

Middle East and North Africa

FOREWORD

In 2018, there were some 15 million people of concern to UNHCR in the Middle East and North Africa region, including almost 2.7 million refugees and 10.3 million IDPs. The majority—10.1 million—were internally displaced from conflicts in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) and Yemen, three of the largest and most violent humanitarian and displacement crises in the world. Some 7.2 million refugees and asylum-seekers from those same conflicts found protection and assistance in countries across the region and further abroad.

As fighting continued throughout the year, the Syria situation remained the world's largest refugee crisis, with humanitarian needs and protection risks staggering in scale and severity. This resulted in a context of complex and overlapping displacements. Some 13 million Syrians were in need of, or sought, protection, including 6.2 million IDPs and 6.6 million refugees. Some 210,950 Syrian refugees from across the region, and 1.4 million IDPs (OCHA figures), returned to their areas of origin, often in very difficult circumstances.

In Iraq, while the scale and severity of humanitarian needs remained high, almost 945,000 IDPs returned throughout the year. Despite their optimism, however, returnees faced obstacles in accessing basic services, all the while contending with a range of protection risks, damaged property and infrastructure, as well as a lack of livelihood opportunities and financial resources. In some instances return was not possible or sustainable, leading to secondary displacement or re-admittance

Moheeb is an 8-year-old IDP from Sa'ada Governorate, Yemen. He wears a flower crown known as an Omama, or a Tawq, which is traditional among men and boys in his community.

to camps, and many IDPs continued to find themselves in a protracted displacement situation.

The conflict in Yemen took a turn for the worse towards the end of 2018, resulting in further large-scale displacement and severe food insecurity as the country faced the persistent risk of famine. Political progress was made, with Yemen's internationally recognized Government and Houthi rebels concluding the Stockholm Agreements (a UN-brokered ceasefire) in December 2018.

Many of the other contexts across the region were characterised by situations of violence. Frequent periods of instability were experienced in Libya—particularly in Tripoli where militia groups clashed repeatedly, resulting in the displacement of more than 5,000 families. Violence was pervasive in areas affected by movements to Europe from North Africa. Although Mediterranean crossings decreased over the year, thousands continued to risk their lives in dangerous sea journeys from Libya and Tunisia, often exposed to severe abuse from criminal groups, smugglers and traffickers. Those rescued by authorities faced additional hardship—including arrest and detention—often in appalling conditions.

While arrivals from Algeria and Morocco to Spain rose significantly over the year, with over 76,000 irregular crossings prevented by Moroccan authorities, the overall number of arrivals from North Africa to Europe decreased considerably in 2018.

Despite the challenges, solid results were achieved on multiple fronts, including access and assistance to people of concern and the achievement of durable solutions. Most borders across the region remained open and asylum space was generally favourable with governments and host populations displaying commendable hospitality despite increasingly limited resources. Progress was also noted with the ratification of the Global Compact on Refugees, highlighting the importance of responsibility-sharing as well as establishing a framework through which to achieve sustainable solutions in collaboration with governments, international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders. UNHCR is confident that its efforts will continue to have encouraging outcomes for those displaced by conflict and violence, and will maintain its unwavering resolve to achieve comprehensive solutions.

Amin Awad

Director of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa

GLOBAL WORKFORCE IN MENA* 3,684

57% MALE

43% FEMALE

65 LOCATIONS

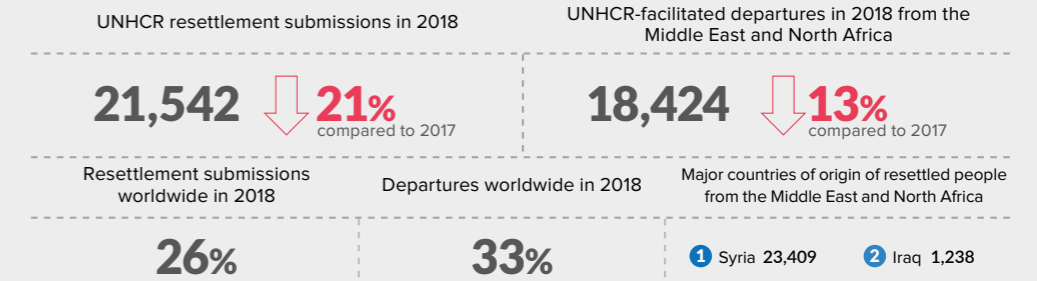
39% BASED IN HARDSHIP LOCATIONS

*including 1,173 affiliate workforce staff.

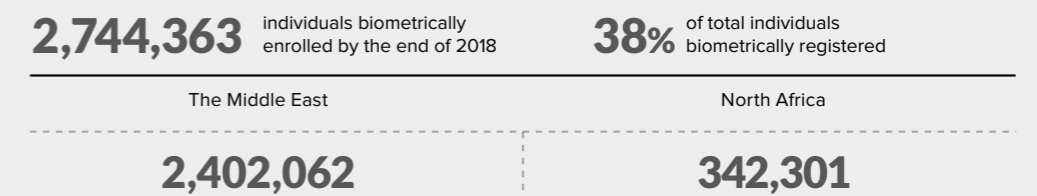
Key data and achievements in Middle East and North Africa

Resettlement

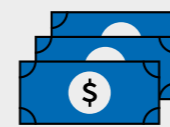
The Middle East and North Africa is the **2nd region** with the **highest resettlement needs** worldwide. Syria is the **1st country of origin** of people resettled worldwide: **42% of total departures**



Biometric registration

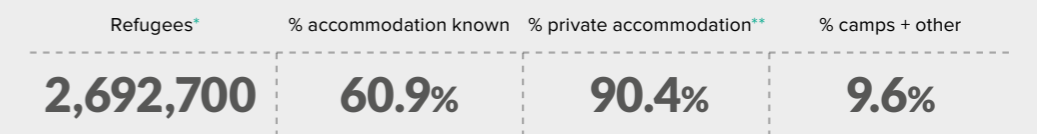
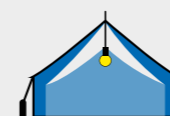


Cash-based interventions



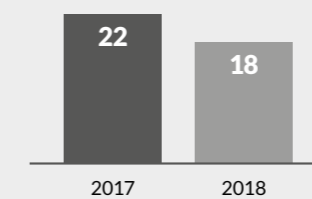
Refugees living in/out of camps

Data as of 31st December 2018



* includes refugees and people in refugee-like situations
** out of total number of refugees and refugee-like

Emergency deployments
(UNHCR and standby partners)



Partners and budget allocated
USD millions

\$362.8 million allocated to **161 partners** (29% of regional expenditure)

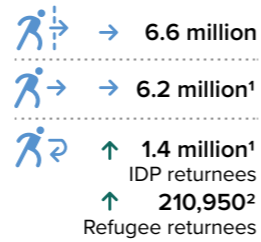


MAJOR SITUATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA IN 2018



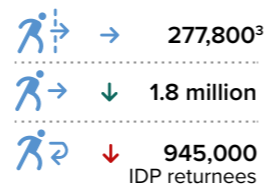
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

In its 8th year of conflict, humanitarian needs were staggering with 13 million refugees and IDPs in need of assistance. Some 70% of the population in Syria lived in extreme poverty, while unemployment increased to 55%. More than 4.2 million people remained in need of shelter, as many shelters in return areas were damaged. In the midst of ongoing hostilities, UNHCR provided lifesaving assistance and protection to people of concern, reaching more than 2.3 million IDPs, returnees and host communities.



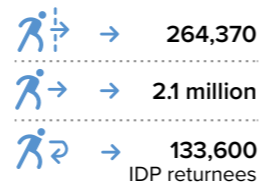
IRAQ

Though the number of IDP returnees reached nearly 1 million, they faced constrained access to basic services and a lack of livelihood opportunities and financial resources. This led to secondary displacement or re-admittance to camps where return was not possible or sustainable. The number of IDPs at the end of 2018 decreased to 1.8 million, down from 2.6 million in 2017. In 2018 the number of Syrian refugees in Iraq rose to 252,520. Some 99% of Syrian refugees in Iraq were found in the Kurdistan region, 37% resided in 9 camps, while the remainder lived in urban areas.



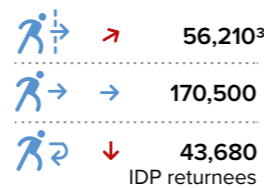
YEMEN

The world's worst humanitarian conflict in 2018, with some 22.2 million people assessed as being in need of some kind of humanitarian assistance. A brutal armed conflict displaced more people in 2018, although 133,600 IDPs returned home. Yemenis also faced outbreaks of cholera and diphtheria, and the pervasive risk of famine. Despite this, over 264,370 people—mainly Eritreans, Ethiopians and Somalis—sought asylum in the country, which represents a slight decrease from 2017.



LIBYA

Fighting between forces linked to the Government of National Accord, local tribes, foreign armed groups, and the Libyan National Army led to continued displacement, and difficulties in accessing people in need of protection. While in 2018 the number of sea crossings diminished considerably, the Libyan Coast Guard rescued or intercepted nearly 15,000 refugees and migrants during 120 operations. A growing reliance on detention by Libyan authorities was observed, with 6,200 people being detained. Through UNHCR's intervention, 2,700 people in need of international protection were released from detention.

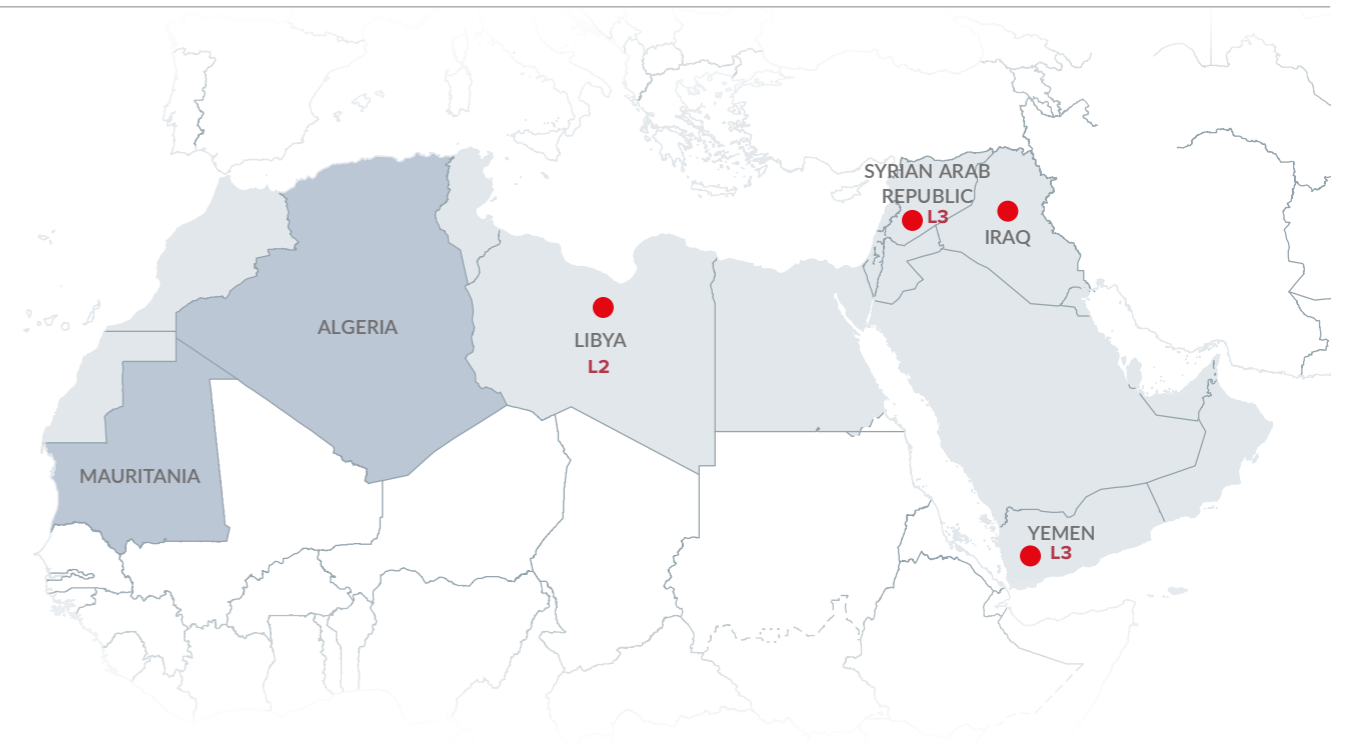


¹ OCHA figures

² Of whom 56,000 verified by UNHCR

³ Including asylum-seekers

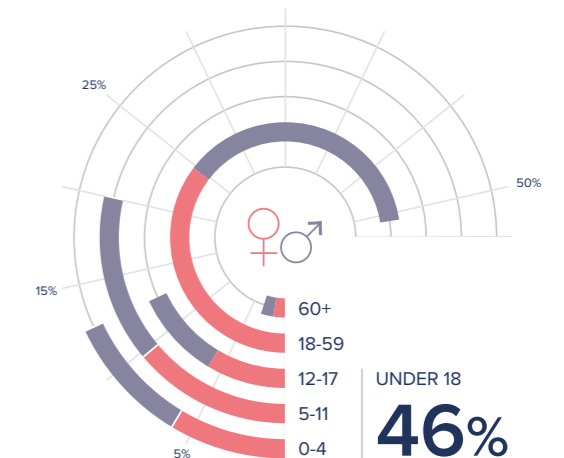
In 2018, the Middle East and North Africa continued to see some of the most severe and protracted refugee crises in the world. More than 10.1 million were internally displaced from conflicts in Iraq, Syria and Yemen—three of the direst humanitarian situations globally.



AGE AND GENDER BREAKDOWN REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

15 million PEOPLE OF CONCERN IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

REFUGEES	2.7 million
ASYLUM-SEEKERS	284,000
RETURNEES (REFUGEES AND IDPs)	1.3 million
IDPs	10.3 million
STATELESS PERSONS	371,000
OTHERS OF CONCERN	13,000



- Situation
- MYMP country
- Level of emergency
- Refugees
- IDPs
- Returnees
- Negative trend compared with 2017
- Positive trend compared with 2017
- Stable trend compared with 2017



ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Safeguarding fundamental rights

Maintaining protection space and supporting access to national asylum systems

The year was marked by continued efforts at the global level, most notably the Global Compact, to promote and safeguard principles of international law to expand protections for those displaced. UNHCR worked with authorities to ensure the principle of *non-refoulement* was upheld in the region, where ongoing arrests and deportations threatened the most basic of human rights.

Throughout the year, UNHCR engaged with governments on the development of draft national asylum legislation, with both

Mauritania and Morocco making good progress, and Qatar adopting a national asylum framework following its accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Office worked across the region, notably with the Governments of Algeria and Egypt, towards the implementation of asylum laws.

Key support for registration of refugees and asylum-seekers was reinforced through improved technology and practices. Egypt registered 31,000 new people through biometric systems, and UNHCR advocated with the Government to extend residence permits and regionalize registration centers for simplified access. Following advocacy with the Government, Mauritania began issuing national identity cards for the 57,000 Malian refugees in Mbera camp, and birth registration began for all refugee children born in the camp since 2012.

57,000

Malian refugees in Mbera camp, Mauritania, were issued national identity cards.



Empowering refugees as data-owners through registration

A “self-renewal methodology” in registration procedures was introduced in Jordan in 2018—the first operation worldwide to implement this project which aims to empower people of concern as data owners by enabling them to validate and update data previously collected during registration. “Self-renewal” will save time during the registration process and in renewing documents, allowing refugees and asylum-seekers to avoid the often lengthy queues at UNHCR registration centres.

In the long-term, the project will enable refugees to update their data remotely with access to a unique, portable, authenticated digital identity, which is compatible with State population registries, civil registration and vital statistics systems. The self-renewal process will be managed through kiosks that include an iris camera (for biometric verification), a monitor and a printer. The booths were initially tested in the Khalda registration centre, with 30 more kiosks planned for Amman, 10 in Irbid and 10 in Mafrq.



Community-based protection played a pivotal role in UNHCR’s response. Community-led initiatives and outreach volunteers were central to UNHCR’s approach in working with both people of concern and host communities to deliver multi-sectoral support to people in need, including survivors of sexual and

gender-based violence (SGBV) and children at risk. Across the region, UNHCR delivered skills-training, legal support, and information services to meet the needs and concerns of displaced people through a large network of more than 250 community centres.

© UNHCR/Amr Abdou



Providing protection and solutions to IDPs in the region

Most people of concern to UNHCR in the Middle East and North Africa region were internally displaced from conflict in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. In responding to the needs of IDPs in the region, UNHCR focused on providing protection, monitoring, shelter support, delivery of non-food items, social cohesion projects, and distribution of cash assistance.

With the largest IDP population in the region, UNHCR provided protection services to some 2.3 million people in community and satellite centres across Syria. Some 1.75 million protection interventions were recorded, involving material assistance, legal support, education, and awareness raising. Winterization items were distributed to more than 762,000 IDPs across 13 governorates.

UNHCR stepped up its community-based protection networks strategy in Yemen to monitor protection risks, identify and address vulnerable protection cases for the 2.1 million IDPs and 133,600 IDP returnees across the country. Through eight established IDP community centres, the Office assisted over 103,000 people through psychosocial or social counselling and legal assistance. UNHCR strengthened its protection (including cash-based) interventions, with a focus on SGBV to respond to the needs of IDP populations, half of whom are female, including 27% aged 18 and under.

In Iraq, one year after the Government declared victory over extremists, nearly 1 million IDPs were deemed to have returned during the year, while more than 150,000 people were newly displaced. Multi-purpose cash assistance helped nearly 170,000 vulnerable IDPs and returnees cover their most basic needs, and UNHCR promoted social cohesion through quick impact projects for families and communities heavily impacted by the conflict.



In Lebanon, a young Iraqi refugee with autism finds escape from isolation

Samer, 10, spent most of his life cut-off from the outside world, until a UNHCR-funded community centre in Lebanon helped him to connect with other children.

“He has improved since he joined the activities at Caritas.”

—Catrina Youssef, Samer’s mother.



© UNHCR/Olga Ibarra Sanchez



Child protection

Over 2.5 million Syrian children were refugees in the countries falling under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)—Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey—whilst an additional 2.5 million were IDPs within Syria. In Iraq, 3.3 million children required humanitarian assistance and protection. In addition to immediate protection assistance, many children required longer-term interventions, including mental health and psychosocial services as well as family tracing and reunification. UNHCR and partners supported advocacy and capacity-building efforts to ensure all interventions prioritised the best interests of the child, whilst improving the quality and accessibility of mental health and psychosocial services for children contending with psychosocial distress. In 2018, more than 92,000 girls and boys across these five countries received specialised child protection services, and over 839,000 children participated in child protection or psychosocial support programmes.

UNHCR maintained a robust legal aid and community engagement programme in the region, to promote access to civil documentation, including birth and marriage certificates. This resulted in the prompt registration of new births in camps, as well

as the documentation of informal marriages; enhancing the protection and enjoyment of rights by women and children alike. Similarly, in Lebanon, the Government issued an exception to a one-year deadline for registering new births by which Syrian children who were already over the age of one, but who had not completed the birth registration process, could obtain a birth certificate, thereby avoiding a lengthy legal procedure. It is anticipated that some 50,000 children may benefit from this initiative. The Government also waived the requirement of legal residency status as a precondition to completing birth registration procedures.

The development and adoption by the League of Arab States (LAS) of the “Arab Declaration on belonging and legal identity” was achieved following years of advocacy by UNHCR and partners to reduce the percentage of undocumented children across the region, and represented a significant commitment to addressing statelessness.

The Declaration calls for all children to be able to enjoy their right to a legal identity, including a name, family relations and a nationality, and reaffirmed the shared commitment of LAS Member States to promote gender equality in their nationality laws. This Declaration follows and reinforces

92,000 girls and boys received child protection services.

839,000 children participated in child protection programmes.

the multi-sectoral best practices in the 3RP to ensure all refugee children are registered and documented at birth.

UNHCR positively engaged with communities, maternal health providers, lawyers, the judiciary and other government counterparts in child protection matters,

including advocacy for simplified procedures and waiving fines for late registration. These partnerships fostered a marked reduction in the percentage of Syrian refugee children born in the region each year without any form of identity documents (either a birth certificate or medical birth notification).

Syrian refugee children without identity documents dropped from 35% in 2012 to **1.8%** in 2018.

The 3RP for the Syria crisis: a humanitarian and development response plan

An integrated humanitarian and development strategy and response plan coordinated by UNDP and UNHCR, the 3RP involves over 270 partners—including UN Agencies, local actors, national and international NGOs, municipalities, academia, charities and foundations—who play a key role in shaping the response.

In 2018, 3RP achievements included: the enrolment of over 1.2 million children aged 5 to 17 years in formal education; support to over 50,000 people to access employment such as training, internships, job placement and language courses; food assistance to over 2.3 million people; the engagement of almost 800,000 individuals in community-led initiatives; and emergency cash assistance to over 450,000 households. 3RP partners also worked with host governments on the issue of work permits, in line with the commitments made during the London and Brussels Syria Conferences.

Notwithstanding a challenging funding environment, donors remained generous, providing some \$3.5 billion (62% of requirements). However, despite the generosity of host countries, communities, and donors, the plight of Syrian refugees continued to worsen. Poverty rates remained high, as did protection challenges. Access to education was limited. Host communities also faced their own challenges, including strained resources, limited services, and high unemployment.



Addressing and responding to mixed movements

Movements from the Middle East and North Africa continued to diminish with 141,500 people reaching Europe in 2018, representing a decrease of 23.5% when compared with 2017 (185,139). Some 2,277 people lost their lives, or were declared missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. The Libyan Coast

Guard rescued or intercepted nearly 15,000 refugees and migrants during 120 operations over the year. UNHCR provided protection monitoring, dedicated health posts, water and sanitation facilities, and amenities to shelter refugees and migrants from the elements.

UNHCR and partners were present at disembarkation points throughout north-western Libya, conducting protection

141,500 people reached Europe in 2018
15,000 refugees and migrants were rescued
2,277 were declared missing at sea.

monitoring, providing 9,700 non-food items packages and 1,600 medical consultations. Reception and processing arrangements were also in place in Tunisia, where the authorities rescued 290 people at sea.

Enhancing protection at sea in the context of mixed migration flows, UNHCR carried out regular capacity-building activities on international humanitarian law and international refugee law with local authorities, including with the Libyan Coast Guard. Given persistent challenges, UNHCR and IOM worked together with States on a regional mechanism for a sustainable approach to search, rescue and disembarkation based on cooperation and coordination among States.

Elsewhere, despite the worsening humanitarian and security situation in the country, mixed movements continued of refugees and migrants from the Horn of Africa to Yemen. Some 150,000 people reached Yemen in 2018 according to IOM, where UNHCR registered over 5,800 people of concern and counselled more than 2,200 through three return help-desks. Nearly 2,600 Somalis chose to return home in 2018 through UNHCR's assisted spontaneous return programme.

The introduction of restrictive measures across the region to address irregular migration greatly impacted people of

concern to UNHCR. Significant changes were observed in movement patterns, with Spain becoming the primary point for entry by sea in the second half of 2018 (see the *Europe* summary). Access to territory and asylum procedures were made harder, and greater protection responses were needed against forced returns. In a number of countries, asylum-seekers and refugees were refused entry at the border or were caught in collective arrest operations, resulting in their forced deportation to third countries.

Alternatives to detention

Alternatives to detention and the release of refugees and asylum-seekers was a priority for UNHCR, particularly given the number of people of concern detained under harsh conditions in Libya where more than 15,000 people were transferred to detention facilities following interception by the Libyan Coast Guard. UNHCR and its partners conducted more than 1,370 visits to detention centres, securing the release of over 2,700 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly for evacuation to third countries. UNHCR provided basic humanitarian assistance, and advocated enhanced access to screening, identification, and registration of refugees both at disembarkation points and in detention centres. Special measures were also developed to advocate against SGBV.

UNHCR secured the release of over **2,700** refugees and asylum-seekers.



UNHCR flight evacuates 132 refugees from detention in Libya

Over the course of 2018, UNHCR evacuated more than 2,200 vulnerable refugees to Niger from detention centres in Libya.

“My life starts today, I want to study hard and make a difference in the world.”

—Abdul Karim, Somali refugee in Libya.



© UNHCR/Photo: Harvada

In December 2018, UNHCR launched the gathering and departure facility in Tripoli, the first programme of its kind, ensuring a safe environment for vulnerable people while solutions such as resettlement, family reunification, or evacuation were established. Managed in cooperation with UNHCR's partner LibAid and the Libyan Ministry of Interior, the facility is one of a range of measures intended to offer a viable alternative to detention.

Responding with lifesaving support

Cash-based interventions

UNHCR provided nearly \$408 million in cash assistance—a slight increase compared with 2017 (\$314 million)—to more than 2 million refugees and displaced people across the region. Protection and cash programmes worked in tandem to ensure that vulnerable people were successfully identified, providing individuals with cash for their most basic needs, or with multi-purpose cash assistance.

Cash remained at the forefront of UNHCR's assistance in Yemen, with \$48 million disbursed to over 800,000 IDPs and returnees, and 130,000 refugees. Cash assistance targeted people with specific protection needs and those lacking adequate shelter or winter materials and was provided through phone-based money transfers in cooperation with Al Amal Bank. With the support of the Yemen Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster, UNHCR provided cash assistance for winterization to those living in areas facing especially low temperatures. Emergency cases were processed through UNHCR-managed community centres, which allowed for direct payments.

A Lebanese study on the effectiveness of cash assistance in preventing, mitigating and addressing SGBV risks found it to be an efficient tool and especially appropriate for SGBV survivors due to its discreet nature. Examples of positive outcomes included enabling survivors to move away from abusers and to rent for themselves and any children, and to undergo surgery or support a family member during recovery. Findings suggest that factors enabling the success of cash assistance in SGBV programming include functioning complementary services, individual case management plans, counselling on safety and empowerment issues, and effective monitoring mechanisms.

In Iraq, multi-purpose cash assistance was distributed through mobile money transfer mechanisms to some 170,000 vulnerable IDPs, with over 345,000 IDPs receiving winter cash support. In Egypt, approximately 86,000 people were reached monthly with cash programming, as were 10,800 in Libya. In Jordan and Lebanon, some 520,000 of the most vulnerable refugees benefited from multi-purpose allowances monthly. Some 1.16 million benefited from winter-specific cash assistance support. Challenges were faced in Syria, where more than 1.4 million people were identified as being eligible for cash assistance, but only 450,000 were assisted due to funding constraints. Pilot initiatives, including the use of cash assistance to prevent and mitigate child protection risks such as child labour and child marriage.

UNHCR provided **\$408** million in cash benefitting **2** million people across the region.



Private donors boost their support in favour of refugees and IDPs

Between 2016 and 2018, private donors in the Middle East and North Africa region contributed \$14.4 million in Zakat contributions. \$11.8 million were received in 2018 alone, \$10 million of which were donated by Qatar Charity, qualifying as the largest private partner in 2018 globally.

Qatar Charity significantly increased its overall contribution compared to 2017, with a total of \$26 million in 2018. Globally, more than 1 million refugees and IDPs have benefitted from this partnership.

UNHCR became the first UN Agency to provide a secure mechanism for people to fulfil Zakat obligations through the Zakat Initiative. Channelled through innovative cash assistance programmes, 100% of contributions go to vulnerable refugees and IDPs. The initiative is subject to rigorous governance, and has been recognized by five respected scholars and institutions.



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Sexual and gender-based violence

Preventing and responding to SGBV was a priority within the 3RP context. UNHCR strengthened the mainstreaming of SGBV prevention and response across all areas of programming through the development of national action plans in 3RP operations. Additional funding was secured from the “Safe from the start” initiative for three projects in 3RP operations: women’s leadership, empowerment, access and protection in Egypt; mitigating SGBV risks with the help of a mobile app in Jordan; and combatting SGBV through cash and livelihoods assistance in Turkey.

UNHCR implemented referral systems for SGBV survivors in operations such as Libya, Morocco and Yemen, ensuring access to medical care, social/psychological counselling, and legal assistance.

UNHCR also conducted trainings and capacity-building exercises for partners, local authorities and members of civil society in addressing protection and assistance gaps. Prevention interventions were as well ensured through community-based activities, building links between service providers and increasing engagement among refugee communities. Protection and prevention efforts included men and boys, who were engaged as agents of positive change to address unequal power dynamics, also serving as sensitization function informing about access to services in situations where they became survivors of SGBV.

127,000 survivors and people at risk of SGBV benefitted from multi-sectoral services in 2018.



Yazidi doctor brings former ISIS captives’ souls back to life

Having treated more than a thousand Yazidi women who escaped captivity, this gynaecologist dedicates herself to helping them rebuild their shattered lives.

“Medically, most of them suffered from pain. Many had sexually transmitted infections as a result of numerous rapes. But psychologically, the state of survivors was extremely bad.”

—Naghm Nawzat Hasan, Yazidi gynaecologist.



© UNHCR/Clare Thomas



Building better futures

Resettlement

There were 37,560 refugees submitted for resettlement from the region (21,542) and Turkey. Some 27,400 were actually resettled, of which 18,420 in the region itself. The largest number of referred refugees was from Syria (nearly 28,200), with almost 2,800 from Iraq. Reductions in resettlement quota allocations within the region and Turkey were noted, with a decrease of 6,500 people from the 2017 resettlement submission figures. In 2018, approximately 37% of submissions were for legal and physical protection needs, 31% were for survivors of violence and torture, 16% were for children and adolescents at risk, and 13% for women and girls at risk. An overall 54% of all resettlement submissions were for children.

UNHCR encouraged States to develop new resettlement programmes or to expand existing ones to improve burden- and responsibility-sharing with host countries, in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework commitments. In particular, the Office engaged with new resettlement States to try to increase the

number of resettlement places and complementary pathways to admission available to refugees. In addition, UNHCR worked with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as chair of the Syrian Resettlement Core Group, and with France as chair of the Central Mediterranean Core Group to share good practices, demonstrating the strategic impact of resettlement and identifying durable solutions, including the evacuation and resettlement of refugees from Libya.

54% of all resettlement submissions in 2018 were for children.



© UNHCR/Amr Salem/Samir Husein



Promote enabling conditions for voluntary repatriation

Where circumstances allowed, UNHCR worked with its partners to facilitate the return of people displaced across the region. Entering its second year in Yemen, the assisted spontaneous return programme has helped more than 3,400 Somalis return home since October 2017. The programme provides information and counselling through three local UNHCR

help desks across southern Yemen. An estimated 5,000 are expected to return to Berbera in north-west Somalia in the coming year, with UNHCR exploring similar programmes for refugees of other nationalities wishing to return home.

Whilst neither promoting nor facilitating the return of Syrian refugees in 2018, UNHCR supported those taking the decision to voluntarily return, upon departure in host countries as well as inside Syria. UNHCR and partners worked with the Government and other stakeholders in Syria to address the issues that refugees said inhibited their return, including through legislation, protection advocacy, and strengthening existing programmes. UNHCR also worked with host governments in countries neighbouring Syria to strengthen their capacity to help with refugee returns. Examples included helping refugees' access documentation, addressing the specific needs of particularly vulnerable individuals, identifying and finding solutions for unaccompanied and separated children, and counselling refugees on the implications of returning.

Education

UNHCR partnered with other UN Agencies and regional entities to advocate expanded opportunities and foster education solutions for refugee children and youth. Within the framework of the 3RP and “No lost generation” (a regional partnership focused on education and protection), UNHCR and partners promoted access for refugees to national education systems and advocated with governments for increased access to post-basic and higher education.

Hosting countries around the region made an important commitment in keeping their schools open to Syrian refugee children. This had a particular impact on primary-aged children, many of whom were born outside of Syria. Due to population growth, school-age refugees increased from 1.81 million in December 2017 to 1.92 million in December 2018. Enrolment in formal education increased by some 200,000 during the same period, while the number of children enrolled in regulated non-formal education fell by

School-age refugees increased from 1.81 million in 2017 to **1.92 million** in 2018.

40,000. As a result, over 675,600 (36%) of Syrian refugee children received no form of regulated education.

More than 11,600 students are estimated to have received scholarships in 2018, reflecting UNHCR's strong engagement with partners to ensure the availability of tertiary education. Refugee university enrolment reached 5% across Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, signifying an improvement in the global average for refugees. Some 154 refugees from Jordan and Lebanon benefitted from third country scholarships outside the region (see chapter on *Building better futures*).

A wide range of protection and socioeconomic challenges, such as child labour, child marriage, and recruitment by

armed forces contributed to negative coping mechanisms and hindered access to education in 2018. The Syria crisis continued to impose pressure on host-community children and youth in the five main host countries, especially in those where academic resources were exceedingly stretched.

The absorption capacity (for example, the infrastructure, available teachers, and learning materials) of national education systems that have expanded through the addition of second-shift classes is reaching its limits, and concerns about the quality of education are mounting as a result of increased pupil/teacher ratios.

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Goodwill Ambassadors meet with Syrian refugees in Jordan and Yemeni refugees in Djibouti

UNHCR Goodwill Ambassadors Atom Araullo and Emi Mahmoud visited Jordan to strengthen the public attention on the Syria refugee crisis. Regional supporters such as Kinda Alloush, Lojain Omran and Saba Mubarak generated almost 1 million video views for the Ramadan #HandInHand project.

Jung Woo-sung advocated powerfully for Yemeni refugees via field trips to Djibouti and Malaysia, resulting in two exclusive interviews from the field and an op-ed piece in the *Kyunghyang Sinmun* newspaper.

Watch more on Atom Araullo in Jordan here and Jung Woo-sung's visit to Yemeni refugees and his work as UNHCR National Goodwill Ambassador since June 2015 here.

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Consequences of underfunding

All situations, including the ones for Iraq, Syria and Yemen, were underfunded, with difficult decisions made about the priorities given the resources available. In addition, much of the funding to the region was earmarked (reducing its flexibility); came with rigid reporting requirements; and arrived in the second half of the year, leaving less time for implementation.

UNHCR’s appeal for the Syria situation was only 49% funded against a requirement of just under \$2 billion, while the Iraq situation saw only 38% funding against its required \$559.8 million, causing significant hardship for thousands of vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi IDPs and refugees. More than 1.1 million Syrian IDPs went without winterization assistance, 635,000 people did not receive emergency core relief items in Iraq and Syria, and approximately 42,000 Syrian refugees did not have access to health care support, particularly in Jordan and Lebanon. Due to lack of funding, cash assistance could not be dispersed to nearly 522,000 vulnerable Syrians in Jordan and Lebanon, where the majority of families were already below the poverty line.

In Yemen, funds were insufficient to meet the needs of even the most vulnerable.

The situation suffered from a lack of resources to support cash assistance programmes that were desperately needed given the heightened cost of living and the fact that many had exhausted all personal means living in situations of protracted displacement. For many people cash assistance was the only lifeline. UNHCR also lacked resources for crucial rehabilitation plans in Basateen and Kharaz camps, including vital water and sanitation networks and critical solarisation projects.

Elsewhere across the region, critical underfunding in Algeria led to unmet needs in the health, education, and livelihoods sectors of the Tindouf camps, where some 30% of essential drugs were not provided and nearly 50% of medical staff received no incentives. Financial constraints led to decreased capacity to meet the needs of children at risk in Egypt, including unidentified and separated children. In Mauritania, funds were insufficient to respond to the shelter needs of new arrivals from Mali, leaving thousands of households with inadequate shelter. Lack of funds also hindered UNHCR’s ability to effectively support the most vulnerable refugees in urban contexts, including accommodation, education, and psychosocial support. With increased mixed movements across the region, the lack of funding translated into specific protection gaps not being addressed, both for people in transit and those seeking asylum in the region and beyond.

Budget

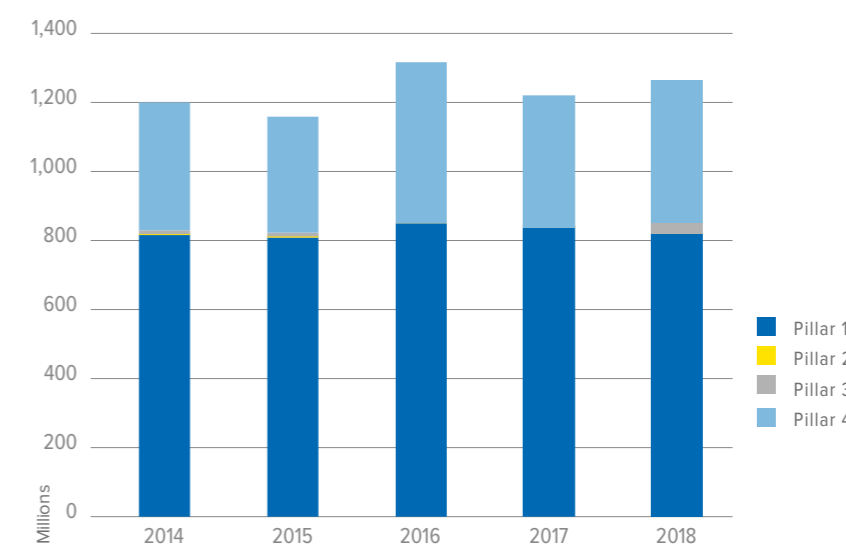
- ExCom original budget: **\$2.168 billion**.
- Final budget: **\$2.481 billion**.
- Budget increase: **\$313.6 million / +14%** due mainly to the Syria and the Central Mediterranean route situations.

Expenditure

SOURCE OF EXPENDITURE		USD thousands	As % of expenditure within the region	As % of global expenditure by source of funding
Carry-over from prior years	Earmarked	56,799	5%	34%
	Unearmarked	34,274	3%	17%
Voluntary contributions	Earmarked	1,020,405	81%	41%
	Softly earmarked	115,994	9%	20%
	Unearmarked	11,218	1%	3%
	In-kind	1,460	Less than 1%	4%
Programme support costs		1,896	Less than 1%	1%
Other income		13,005	1%	7%
TOTAL		1,255,051	100%	30%

- Expenditure represented **30%** of UNHCR global expenditure.
- Highest amount of expenditure funded from earmarked voluntary contributions, at **81%**.
- Voluntary contributions to the region increased slightly by **\$18.9 million / + 2%** compared to 2017.

EXPENDITURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA 2014-2018 | USD



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

OPERATION		PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL	% OF REGIONAL TOTAL
		Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects		
MIDDLE EAST							
Iraq	Budget	135,891,731	307,821	-	423,626,565	559,826,117	
	Expenditure	72,248,201	236,963	-	141,441,697	213,926,861	
Israel	Budget	3,957,076	-	-	-	3,957,076	
	Expenditure	2,776,011	-	-	-	2,776,011	
Jordan	Budget	274,896,607	-	-	-	274,896,607	
	Expenditure	224,593,201	-	-	-	224,593,201	
Lebanon	Budget	462,444,318	590,906	-	-	463,035,224	
	Expenditure	313,241,213	473,281	-	-	313,714,493	
Saudi Arabia	Budget	5,895,669	216,077	-	-	6,111,745	
	Expenditure	5,097,503	146,147	-	-	5,243,649	
Syrian Arab Republic	Budget	47,246,066	198,641	259,200,000	305,544,293	612,189,000	
	Expenditure	14,802,304	7,887	29,369,636	142,518,063	186,697,890	
Syrian Regional Refugee Coordination Office	Budget	29,027,926	-	-	30,000,000	59,027,926	
	Expenditure	26,528,865	-	-	14,195,647	40,724,512	
United Arab Emirates	Budget	4,808,914	-	-	-	4,808,914	
	Expenditure	3,292,456	-	-	-	3,292,456	
Yemen	Budget	95,145,669	-	-	103,597,968	198,743,637	
	Expenditure	33,770,397	-	-	101,563,498	135,333,896	
Sub-regional activities ¹	Budget	54,349,725	-	-	-	54,349,725	
	Expenditure	310,548	-	-	-	310,548	
SUBTOTAL	Budget	1,113,663,700	1,313,445	259,200,000	862,768,826	2,236,945,971	90%
	Expenditure	696,660,699	864,277	29,369,636	399,718,905	1,126,613,517	90%

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

OPERATION		PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL	% OF REGIONAL TOTAL
		Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects		
NORTH AFRICA							
Algeria	Budget	36,363,088	-	-	-	36,363,088	
	Expenditure	14,167,520	-	-	-	14,167,520	
Egypt	Budget	74,468,653	-	-	-	74,468,653	
	Expenditure	42,821,421	-	-	-	42,821,421	
Libya	Budget	74,341,433	-	-	10,658,565	84,999,998	
	Expenditure	34,227,951	-	-	10,010,351	44,238,302	
Mauritania	Budget	20,264,194	-	-	-	20,264,194	
	Expenditure	13,860,248	-	-	-	13,860,248	
Morocco	Budget	7,989,546	-	-	-	7,989,546	
	Expenditure	6,164,710	-	-	-	6,164,710	
Tunisia	Budget	5,694,843	-	-	-	5,694,843	
	Expenditure	4,032,898	-	-	-	4,032,898	
Western Sahara: Confidence Building Measures	Budget	8,478,237	-	-	-	8,478,237	
	Expenditure	2,389,203	-	-	-	2,389,203	
Sub-regional Activities ²	Budget	6,562,525	-	-	-	6,562,525	
	Expenditure	764,182	-	-	-	764,182	
SUBTOTAL	Budget	234,162,521	-	-	10,658,565	244,821,086	10%
	Expenditure	118,428,132	-	-	10,010,351	128,438,483	10%
TOTAL	Budget	1,347,826,221	1,313,445	259,200,000	873,427,391	2,481,767,057	100%
	Expenditure	815,088,831	864,277	29,369,636	409,729,256	1,255,052,000	100%

¹ Regional activities in the Middle East² Regional activities in North Africa

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | USD

DONOR	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	ALL PILLARS	TOTAL
	Refugee programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects		
United States of America	260,926,452		74,300,000	186,850,000	522,076,452
Germany	160,695,254		20,255,682	64,349,044	245,299,980
European Union	48,242,497		9,324,009	5,293,717	62,860,223
Saudi Arabia	11,120,210		32,992,119		44,112,329
Japan	13,893,020		25,667,068	1,981,708	41,541,796
Canada	24,905,660		7,473,842	5,870,696	38,250,198
Norway	16,930,002		6,376,738	7,671,572	30,978,311
United Arab Emirates	7,425,000		23,336,120	100,000	30,861,120
Italy	16,462,685		3,744,701		20,207,386
Kuwait	7,390,000		7,000,000	5,089,490	19,479,490
Country-based pooled funds	2,403,501		14,572,971		16,976,473
Netherlands	13,536,353		2,000,000		15,536,353
Private donors in Qatar	10,005,097		3,403,210	548,597	13,956,904
Sweden	4,441,624		3,172,589	4,949,239	12,563,452
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5,592,557		4,669,493		10,262,050
Private donors in Germany	117,925			8,609,784	8,727,708
Finland	4,320,988		1,234,568	3,086,420	8,641,975
France	6,352,265		250,000	2,002,584	8,604,849
Australia	8,303,035				8,303,035
Denmark	2,350,663			5,675,369	8,026,032
Switzerland	2,156,390		2,032,520	2,032,520	6,221,431
Qatar			3,000,000	3,000,000	6,000,000
Central Emergency Response Fund			5,970,599		5,970,599
Private donors in the United States of America	1,297,950		600,010	3,922,675	5,820,635
Belgium	5,515,247		284,414		5,799,661
Private donors in the Netherlands	2,734,500		1,179,655	148,915	4,063,069
Spain	3,477,330		452,243		3,929,574
Republic of Korea	1,250,000			2,200,000	3,450,000
Private donors worldwide	1,320,816		756	1,498,062	2,819,635
Austria	1,321,706			1,165,501	2,487,207
Private donors in the Republic of Korea				2,169,764	2,169,764
Czechia	1,895,735			226,552	2,122,286
Luxembourg	568,828			1,307,531	1,876,360
Private donors in Switzerland	12,394			1,564,978	1,577,372
Private donors in the United Arab Emirates	554,771		120,375	843,832	1,518,979
Private donors in Australia	316,598			873,891	1,190,488
China	1,164,667				1,164,667
Private donors in Sweden				1,064,218	1,064,218
Ireland	857,143				857,143
Russian Federation	300,000		500,000		800,000
Private donors in Kuwait	603,771			38,060	641,830
Private donors in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6,684		7,052	574,824	588,561
Private donors in Lebanon	420,407			149,773	570,180
Private donors in Canada	46,548			506,754	553,302
OPEC Fund for International Development		500,000			500,000
Private donors in Italy	344,922		907	123,586	469,415

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | USD

DONOR	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	ALL PILLARS	TOTAL
	Refugee programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects		
Private donors in Japan	425,063			11,685	436,748
Private donors in Indonesia	400,000				400,000
Poland	372,823				372,823
Monaco	363,948				363,948
Slovakia			236,967	113,766	350,732
UNICEF	224,000		96,862		320,862
Iceland				274,390	274,390
Liechtenstein			101,523	101,523	203,046
Private donors in Spain	16,409			165,582	181,991
Private donors in Saudi Arabia	33,550			86,603	120,153
Bulgaria			92,025		92,025
Estonia	89,606				89,606
Private donors in Brazil	76,947		3,159		80,106
Private donors in China	7,009			58,665	65,674
Romania				60,386	60,386
Private donors in Singapore	3,750		15,671	34,659	54,079
UNAIDS				50,000	50,000
Slovenia				47,790	47,790
Lithuania				47,574	47,574
Malta	46,784				46,784
Private donors in Oman	15,896			28,119	44,015
Private donors in France				40,750	40,750
Cyprus	34,130				34,130
Private donors in the Philippines				33,371	33,371
Morocco				25,598	25,598
Private donors in Egypt	7,202			11,530	18,733
Private donors in Thailand				18,420	18,420
Private donors in India	626			8,577	9,203
Private donors in Ireland				5,764	5,764
Holy See	5,000				5,000
Private donors in Jordan				3,951	3,951
Private donors in Kenya				3,741	3,741
Private donors in Ghana				2,937	2,937
Private donors in Austria				1,394	1,394
Private donors in Turkey				33	33
Private donors in Denmark				18	18
TOTAL*	653,703,936	500,000	254,467,847	326,726,482	1,235,398,265

Notes:

¹ Contributions include 7% programme support costs.² Includes a total of \$14.9 million acknowledged in 2017 for activities with implementation in 2018 and excludes \$31.8 million acknowledged in 2018 for activities with implementation in 2019 and beyond.³ Includes contributions earmarked at a situation overall level to Iraq situation response, Syria situation response and Yemen situation.