-seekers arriving from the country.

In 2003, UNHCR and the Government of Lebanon signed a Memorandum of Understanding which states that refugees and asylum-seekers will be tolerated, but only for a limited period, pending resettlement or voluntary repatriation.

### • The needs

Some 70 per cent of registered Iraqi refugees in Lebanon are men, who run higher risks of detention, deportation or exploitation as illegal labourers. Many refugees, including women and children, are reluctant to engage with the community because of fear of detention and discrimination. Life in Lebanon is expensive as basic services are not available free. As a result, refugees need physical protection, assistance for survival and help to exercise their rights.



## Planning figures

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2010		DEC 2010 - JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		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	Iraq	48,220	10,000	45,250	8,000	35,300	5,000
	Various	280	280	450	450	600	600
Asylum-seekers	Sudan	220	300	350	350	400	400
	Iraq	200	250	300	300	300	300
	Syria	100	150	200	200	250	250
Others of concern	Various	80	100	150	150	200	200
	Lebanon	500	500	500	500	500	500
	Various	80	80	80	80	80	80
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>49,680</b>	<b>11,660</b>	<b>47,280</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>37,630</b>	<b>7,330</b>

UNHCR carries out the refugee status determination (RSD) of individuals who are not considered *prima facie* refugees. The Memorandum of Understanding is strictly applied in the case of non-Iraqi refugees, which means that they need to be resettled quickly.

## | Main objectives |

### Favourable protection environment

- Maintain and expand a favourable protection environment through legal and pragmatic interventions so that refugees and asylum-seekers are free from harassment, arbitrary arrest, detention and deportation.
- Boost UNHCR's role in preventing statelessness.

### Basic needs and services

- Provide assistance to refugees so that they can continue to live in relative safety.

### Durable solutions

- Promote resettlement as a durable solution for most refugees.

## | Strategy and activities |

UNHCR will strive to maintain and expand the favourable protection environment for refugees from Iraq. It will register some 350 refugees per month and provide legal assistance to ensure that all refugees have access to due process and protection from arbitrary detention. It will also provide health and education assistance to refugees. Specific attention will be paid to the most vulnerable, including those who are in detention, women, children, the elderly and the disabled. Some 4,000 people will receive individual/family support. Training and information-dissemination efforts will raise awareness on gender-based violence and help identify and assist those who are affected by it.

In order to promote self-reliance, UNHCR will provide training and grants for up to 500 people, and more than 1,500 children will receive school grants. It will also raise awareness of refugee issues through local and international media. If the security situation in Iraq improves, an

## Key targets for 2010

- All who approach UNHCR for registration receive documentation.
- Some 1,000 people in detention are monitored.
- More than 800 people receive legal assistance.
- Resettlement referrals are made for over 2,000 people.
- Individual return assistance is provided to 2,000 people.
- Basic assistance is provided to 4,000 people.



The people of southern Lebanon are only now re-establishing their agricultural industry after the region was devastated by fighting several years ago.

## UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	1
□ Total staff	67
International	14
National	30
JPOs	1
UNVs	17
Others	5

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### NGOs:

*Association Justice et Miséricorde*  
Amel  
Caritas Lebanon  
Middle-East Council of Churches

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies:

Directorate General of the General Security

#### NGOs:

Danish Refugee Council  
Frontiers Association  
International Medical Corps  
Norwegian  
Refugee Council  
Save the Children Sweden

#### Others:

ILO  
IOM  
UNESCO  
UNFPA  
UNICEF  
WHO

estimated 2,000 refugees will be assisted to return. For 2010 the Office plans to submit 1,700 people for resettlement, the only viable solution for many.

Refugee status determination (RSD) is at the centre of UNHCR's strategy for non-Iraqi refugees. As most of these refugees need to be resettled rapidly, UNHCR will ensure the timely submission of 300 people to resettlement countries and promote rapid departures. Detention monitoring, legal aid and activities to address gender-based violence will help to ensure protection and security from violence and exploitation. Some 200 people will benefit from legal counselling. UNHCR will lobby the authorities for more refugee-friendly legislation.

As part of its global mandate, the Office is working to raise awareness on stateless issues. It will provide expert advice to the authorities, NGOs and UN agencies. In addition, it will commission a study to address the lack of accurate data on statelessness.

## Constraints

Opportunities for local integration remain limited, and the Memorandum of Understanding is strictly applied to non-Iraqi refugees. UNHCR is concerned that the protection space in Lebanon may be reduced given the lengthy stay of many refugees. The operation in Lebanon is labour-intensive as the protection issues and durable solutions for refugees vary and need to be addressed on an individual basis. Political tensions could lead to instability and stricter refugee policies.

## Organization and implementation

The Office in Lebanon includes a regional resettlement hub, which processes resettlement referrals from all countries in the Middle East and North Africa. In addition, the Office has regional functions in external relations, registration and RSD.

### Coordination

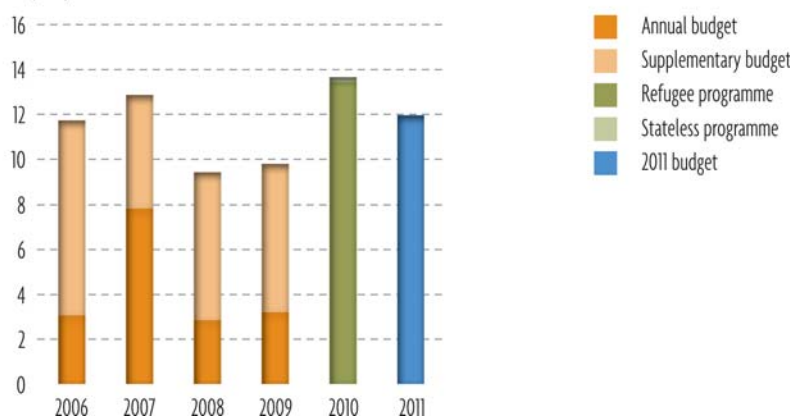
UNHCR works closely with the authorities, especially the Directorate General of the General Security. It also cooperates with national NGOs to protect the rights of refugees more effectively. In 2010, UNHCR will seek to integrate refugee and statelessness issues into the CCA/UNDAF process. The Office works through the UN country team and leads the coordination on refugee issues.

## Financial information

The budget for UNHCR in Lebanon increased in 2007 as a result of new displacement caused by internal conflict. In 2008, the situation stabilized and the budget was reduced. The budget in 2008 and 2009 covered the protection and assistance needs of Iraqi refugees. The 2010 comprehensive budget foresees increased humanitarian assistance through the provision of basic services and community-based activities.

## UNHCR's budget in Lebanon 2006 - 2011

Millions (USD)



## 2010 UNHCR Budget for Lebanon (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
National legal framework	74,289	29,644	103,933
National administrative framework	47,789	0	47,789
Prevention of statelessness	0	32,144	32,144
Cooperation with partners	0	28,144	28,144
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	48,289	0	48,289
Subtotal	170,367	89,932	260,299
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Registration and profiling	416,989	0	416,989
Fair and efficient status determination	365,528	0	365,528
Subtotal	782,517	0	782,517
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Gender-based violence	89,614	0	89,614
Protection of children	105,095	0	105,095
Non-arbitrary detention	613,059	0	613,059
Access to legal remedies	195,477	0	195,477
Subtotal	1,003,246	0	1,003,246
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Basic domestic and hygiene items	1,454,107	0	1,454,107
Primary health care	712,712	0	712,712
Education	765,926	0	765,926
Services for groups with specific needs	2,080,368	0	2,080,368
Subtotal	5,013,114	0	5,013,114
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>			
Participatory assessment and community mobilization	101,888	0	101,888
Self-reliance and livelihoods	221,320	0	221,320
Subtotal	323,208	0	323,208
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Voluntary return	552,401	0	552,401
Resettlement	2,062,696	0	2,062,696
Subtotal	2,615,097	0	2,615,097
<b>External relations</b>			
Donor relations	26,611	0	26,611
Partnership	44,611	0	44,611
Public information	48,611	0	48,611
Subtotal	119,833	0	119,833
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Programme management, coordination and support	2,448,830	142,450	2,591,280
Subtotal	2,448,830	142,450	2,591,280
<b>Headquarters and regional support</b>			
Policy development	183,386	0	183,386
Protection advice and support	183,386	0	183,386
Technical advice and support to operations	203,386	0	203,386
Oversight (inspection, evaluation, investigation and audit)	183,386	0	183,386
Capacity building, skill development and knowledge management	203,387	0	203,387
Subtotal	956,929	0	956,929
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,433,142</b>	<b>232,382</b>	<b>13,665,524</b>

<b>2011 Budget</b>	<b>11,957,700</b>
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<b>2009 Revised budget</b>	
Annual budget	3,223,351
Supplementary budget	6,566,945
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,790,296</b>

## Consequences of a 20-40 per cent funding shortfall

- Fewer than the planned 4,000 people will receive assistance.
- School grants will not be provided, and fewer children will be able to attend school.
- Emergency needs of individual refugees and asylum-seekers may not be met, exposing people of concern to violence and exploitation.
- UNHCR's capacity to identify people in need of resettlement or to assist those wishing to return will be reduced.