



**UNHCR**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

# **Country Operations Plan 2007**

## **Syrian Arab Republic**

# Country Operations Plan 2007

## Branch Office Damascus

### Part I – Overview

#### 1. Protection and socio-economic operational environment

The Syrian Government has continued to implement an open door policy towards persons of concern to UNHCR. It was also one of the few governments in the region to accept at the request of UNHCR without any restrictions the implementation of the Temporary Protection Regime (TP) for Iraqis in 2003. The TP was initially meant, in anticipation of the war in Iraq, to prevent the deportation of any Iraqis to Iraq whether they do qualify for refugee status or not.

At the same time the Syrian government has also remained generous concerning most other asylum-seekers and persons of concern to UNHCR, which consist mostly of Somalis, Sudanese and Afghans.

The number of asylum-seekers almost doubled in 2005 as compared with 2004 figures. Asylum-seekers numbered 3.935 individuals. Somalis amounted to 48.72%, followed by Sudanese at 19.36%, then Afghans at 8.95% and Iranians at 6.48%, whereas other nationalities amounted to the remaining 16.49%.

The Syrian Government does not yet officially recognize refugees under UNHCR mandate. However, it continues to respect generally the Recognition Letter and Asylum-Seekers Attestation Letter issued to those registered with UNHCR office in Damascus. The Syrian Government also respects this arrangement for Palestinians who entered Syria after the military operations in Iraq and who were registered by UNHCR.

Since the Syrian Government is not yet a party to the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol, UNHCR in Syria continued to perform its mandate activities related to protection of asylum-seekers and refugees. In areas where UNHCR Damascus has greater latitude of action, progress has been made in contributing towards expanding the asylum space and creating a climate more conducive to refugee protection. These activities continued in absence of any legal framework and any rights based approach for asylum in the host country for refugees other than Palestinian refugees.

At the end of 2004, the Syrian Arab Republic expressed its intention towards UNHCR to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (AfP1). Continued efforts towards encouraging the Syrian Arab Republic to accede to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees remained an important objective throughout 2005. Serious and consistent talks were held with various officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Government. They involved discussions on substantive issues of the 1951 Convention and procedural issues. UNHCR Damascus embarked on a series of activities involving advocacy and dissemination of information concerning the 1951 Geneva Convention among various Syrian governmental departments and conducted one major Seminar with the participation of Headquarters in February/March 2005. While encouraging the Syrian government to sign the 1951 Geneva Convention, UNHCR has also offered to assist the government in finding a solution for stateless individuals.

In contrast to other Arab countries, Syria has a relatively low poverty rate, though it is higher than the rate of its neighbours. Using the international 2 USD a day measure, a 2004 report claims that 10.36% of the Syrian population lives beneath the poverty line. Moreover, the unemployment rate

exceeds 20%. This means grave consequences when considering that national resources are depleted, jobs become rarer and prices rise with the influx of fugitives from Iraq.

UNHCR dispensed its modest assistance through the two implementing partners the Syrian Red Crescent Society and the Syrian Women Union. Besides these two implementing partners UNHCR also funds charity organizations that function as partners; these include Al-Raai El-Salih Convent, Ibrahim El-Khalil Church and CARITAS. Outside Damascus, the assistance to Iraqis under Temporary Protection is provided through the Hassake Governorate.

UNHCR's assistance program will continue in the coming future as refugees are not allowed to work in Syria and, although their informal employment is tolerated, jobs are very difficult to find in view of the difficult economic conditions. UNHCR has repeatedly requested the host government to ensure that the general principles and minimum standards of acceptable state practice relating to the detention of refugees and asylum-seekers are met.

In 2005, the evaluation of a pilot project aiming at enhancing a community development approach resulted in the roll-out of gender and age mainstreaming to Syria, including enhanced reception facilities, protection monitoring, refugee status determination (RSD), and distribution mechanisms. In this context a network of community services staff and multifunctional gender and age teams comprising protection, programme and field staff has been established in Syria (AfP 4.4, 3.4, 1.2.4, 1.9.2, and 1.11.3). In addition, a participatory assessment was conducted in 2005 wherein all staff members took part.

To further assist refugees and asylum seekers several staff training sessions were conducted and even more are planned for the future. In March 2006 there was a training session on fake travel documents. It was held for eligibility officers and receptionists, so that they may recognize it when asylum-seekers bring false documents.

Together with UNICEF and WFP, UNHCR conducted a survey on Iraqi families living in Syria in 2005, in order to better assess and assist them. Furthermore, home visits, medical assistance and skill development are the most important activities UNCHR does in order to protect and aid Iraqis. According to the survey, 60% of Iraqis considered the TP Regime, along with its benefits, useful.

As for regional cooperation, Jordan and Lebanon have been dealing with the same wave of Iraqis fleeing from deteriorating conditions in Iraq. In order to synchronize, learn from and assist each other UNHCR Damascus received a visit from UNHCR Amman in March 2006. RSD procedures as well as coordination between the two branch offices were discussed, along with collaboration with UNRWA to help Iraqi Palestinians. Also, contact with the Lebanese branch office of UNHCR remains lively, so that large migration and asylum-shopping can be prevented.

In the fall of 2005 UNHCR Damascus launched a local fund raising campaign for Iraqis in Syria. As a first result of that campaign the Swiss Development Agency has decided to earmark 100.000 Swiss Francs to Syria.

Also, special EU funding has been requested by submitting proposals for the AENEAS and ECHO programs in order to support the Temporary Protection Regime in Syria.

Some of the resources from the AENEAS project will go into enhancing the protection capacity of UNHCR in the three countries, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. This includes the recruitment and training of legal, eligibility (refugee status determination) and resettlement officers / assistants, with focus on dealing with emergency cases in detention or at risk of deportation, at least two detention focal points are determined in each UNHCR office, the identification of most vulnerable cases with the implementation of refugee status determination without delay and consecutive resettlement submissions. Second, government officials and implementing partners will be trained on UNHCR's mandate and role in the three countries. The rest will be allocated to implementing

partners to provide targeted assistance to vulnerable cases in the field of health and education and to support self-reliance projects.

In 2005, UNCHR Damascus increased its resettlement quota by 50% from the previous year. As for the next year, the numbers are likely to increase further because of the new November 2005 Advisory on Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

UNHCR's resettlement program benefited from the acceptance of 446 individual refugees and the departure of 544 individual refugees in the course of the year 2005. Aside from serving a humanitarian function, resettlement has thus been a tangible measure of responsibility sharing and an effective means for reducing the impetus to irregular movement of refugees and asylum-seekers from Syria. The number of submissions as well as departure of certain categories of refugees was affected by the reticence shown by some traditional resettlement countries.

Syria also has a number of long-stayers. These are recognized refugees for whom no durable solution has been found. Currently, the Syrian government is not in a position to give any support to either de iure or de facto long-stayers and no local integration is taking place. Thus, UNHCR follows recommendation 12 and reconsiders the special situation of long-stayers, taking into account the final Report of the Beirut Workshop (end of November 2005), which was organized to discuss the draft UNHCR Revised Policy on Refugees and Asylum-seekers in Urban Areas.

## **2. Operational goals and potential for durable solutions**

As a result of the tense situation in Iraq combined with the worsening of human rights situation and of the living conditions in the aftermath of the fall of the previous regime, Syria continues to receive a large number of Iraqi citizens. Up to date the number of Iraqis registered with UNHCR Damascus reached 27,217 persons who have been accordingly issued Temporary Protection Letters. According to a recent survey conducted by UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP there are around 450.000 Iraqis currently living in Syria. The government declared that it did not forcibly return persons with valid claims to refugee status. Moreover, due to the heavy burden that the Iraqis' large number lays on the Syrian state, the TP Regime has lost some of its strength and stricter regulations are being applied in regard to Iraqis. Entering Syria has become more difficult and for financial reasons Syrians have stopped granting Iraqis unlimited access to public hospitals. To combat this limitation, banning Iraqis from Syrian public hospitals, UNHCR allocated up to 10.000 Syrian Pounds to each Iraqi for medical expenses after assessing their objective needs. Furthermore, UNHCR established links with the Italian Red Cross' branch office in Masaken Barza (Damascus) in the beginning of March 2006, in order to fill gaps in medical care. Besides medical help and protection under the TP Regime, Iraqis are encouraged to become independent and to this end, are taught job-related skills, since UNHCR is not financially able to provide extensive allowances, besides basics food items to the most needy.

UNHCR has not taken part in any organized repatriations to Iraq since the withdrawal of UNCHR and other UN international staff from Iraq in 2003. While a large number of refugees and especially Iraqis under temporary protection were able to continue to abode in the host country, most of them have little prospects of socio-economic integration. Given the socio-economic realities of the host country, UNHCR supported some of the refugees in the form of skills development, food assistance, financial assistance and health care.

Along with the Iraqis, there is a limited number of Palestinians. These Palestinians have lived in Iraq for decades and have only now come from Iraq. Thus, they do not fall under UNRWA's mandate. In September 2005 a group of 19 Palestinians from Iraq arrived at the Syrian border and requested entry. However, because of the lack of proper travel documents and political concerns, the group remained stranded at the border for several weeks. UNHCR in cooperation with UNRWA intervened on behalf of the group and secured that the very minimum standards of living were met. Following several weeks of negotiations with the authorities the 19 Palestinians

were allowed to enter Syria on the sole condition that they would reside in UNHCR's former camp of EI-Hol in Hassake province, however, one of these returned to Iraq.

For the future, UNHCR expects that more Palestinians will arrive from Iraq, where conditions are deteriorating and where ethnic and religious strife has targeted Palestinians. To be prepared the UNHCR BO Damascus has developed a contingency plan.

As mentioned above, UNHCR Damascus in 2005 received 2548 refugees. Iraqis constituted 52.32% of the total number, followed by Somalis with 23.28%, then Afghans with 8.99% and Sudanese constituting 6.95%. The remaining 8.48% include all other nationalities. As is clearly visible from the numbers, most Iraqis that are registered with UNHCR Damascus are not recognized by UNHCR as refugees. Instead, the vast majority remains under the TP Regime and will, thus, remain in Syria for some time. In contrast, recognized refugees are resettled whenever possible. Since Syria is not a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention of Refugees local integration is not a possibility. Re-patriation also in only rarely an option, as the major beneficiary populations, Iraqis, Somalis and Sudanese, are incapable and/or unwilling to return.

In the meanwhile, recognized refugees are usually resettled to third countries of asylum, namely Sweden, Norway, Australia, the USA, Canada and Switzerland.

Derived from UNHCR's global strategic objectives, the following are the overall strategic goals of the 2006 Syria refugee programme:

- In the future the UNHCR Damascus office's goals are to further resettlement possibilities and at the same time encourage Syria to accede to the 1951 Geneva Convention of Refugees. This would be helpful especially in regard to Somalis, as they are at times polygynous and it thus impossible to resettle them in a European country unless they break up their own families. In contrast, polygyny is tolerated in Syria.
- Foster partnerships and complementarities between UNHCR and other partners, particularly NGOs that are to be newly found and UN system agencies, as the essential platform for attaining the objectives of the 2006 programme.
- Continue to give priority to ethical conduct by humanitarian personnel in line with UNHCR, the Inter-Agency and other relevant Codes of Conduct or instruments mandating ethical conduct.
- Protection and assistance for urban refugees and asylum-seekers: This programme would support several activities with the overall objective that the established protection standards of treatment for refugees, especially women, girls and children, are secured and critically needed services provided. It would include provisions for protection delivery in exceptional security cases, including secure accommodation and also cater for medical referrals. Protection action to stem abusive arrests and detention and for the transportation of asylum-seekers and refugee to the camp in a secure and dignified manner would also be provided for.
- Eradication of sexual and gender based violence through focus on protecting women and girls against sexual and gender based violence including harmful traditions through SGBV.
- External relations: designed to raise awareness on the Syrian refugee programme among the public at large, civil society and special constituencies such as the donor community.
- Iraqis under temporary protection are not a group of unidentifiable individuals with standardized problems but with concrete protection needs and various degrees of vulnerabilities. UNHCR has a duty to offer them individualized counselling and support in order to improve their living conditions in Syria and help them take an informed decision about the future.

## **Part II – Comprehensive needs and partnership**

### **1. Outcomes of joint planning and management of identified gaps**

#### a.) Cooperation with partners and other UN agencies

UNHCR has strengthened and plans to continue strengthening its partnerships with partners in order to address women's issues generally and more specifically: prostitution. UNHCR chaired a number of initiatives to collect more reliable information and also to develop strategies to identify solutions. The main partners in these initiatives were UNHCR Damascus' implementing and operational partners, along with UNICEF and UNFPA. One of the ideas that arose was the establishing a 'food-kitchen' for Iraqi women in either Sayyeda Zaynab or Masaken Barza. UNHCR plans to pursue this idea with its implementing partner, the Syrian Red Crescent. This initiative is meant to encourage women to find employment solutions and perhaps to save some women from extreme economic hardship which possibly may lead to prostitution.

UNHCR Damascus currently has one implementing partner which is the Syrian Red Crescent and the Governorate of Hassake in the field dealing mainly with Iraqis under Temporary Protection. In 2007, the UNHCR BO in Damascus will continue to search for other implementing partners. This search is not a simple task as the NGO network in Syria is not very strong.

Nevertheless, UNHCR Damascus has a number of partners which include charity organizations that directly provide medical assistance, food rations, educational support, consultation and other services to Iraqis under TP. UNHCR Damascus has signed Letters of Understanding to continue supporting these charity which are Al-Raai El-Salih Convent, Ibrahim El-Khalil Church and CARITAS. Additionally, UNHCR BO Damascus cooperates closely with the north-eastern Governorates of Hassake and Abu Kamal.

Syria has been hosting 450.000 Palestinians who are currently living in 10 official camps and are assisted by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. UNHCR Damascus continued preliminary discussions with the Syrian entity GAPAR, the General Authority of Palestinian Arabs Refugees in Syria, dealing with the Palestinian Refugees in Syria. The aim of these discussions was to see how UNHCR could address protection gap faced by about 50.000 Palestinian refugees who are not registered with UNRWA and do not benefit from its services.

#### b.) Participatory assessment

There were a number of findings made through the participatory assessment which was carried out in a series of group discussions involving both UNHCR staff and refugees throughout fall and winter of 2005 and culminated in a workshop on December 18, 2005. It appeared through the participatory assessments, conducted by the UNHCR office in Damascus that different rules applied to different nationalities. While the Syrian immigration legislation did not contain clear provisions on this matter, it was clear that Somalis obtained legal residency in Syria with much more ease as compared with Sudanese and Iraqis, both of whom are considered Arabs, and with more ease than Afghans, who are considered non-Arabs. It is an issue, which requires more in-depth collection of knowledge in close co-operation with the Syrian authorities.

The participatory assessment also shed light on several issues pertaining to children. Especially Sudanese and also Somalis had been subject to racial discrimination in the schools from other pupils. School certificates acquired in the country of origin were in some instances not recognized by Syrian authorities, which either caused long delays or even ceased the school attendance during the exile in Syria. This was in particular a problem for the Iraqi children. Language barriers for especially Somali and Afghan children were put forward as a major obstacle in the advancement in the Syrian school system. UNHCR in cooperation with refugee teachers in the refugee communities established some Arabic classes in order to enable the children to manage in the Arabic-speaking school environment.

Child labour moved higher and higher up the agenda as a matter of urgency and became more visible through the participatory assessment and also the joint UN agency Iraqi assessment. It was in particular Iraqi children, who seemed to be affected by being forced to work in order to support the family with financial resources. It remained an extremely serious issue for which it was difficult to identify viable solution not only because it continued to be difficult to grasp the matter in its totality and complexity but also because individualized assistance to particular hardship families was not advocated for as a solution and the development of community projects was a particular challenge for which the office will continue to devote attention and resources. The main counterpart in children's issues was UNICEF with whom UNHCR continued to enjoy a fruitful cooperation.

Particularly Afghan, but also Sudanese families, had not all been successful in obtaining birth certificates for their children or new born babies. In some instances, the problem was due to the fact that the child had not got the birth certificate in the country of origin, in other instances the problem was that obtaining birth certificates in Syria without holding valid personal identification document e.g. passport and without being in conformity with the immigration regulation could be difficult. The office supported in such cases either through documentation or through accompanying the parents concerned to the civil authorities.

Solutions proposed by the refugees to some of the problems identified during the participatory assessments included to have social counsellors from the refugee communities themselves who would be present in the community centres and act as supporters to the children and youth facing difficulties with adapting to their new life in Syria. These would also act as intermediaries for UNHCR and the larger refugee communities with regard to this particular group of children and adolescents.

#### c.) Status of Iraqis under Temporary Protection

As a result of the tense situation in Iraq combined with the worsening of human rights situation and of the living conditions in the aftermath of the fall of the previous regime, Syria continues to receive a large number of Iraqis. Around 450.000 Iraqis are living in Syria. Although the government denied that it forcibly repatriated persons with valid claims to refugee status, UNHCR reported that some Iraqis under Temporary Protection were deported during the year. Nevertheless, it has also been confirmed that entering Syria and residing in Syria has become more difficult for Iraqis in the last year.

UNHCR has not taken part in any organized repatriations to Iraq since the withdrawal of UNCHR and other U.N. international staff from Iraq in 2003. Although a large number of refugees and especially Iraqis under Temporary Protection were able to continue to abode in the host country, most of them have little prospects of socio-economic integration. Given the socio-economic realities of the host country, UNHCR supported some of the refugees in the form of skills development, food assistance, financial assistance and health care. In order to make the Temporary Protection Regime more feasible and in order to support Iraqis in a more dignified way, UNHCR together with UNICEF and WFP conducted a survey on the situation of Iraqis in Syria. The survey was initiated in the fall of 2005 and the results were presented to the donor community on March 28, 2006.

Even before the conducting of the survey on Iraqi families, participatory assessment projects yielded some worrying results. Child labour moved higher and higher up the agenda as a matter of urgency and became more visible through the participatory assessment and also the joint UN agency Iraqi assessment. Iraqi children, in particular, seemed to be affected by being forced to work in order to support the family financially. It remains an extremely serious issue and it is difficult to find viable solutions. Nevertheless, UNICEF remains UNHCR's main counterpart in children's issues and the two continue to support each other.

## 2. Comprehensive needs and contributions

### Contributions by the host government, refugee and/or local communities:

The indirect contribution made by Syrian society should also be given due mention in this context. Throughout the years, Syrian employers have provided work opportunities for refugees (mostly informal or unregulated work). Despite serious reservations about this form of work, we are forced to acknowledge that such a contribution forms an important source of income for refugees and other persons of concern which is much needed in Syria, especially when UNHCR barely meets a small portion of refugees' basic needs.

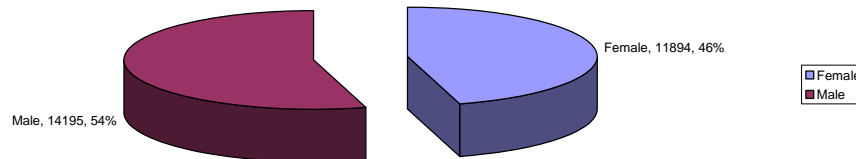
Needs-based budget for the country operation	Total (all figures in USD)	1,332,831 (AB Budget) 100,000 (SB Budget)
	UNHCR	1,332,831 (AB Budget) 100,000 (SB Budget)
	WFP (where applicable)	N/A
	Operational partners	- 0 -
	Implementing partners	- 0 -
	Unmet needs	- 0 -



### Part III – Beneficiary populations and/or themes

#### Beneficiary Population # 1: Asylum-Seekers and Refugees

CO Syria Refugee Population as of 31/12/2005 by Gender Group



#### Populations: Somalis and Sudanese (1)

- a. Number and characteristics of beneficiary population, main locations and types of settlement

In 2005, UNHCR Damascus recognized 593 Somali refugees and 177 Sudanese refugees. The Somalis live in Masaken Barze which is an area inside Damascus and the Sudanese live in Jarmana, Dwelaa and other areas in the outskirts of Damascus. There, they live in rented rooms. Often large families occupy a single room.

- b. Results of the participatory assessment with the refugees/ persons of concern

The participatory assessment of 2005 carried out within the framework of the gender-, age-, and diversity mainstreaming project shed light on several issues pertaining to children. Sudanese and also Somalis especially had been subject to racial discrimination in the schools from other pupils. School certificates acquired in the country of origin were in some instances not recognized by Syrian authorities, which either caused long delays or even ceased the school attendance during the exile in Syria. Language barriers for especially Somali children were put forward as a major obstacle in the advancement in the Syrian school system. UNHCR in cooperation with refugee teachers in the refugee communities established some Arabic classes in order to enable the children to manage in the Arabic-speaking school environment.

#### Populations: Afghans and Iranians (2)

- a. Number and characteristics of beneficiary population, main locations and types of settlement

In 2005, UNHCR Damascus had 352 Afghan asylum seekers and 229 Afghan refugees. Also, there were 225 Iranian asylum seekers. For the most part, they live in Sayyeda Zaynab, which is considered to belong to the rural areas of Damascus.

b. Results of the participatory assessment with the refugees/ persons of concern

According to the 2005 participatory assessment, Afghan children faced difficult language barriers when entering Syrian schools. This proved to be a major obstacle in the advancement in the Syrian school system. UNHCR in cooperation with refugee teachers in the refugee communities established some Arabic classes in order to enable the children to manage in the Arabic-speaking school environment.

**Beneficiary Population # 2: Iraqis under Temporary Protection**

a. Number and characteristics of beneficiary population, main locations and types of settlement

There are around 450.000 Iraqis living in Syria. 27,217 of these are currently registered with UNHCR and are thus under the Temporary Protection Regime. Of those registered with UNHCR 60% are Arab, 24% Chaldeans, 13% Assyrians, 1% Kurds, and 2% belong to other ethnicities. Furthermore, 27% of those under TP are Shii, 18% are Sunni, 45% Christians and 10% Sabians/Mandeans.

They are found in nearly all areas. However, there are particular areas with high concentrations of Iraqi inhabitants. These include Damascus and its rural areas (Masaken Barze, Jaramana and Sayyeda Zaynab) and the north eastern governorates of Hassake and Deir Ezzor.

b. Results of the participatory assessment with Iraqis

The participatory assessment, in addition to the joint UNHCR/ UNICEF/ WFP survey, which were conducted in 2005 yielded some worrying results. The majority of Iraqis left Iraq due to general insecurity in Iraq. Most of the Iraqis fled to Syria due to its "open-door policy" with regard to refugees. So far, Iraqis enjoy generally satisfactory standards of health thanks to UNHCR's implementing partner, the Syrian Red Crescent Society.

School-access is generally granted to Iraqi children, yet up to 30% of elementary school children do not attend school because of their insecure legal status and their economic situation. Child labour moved higher and higher up the agenda as a matter of urgency and became more visible through the participatory assessment and also the joint UN agency Iraqi assessment. This, in particular is a result of the prohibition of Iraqis to work in Syria. Iraqi children, in particular, seemed to be affected by being forced to work in order to support the family financially. It remains an extremely serious issue and it is difficult to find viable solutions. Nevertheless, UNICEF remains UNHCR's main counterpart in children's issues and the two continue to fruitful cooperation.

Another issue that continues to prevail is the problem of prostitution among Iraqi women and girls. In response, UNHCR chaired a number of initiatives to collect more reliable information and also to develop strategies to identify solutions. The main partners in these initiatives were UNHCR Damascus' implementing and operational partners, along with UNICEF and UNFPA. One of the ideas that arose was the establishment of an income generating project for Iraqi women in either Sayyeda Zaynab or Masaken Barze. UNHCR plans to pursue this idea with its implementing partner, the Syrian Red Crescent. This initiative is meant to encourage women to find employment solutions and perhaps to save some women from extreme economic hardship which possibly may lead to prostitution.

Iraqis under the TP, especially women and children, will be encouraged to participate in programs and activities in UNHCR's two Refugee Centres. Such programs are designed to help students overcome the difficulties they face in school.

c. Assumptions and constrains

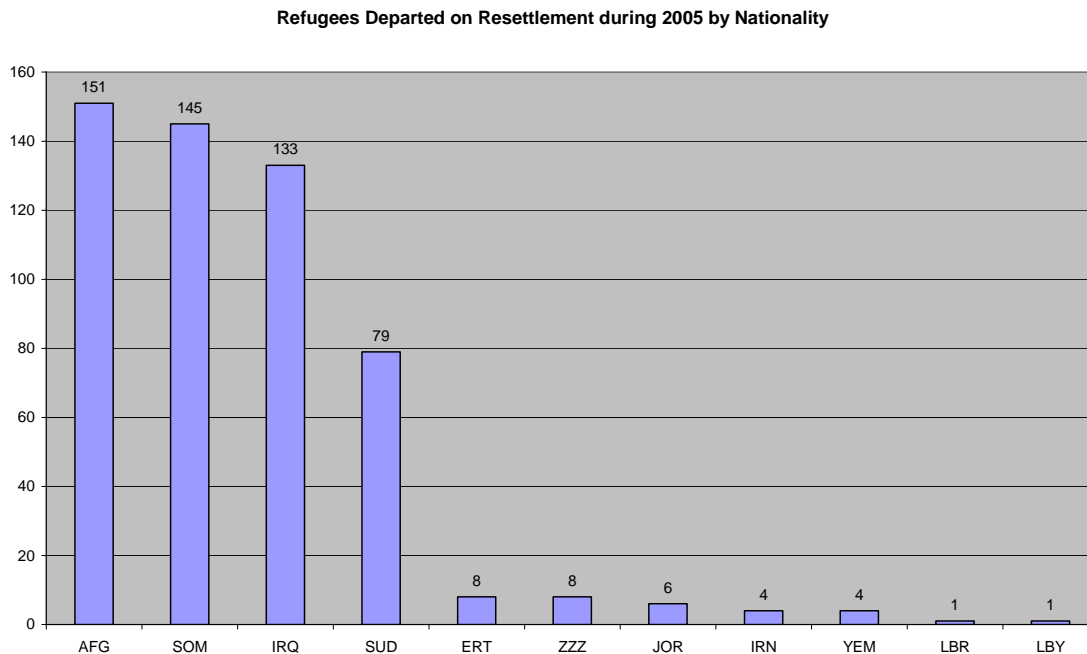
Current major constraints are that the traditionally hospitable Syrian government is becoming increasingly strict with the entrance and residence of Iraqis. Also, because the large number of Iraqis is proving to become a financial and social burden on Syria, the Syrian government in 2005 restricted free access of Iraqis to public hospitals with the exception of remote locations such as Hassake and Abu Kamal, though Iraqi children still have free access to Syrian schools.

**Theme # 1: Promotion of Refugee Protection – Care and Maintenance**

**2007/AB/32140/CM/201: Care and Maintenance Assistance of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Syria**

- Provide basic assistance to new arrivals at the UNHCR reception centre (health care, temporary shelter and referrals).
- Strengthening the RSD operation at the BO of Damascus through regular training and supervision of the first and second instance decisions recommended by the eligibility staff.
- Supporting the Syrian government and NGO partners in development and maintenance of an international protection regime and the provision of protection and assistance, pursuant to the Agenda for Protection goals. UNHCR will further capacitate both the government and civil society in order to build a partnership in the protection of and assistance to refugees, which will continue to strengthen the asylum system in the country. Improvement of technical capacity and strengthening the knowledge of governmental authorities (MFA, MOI/ID and security authorities) and NGO partners in dealing with refugee issues is part of UNHCR's strategy for filling in gaps in international protection.
- Providing education for refugees through Syrian public schools in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education by signing an agreement.
- Assisting needy refugee children, enabling them to attend primary and elementary schools by providing uniforms, books and stationary.
- Funding vocational training for refugee women and youth that give refugee adults marketable skills and increase their prospects for achieving self-reliance and economic integration in Syria or following eventual voluntary repatriation or resettlement.
- Operating refugee community centres in Sayyeda Zaynab and Massaken Barze that offer social and legal counselling, skills training and income generating opportunities, day care for children, opportunities for recreation and social and cultural activities for youth.
- Providing preventive and curative medical care and hospital referrals, as well as reproductive health and HIV/AIDS education, counselling and services for refugees through UNHCR's implementing partners (SRCS, Ibrahim El-Khalil Convent, and Al-Raai El-Saleh Convent).
- Provide vulnerable families with selective food assistance. In Hassake and Deir Ezzor they are provided for by the Governor of Hassake and in Damascus through CARITAS.

## Theme # 2: Resettlement of Refugees



### **(a) Rationale for establishing a theme:**

This theme has been established in line with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Strategic Objective, “Redoubling the search for durable solutions,” with the aim to enhance the strategic and comprehensive use of resettlement as outlined in Goal 5 of the Agenda for Protection under UNHCR Damascus’ project 2007/AB/32140/RE/500: Assistance for resettlement cases from Syria.

The UNHCR BO Damascus will build upon the activities of 2005 and pay increased attention to operational priorities, planning and coordination with resettlement stakeholders, including resettlement country governments, IOM, NGOs and functional units within UNHCR. Particular attention will be given to strengthen planning and coordination between functional units and broaden the knowledge-base of UNHCR staff involved in protection delivery.

### **(b) Assumptions and constraints:**

A major concern in the Syrian programme is to ensure that Resettlement activities function with quality and integrity. Confidential and sensitive cases are handled with professionalism. In that sense, UNHCR will continue resettlement processing of deserving cases following the established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), while focusing also on improvement in case identification.

The theme will enhance and reinforce resettlement activities in Syria – with particular attention to priority cases and the strategic use of the group resettlement methodology – whilst maintaining quality, credibility, and predictability. Group resettlement initiatives, however, will only be pursued where strategic benefits are evident and resettlement serves to enhance, rather than diminish, prospects for other durable solution.

Syria is neither a party to the 1951 Convention nor the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and there is no governmental structure in charge of refugee issues or domestic Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures. Until November 2001, Arab nationals in Syria

enjoyed a visa-free entry and unlimited stay. Following a new immigration regulation in June 2001, all foreigners' stay is limited to three months and a residence permit is only given under certain conditions and for a limited period. This new regulation directly affects asylum-seekers and refugees whose asylum applications may be pending or who may be in the resettlement process.

UNHCR is currently discussing with Syrian authorities a special right to remain for asylum-seekers and refugees (and subsequent protection from *refoulement* or deportation). However, in the interim, resettlement from Syria is becoming more important and fast processing of resettlement cases (including clearance and departures) is crucial. Due to changes in the political circumstances in the region, Syrian authorities have begun implementing a restrictive policy on admission and residence of Iraqi nationals.

This has led to an increasing number of detentions by local authorities of both Iraqis under Temporary Protection and refugees of other nationalities. As such, resettlement remains the only viable durable solution in Syria. It has been used at instances as an international protection tool and at others as a durable solution for refugees who don't have local integration prospects and whose repatriation remains unfavourable at this time.

In cases of detention, UNHCR is generally informed by family members or friends of the detainee. Following RSD, in case where one hadn't been conducted prior to detention, the refugee's case is put on fast-track resettlement processing: a thorough Resettlement Registration Form is completed and submitted to UNHCR Headquarters on emergency priority.

Such procedures also apply to other fast-track cases including those with emergency medical needs and unaccompanied children and adolescents who have close family links in resettlement countries (and whose application through the respective embassy has been rejected). Emergency resettlement is done through UNHCR HQs and serves to prevent deportation of detained refugees, as well as resettle those with specific needs within the shortest delay.

The possibility of a formal and durable integration in Syria is basically non-existent, due to the lack of legal framework pertaining to refugees' protection, the harsh economic situation, and the current security concerns. To date, Syria has enacted no legislative or administrative provisions to facilitate the assimilation and naturalization of refugees. As per local laws and practice, refugees have no long term access to employments, education and social services. Refugees in Syria are not allowed to work legally and work in the informal sector is rare due to the difficult economic situation in Syria. Furthermore, refugees face restrictions in having access to advanced medical services. Hence, resettlement from Syria constitutes a protection tool and a durable solution.

The majority of newly recognized cases are selected for resettlement. However, careful assessment and review of each case helps identify those with special needs and determine the most suitable resettlement country accordingly. Local submissions are made to Canada, Australia and the United States. Those with family links to the UK are submitted through the regional HUB in Beirut, Lebanon, as are cases submitted to Sweden.

Resettlement is a lengthy process (including security and medical clearances). However, once resettled, refugees are provided with security, stability and assistance in their third countries of asylum. As such, resettlement in Syria is both an international protection tool and a durable solution and more importantly a burden-sharing tool.

With the recent UNHCR Advisories regarding Somalia, Sudan and Afghanistan, UNHCR Damascus' Somali, Sudanese and Afghan caseloads are expected to increase significantly. This will in deed greatly affect the Durable Solutions Unit and its capacity to process the large number of cases recognized under the 1951 Convention's Extended Mandate.

It is expected that the number of refugees to be resettled will increase from 540 in 2005 to 930 in 2006, and also that there would be an increase in the number of resettlement countries. Also, since the situation in Iraq is not improving, it is expected that more Iraqis will enter Syria and many of these are likely to register with UNHCR and seek protection under the TP Regime.

In 2005 UNHCR recruited 2 national UNVs to follow up on resettlement related matters. However, the allocated and essential Associate Resettlement Officer Post to be filled with a JPO has been vacant since January 2005 and BO Damascus is eagerly waiting for one JPO programme government to send someone to Syria.

#### **2007/AB/32140/RE/500 Assistance for resettlement cases from Syria**

- Resettlement of detained refugees prevents them from being deported.
- For family re-unification cases, resettlement re-unites refugees with relatives, while for security cases it may save their lives.
- For others, including vulnerable groups and long-stayers unable to return to their countries of origin and legally unable to integrate in Syria, resettlement is a durable solution.
- Resettlement provides a durable solution for serious medical cases. Refugees will have a better chance to be treated and lead a healthier life in their resettlement countries.
- UNHCR BO Damascus aims to be staffed with an adequate number of staff members in order to process data a sufficient rate, enabling refugees to reach their respective resettlement countries as soon as possible.

### Theme # 3: Health, Education and Voluntary Repatriation of Iraqis currently in Syria

#### (a) Rationale for establishing a theme:

The rationale for establishing the theme “Health, Education and Voluntary Repatriation for Iraqis from Syria” is the potential continuation of a limited SB Budget throughout 2007 for the benefit of Iraqis residing in Syria. Since 2004, the office in Damascus was able to provide services to refugees and other persons of concern not only from its regular programme (AB) but also from the SB for the Iraqi operation. Given the fact that Iraqis constitute the vast majority of persons of concern, the activities undertaken under the SB have not only been vital but have been part of UNHCR core activities. Based on the assumption that a SB may not be approved for a fourth consecutive year, we have consolidated the core activities currently undertaken under both the SB and the AB, under an increased AB. Thus, what looks as an increase is just the combination of the existing AB and SB, with the view of a more transparent submission, identifying the core needs under the AB and complimenting it with a small SB budget (health, education and VOLREP).

#### (b) Assumptions and constraints:

Current major constraints are that the traditionally hospitable Syrian government is becoming increasingly strict with the entrance and residence of Iraqis. Also, because the large number of Iraqis is proving to become a financial and social burden on Syria, the Syrian government in 2005 restricted free access of Iraqis to public hospitals, though Iraqi children still have free access to Syrian schools.

#### Demographic Data of Beneficiary Population

Iraqis under TP						
Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	(in absolute numbers)	(in %)	(in absolute numbers)	(in %)	(in absolute numbers)	(in %)
0-4	1110	8.98	1147	7.72	2257	8.29
5-17	3571	28.88	3917	26.38	7488	27.51
18-59	7122	57.59	9176	61.79	16298	59.88
60 and >	563	4.55	611	4.11	1174	4.31
Total:	12366	100.00	14851	100.00	27217	100.00
Major locations:	Damascus					

#### 2007/SB/32140/RP/333 Voluntary Repatriation for Iraqis from Syria:

- UNHCR BO Damascus will provide Iraqis with information on their areas of origin so that they may reach a well-informed decision regarding voluntary repatriation. UNHCR will establish clear procedures for repatriation and registration. UNHCR will coordinate with the receiving country giving priority to the most vulnerable persons. UNHCR will cover transportation costs and provide a repatriation grant (to be fixed according to destination and agreed criteria), exit visa fees and repatriation documents in coordination with government officials.
- Refugees will be properly informed about UNHCR assistance programs, those who opt for humanitarian assistance and protection will be further assisted in coordination with governmental officials, the implementing partner and UNHCR field staff.
- Under this project UNHCR BO Damascus will continue to support public health and education sectors in Syria as these sectors need additional funding to support and enlarge their capacities.

## Part IV - Management

### 1. Management objectives

The management objectives of the UNHCR office in Damascus are based on the following parameters:

- UNHCR Damascus used to be a “classical” protection operation in a State which is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention/ 1967 Protocol, with focus on RSD, resettlement and limited assistance for recognized refugees. The latter three activities are based on individual handling of cases and are time consuming. The full implementation of the RSD standards, which has been the objective of the office since their adoption, has not only created additional work for the office but has also enhanced UNHCR’s credibility worldwide, including in Syria.
- In 2005, the office in Damascus has offered protection services to an increasing number of individuals in detention. These interventions are not limited to Damascus but aim to cover all places of detention in Syria.
- There are some 1,610 long-stayer refugees who have been in Syria for at least 5 years. Their prospect of being resettled, after several rejections, is very bleak.
- If we combine protection interventions, counselling, RSD and resettlement both in detention and outside detention, we reach a total of 27,500 individual contacts between UNHCR staff and persons of concern. As an average, each meeting lasts one hour (some, like the issuance of refugee attestations, are shorter, others, such as resettlement or RSD interviews, are much longer), with an additional average of one hour for follow-up (preparation of RSD assessments, preparation of RRF’s, follow-up with the authorities (every request to the GSO has to be done through a formal letter in Arabic), etc.). Therefore, we reach a total of 55,000 hours/ year for the day-to-day handling of individual cases. Given the fact that a staff member is supposed to work 1610 hours a year, we need a total of 35 staff just to provide these very basic services to refugees and asylum seekers. The calculation above does not include the following: administration and finances; liaison with implementing partners as well as preparation of sub-agreements and different programme follow-up; transportation of staff including to places of detention; supervision of protection, resettlement and community services; mandatory review of RSD; all promotional activities; outreach with government, parliament, civil society, etc.; liaison work with embassies and other UN agencies; regional functions (resettlement and community services); reporting requirements from HQs (COP, APR, etc.).
- Since 2004, the office in Damascus was able to provide services to refugees and other persons of concern not only from its regular programme (AB) but also from the SB for the Iraqi operation. Given the fact that Iraqis constitute the vast majority of persons of concern, the activities undertaken under the SB have not only been vital but have been part of UNHCR core activities. Based on the assumption that a SB may not be approved for a fourth consecutive year, we have consolidated the core activities currently undertaken under both the SB and the AB, under an increased AB. Thus, what looks as an increase is just the combination of the existing AB and SB, with the view of a more transparent submission, identifying the core needs under the AB and complimenting it with a small SB budget (health, education and VOLREP).
- UNHCR expects that more Palestinians will arrive from Iraq in the near future, because conditions are deteriorating in Iraq. In order to be prepared, UNHCR BO Damascus developed a contingency plan and an adequate contingency stock of NFIs and basics food items is being stocked at the warehouse in Hassake.
- The United Nations Disengagement Observation Force (UNDOF) in Syria is the UN focal point for security matters. This is a major advantage for UN staff in the country. To ensure staff safety, UNDOF has been very active in disseminating security regulations, measures and precautions among UN international and local staff. Training sessions on security have been organized by UNDOF, the HQ Senior Security Officer and the UNHCR Damascus Security Focal Point in 2005 for UNHCR staff. All staff at BO Damascus completed the Basic Security Field Training CD. The UN Security Management Team, involving the heads of all UN agencies in Syria, meets on a regular basis to assess security conditions. Evacuation plans are updated regularly by UNDOF. Security measures on a daily basis continue to be taken to ensure staff



safety. Recently, one Danish international staff member, the Protection Officer, had to be evacuated, when a peaceful demonstration in front of the Danish Embassy turned violent and set fire to the Embassy. Moreover, occasionally refugees and asylum-seekers launch threats of suicide attempts or organize sit-in demonstrations at the office.

- The Security Coordinator/ Adviser in Syria has updated the evacuation and medical plan. The Evacuation Focal Point at BO Damascus has attended many sessions on this issue. The security coordinator in Syria, who handles all the movement and communication, plans for all UN agencies accredited in Syria. In terms of MOSS compliance, the office has cleared all related equipment in addition to MORSS. The office has upgraded its security arrangements by enhancing the security of the parameters of the office by increasing the number of guards as well as installing surveillance cameras. The internal parameters have also been similarly enhanced.

- UNHCR BO Damascus held a retreat and a refresher session on the Code of Conduct. All staff members including the UNVs and interpreters signed the Code of Conduct. The office has concentrated on Principles 4 and 6 of the CoC as required by the latest Memorandum, concerning the COC.



## Country Operations Plan for [Syria], Attachment 1: Baseline, Objectives, Targets and Inputs

Population/Theme: Promotion of protection of refugees - Care and maintenance of refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria				Project symbol: 2007/AB/32140/CM/201		
Sector baseline end 2005 <sup>1</sup>	Sector Objective <sup>2</sup>	Target by end 2006 <sup>3</sup>	USD <sup>4</sup>	Target by end 2007	USD <sup>5</sup>	Staff time (optional) <sup>6</sup>
<b>O. PROTECTION</b>						
<p>1. International Protection/ Refugee Status Determination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Syrian Arab Republic has not yet acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol although the state authorities have expressed their interest in doing so in the future.</li> </ul>	<p>1. International Protection/ Refugee Status Determination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accession to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol. Governmental officials, academic institutions and implementing partners are provided with training on international protection and international refugee law. Improved general perception and attitude of refugee issues in the government, the Syrian</li> </ul>	<p>1. International Protection/ Refugee Status Determination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further promotion and preparation of the accession to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol. Six training sessions have been conducted on this subject for governmental officials, and IPs, lectures were held at academic institutions.</li> </ul>	105,079	<p>1. International Protection/ Refugee Status Determination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accession and the establishment of an asylum system in Syria. Further capacity building of governmental officials and implementing partners in asylum law was conducted. Refugee Law courses are introduced at academic institutions.</li> </ul>	170,000	

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Standards and Indicators Report (SIR) of reporting year and participatory assessment findings

<sup>2</sup> Choose most relevant one. Maximum 3 objectives per sector

<sup>3</sup> A target is a measurable achievement using impact indicators

<sup>4</sup> Total operational budget in USD for current year

<sup>5</sup> Total operational budget in USD for planning year

<sup>6</sup> If feasible, include staff time directly attributable to achievement of the (planning year) target. Express in position and percentage (E.g. 100% UNV Field Officer, 50% P-3 Protection Officer, etc.). This column is optional.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR Mandate Refugee Status Determination is adjudicated in accordance with international standards.</li> <li>• The Temporary Protection Regime for Iraqis is still generally respected by the Syrian authorities, and the principle of <i>non-refoulement</i> is adhered to.</li> <li>• The Syrian government has expressed its interest to accept the issuance of ID cards for refugees.</li> <li>• UNHCR has access to most detained refugees and asylum-seekers.</li> </ul>	<p>academic community and public opinion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued updating and perfecting of the Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) and enhanced awareness about UNHCR's mandate status amongst the authorities.</li> <li>• The Temporary Protection for Iraqis in Syria is strengthened and temporarily the most suitable solution based on the present situation in Iraq.</li> <li>• UNHCR will issue ID cards for Mandate refugees, asylum-seekers and persons enjoying TP.</li> <li>• UNHCR concluded an agreement with the government on the issue of detention regarding persons of concern to UNHCR. Establishment of legal clinics in cooperation with law faculties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOPs are updated and amended and awareness raising of the government has taken place.</li> <li>• The international community has provided adequate funding to Syria in order to make the Temporary Protection Regime for Iraqis feasible.</li> <li>• The government accepts ID cards issued by UNHCR for Mandate refugees and persons enjoying TP.</li> <li>• Access to detained persons of concern is granted and the proposed agreement elaborated, increased information sharing and cooperation with the authorities is implemented.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOPs are further updated and awareness raising has continued.</li> <li>• Based on substantiated funding by the international community Iraqis are able to reside in the host country in safety and dignity until their return to Iraq becomes possible.</li> <li>• The government accepts ID cards for Mandate Refugees, asylum seekers and persons enjoying TP.</li> <li>• Full access to all detained persons of concern to UNHCR and full governmental cooperation in regard to the agreement is in place. Law students working in a legal clinic and supervised</li> </ul>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government has expressed its interest in UNHCR’s offer to assist with the issue of statelessness.</li> </ul> <p>2. Meeting the Protection needs of refugee women and children: In general, refugee women and children benefit from enhanced protection against sexual violence, exploitation and other forms of abuse. The same applies to Iraqi women under Temporary Protection.</p> <p>3. Responsibility and burden sharing with partners: Charity institutions are supported in providing different kinds of assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct seminars on statelessness in cooperation with the government and provide assistance upon request of the government.</li> </ul> <p>2. Meeting the Protection needs of refugee women and children: UNHCR is able to extend its protection to all women and children of concern to UNHCR against sexual violence, exploitation and other forms of abuse.</p> <p>3. Responsibility and burden sharing with partners: The most destitute persons of concern to UNHCR in need of food, medical and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A seminar was held, the governments’ awareness on UNHCR’s role in statelessness issues, has been raised.</li> </ul> <p>2. Meeting the Protection needs of refugee women and children: UNHCR has increased its efforts to combat potential violence directed against women and children of concern to UNHCR.</p> <p>3. Responsibility and burden sharing with partners: Adequate assistance is provided to most destitute beneficiaries according to UNHCR’s</p>		<p>by UNHCR eligibility protection assistants support asylum claims of detained persons of concern to UNHCR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up seminars were conducted and UNHCR provided assistance to the government according to its Mandate.</li> </ul> <p>2. Meeting the Protection needs of refugee women and children: UNHCR continued its efforts to combat potential violence directed against women and children of concern to UNHCR. Survey in cooperation with refugee women groups clearly indicates that refugee women and children feel more secure.</p> <p>3. Responsibility and burden sharing with partners: Assistance is continued to the most needy among the persons of concern to</p>		
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Iraqis under TP in Syria.	financial assistance, receive adequate support.	guidelines.		UNHCR.		
<b>A. FOOD</b>						
1. Vulnerable Refugees meet their daily nutritional requirements through a well-monitored food distribution system.	1. All refugees have access to adequate quantity and quality food covering at least 2,100 kcal/ person/day. Sufficient levels of food are delivered to 500-1500 vulnerable refugees in Hassake and Abu Kamal.	1. 50% of the basic and complementary food needs of refugees are adequately met. 100% of the El-Hol camp population was provided with 2100 kcal/person/day mean intake.	N/A on 2006/ AB Budget	1. 65% of the basic and complementary food needs of refugees are adequately met. There has been no epidemic of micro-nutrient deficiency diseases.	50,000	
2. Food basket monitoring to assure quality food distribution is in place.	2. Continued monitoring to be conducted regularly.	2. Monitoring took place through the year.		2. Monitoring continued through the year.		
<b>B. TRANSPORT/ LOGISTICS</b>						
Iraqi refugees living in Damascus and Hassake and Deir Ezzor provinces were provided with NFIs. These NFIs are stored and maintained in a warehouse in El-Hol camp.	Food procurement, transport and distribution are coordinated. Funds for rental, logistics, and services for the warehouse and for stock positioning in El-Hol warehouses are available. Transport from the warehouse in El-Hol and distribution of the NFIs to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food rations have reached needy beneficiaries in Deir Ezzor and other locations on time.</li> <li>o The warehouse was available for the storing of Non-Food Items.</li> </ul>	N/A on 2006/ AB Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food rations continued to reach needy beneficiaries in Deir Ezzor and other locations on time.</li> <li>o The warehouse continued to be available for the storing of Non-Food Items.</li> </ul>	8,277	

	Damascus/Abu Kamal/El-Tanaf and other areas where the vulnerable refugees are located is organized.					
<b>C. DOMESTIC NEEDS/ HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT</b>						
<p>1. Approximately 351 cases are being provided with cash allowances and payments of rent, both in Damascus and the Hassake province.</p> <p>2. Monitoring of the dispensation of assistance is conducted by the CSU</p>	<p>1. Needy refugees receive the basic requirement of domestic needs and maintain their safety and dignity.</p> <p>2. The dispensation of assistance is periodically monitored.</p>	<p>1. 351 cases/1176 persons (179 female heads of households/172 male) of the most vulnerable refugee are financially supported in Damascus and Hassake province.</p> <p>2. The dispensation of assistance was periodically monitored.</p>	370,460	<p>500 cases, in particular female heads of households of the most vulnerable refugees are financially supported in Damascus and Hassake province.</p> <p>2. The dispensation of assistance continued to be periodically monitored.</p>	400,000	
<b>F. HEALTH/NUTRITION</b>						
<p>Syria had allowed some Iraqis to benefit from the medical governmental infrastructure free of charge although this has now been suspended due limited available resources. Many of the public hospitals, dispensaries and clinics are in need of medical equipments to meet the arising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asylum-seekers and refugees enjoy universal access to primary health care (preventive and curative) at all levels comparable with that of the host country and in accordance with international standards and norms.</li> <li>New-born babies as well as their mothers receive special care.</li> <li>The health status of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of children have vaccination coverage.</li> <li>50% of the Iraqis under Temporary Protection benefited from a well-established and enhanced medical system in the Syrian Arab Republic.</li> <li>All needy beneficiaries received preventive and curative health care.</li> </ul>	186,372	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% have access to primary and reproductive health care, 100% of the children have vaccination coverage.</li> <li>50% of the Iraqis under Temporary Protection benefited from a well-established and enhanced medical system in the Syrian Arab Republic</li> </ul>	200,000	

<p>needs of refugees. The SRCS clinics in Sayyeda Zaynab and Masaken Barze need financial support to adequately meet the arising needs of Iraqis under TP. Few existing charity institutions are providing refugees with support, because they have inadequate means; but they are likely to improve delivery if supported financially. Asylum-seekers and refugees are being provided with medical care in Damascus and Hassake province through UNHCR's implementing partners. In the most serious medical cases, the means for treatment are provided for by implementing partners.</p>	<p>refugee children is maintained at least at comparable levels with the host population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugees suffering from mental illness are protected and cared for in the community.</li> <li>• Work in collaboration with the national program on combating HIV/AIDS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All pregnant beneficiaries were visited and taken care of by the CSU.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of the health targeted capacity of the Syrian government improved and the refugees benefited from a well-established and enhanced medical system in Syria.</li> <li>• All needy beneficiaries receive preventive and curative health care.</li> <li>• All pregnant beneficiaries were visited and taken care of by the CSU.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>H. COMMUNITY SERVICES</b></p>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women and children represent over 50% of all cases in Syria who are vulnerable. In 2005, all women of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee children and women receive sanitary kits.</li> <li>• Support groups for rape survivors are</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of the refugees (children and women) met their basic needs.</li> <li>• 100% of known rape cases were given</li> </ul>	<p>17,774</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of the refugees (children and women) met their basic needs.</li> <li>• 100% of known rape cases were given</li> </ul>	<p>22,000</p>	



<p>childbearing age received 2 underpants and 4 reusable pads (Standard: 12 sanitary towels per year).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refugee women have difficulties in improving their socio-economic conditions owing to their lack of education and material resources, as well as their limited rights under the traditions of their communities.</li> <li>The refugee children are unable to participate in social activities due to the scarce resources of their families.</li> </ul>	<p>established and operated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve the capacity of refugees to meet their social, human and emotional needs and solve their own problems.</li> </ul>	<p>support through psycho-social and economic activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refugee representatives' groups (elder, women, and youth) met regularly and enjoyed broad support and participation.</li> </ul>		<p>support through psycho-social and economic activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% of women participated in community-based structure programs on HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>An increased number of individuals with special needs were met.</li> </ul>		
<b>I. EDUCATION</b>						
<p>1. There are 27,217 Iraqis registered with UNHCR; many of these are adolescents who have not followed the mainstream schooling system and find themselves deprived of educational opportunities. Their enrolment in public vocational programs is not possible due to their educational</p>	<p>1. The Vocational Training Centre is well equipped. There, refugee adults develop marketable skills and secure employment, increasing their self-reliance and prospects for economic integration in Syria or following resettlement or voluntary repatriation. Refugee children and</p>	<p>1. Refugee adults participating in vocational training; 60% of those trained who obtain employment. 80% of refugee children enrolled in Syrian schools. Equal enrolment of girls and boys has been reached.</p>	29,175	<p>1. 85% of refugee children enrolled in Syrian schools. Equal enrolment for girls and boys has been reached. Of those refugee adults who participated in vocational training; 60% obtain employment.</p>	161,654	

<p>background. They are in need of UNHCR's assistance in order to participate in private vocational training and have the possibility to gain skills. In addition, UNHCR Damascus has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Education to support the governmental infrastructure.</p> <p>2. The Syrian Arab Republic allows and admits refugee students into its various schools and universities free of charge and treats them similar to Syrian citizens. This tolerance has created an extra burden on the financial resources of the Syrian Arab Republic. The UNHCR BO in Damascus signed an agreement with the Syrian Red Crescent Society to provide the refugees with stationary, school uniforms and registration fees.</p> <p>3. In line with the pilot</p>	<p>adolescents attend school and complete recognized levels of education.</p> <p>2. The capacity of the governmental schools is to be improved. A large number of refugees receive education at Syrian schools. The percentage of Iraqi students at various school levels in GOV schools increases by 10%.</p>	<p>2. Supplies and equipment is distributed to 20% of local schools that accept refugee students at several levels.</p>		<p>2. Supplies and equipment is distributed to 30 % of local schools that accept refugee students at several levels in different areas of Syria.</p>		
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<p>project on Gender &amp; Age Mainstreaming, UNHCR Damascus conducted several meetings with the community and established sub-groups from various units within the office to follow-up on gender and protection issues.</p>						
<p><b>N. INCOME GENERATION</b></p>						
<p>The policy of the Syrian government prohibits the employment of refugees yet it tolerates their employment in private sector to a certain extent. Therefore, the office has made several attempts to promote self-reliance among refugees. A production centre that was created in 2001 in the rural area of Damascus for female refugees. It was expanded during 2004, in the same year another centre was created in Damascus. Nonetheless the office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Beneficiaries and other persons of concern improve their skills.</li> <li>○ Men and women are trained in marketable skills.</li> <li>○ Children receive auxiliary classes to avoid becoming drop-outs.</li> <li>○ Adolescents receive classes (i.e. English) to improve their language skills.</li> <li>○ Beneficiaries are provided with awareness sessions on issues that could help improve their lives in the host country.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5% of the interested refugees have improved their skill level.</li> <li>● 50% of the refugees of various nationalities have better access to income opportunities.</li> <li>● Increased interest, involvement and participation of refugees in the Training Centres' activities.</li> <li>● Reduces drop-out rates to 10% among elementary school students.</li> </ul>	<p>9,747</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 20% of the interested refugees have improved their skill level.</li> <li>● 75% of refugees of various nationalities have better access to income opportunities.</li> <li>● Increased interest, involvement and participation of refugees in the Training Centres' activities.</li> <li>● Reduced drop-out rates to 5% among elementary school students.</li> </ul>	<p>11,500</p>	

<p>realized that marketing is not up to expectations and the motivation and interest on the part of refugees are low. So it was decided during 2005 to make both centres Training Centres to provide the refugees with auxiliaries' lessons and to develop their knowledge.</p>						
<p>P. AGENCY OPERATIONAL SUPPORT</p>						
<p>1. Adequate management structures are supposed to be in place for the support of planned activities after filling two vacant essential posts (one international staff and one national head of section).</p> <p>2. IPs will need further training on social counselling and project management as well as on English language and computer skills.</p>	<p>1. Refugees benefit from an efficiently managed and well co-coordinated protection and assistance operation.</p> <p>2. IPs and UNHCR counterparts enjoy a stronger level of coordination with other IPs both inside and outside the region. IPs will enrich their capacity by being in</p>	<p>1. Consistent coordination has kept all stakeholders posted on the developments pertaining to refugees. Timely revisions of project budgets and submissions of SPMRs.</p> <p>2. NGOs and IPs participated in several related training sessions in the region and elsewhere as needed. NGOs and governmental officials</p>	<p>147,692</p>	<p>1. Consistent continued coordination kept all stakeholders posted on the developments pertaining to refugees. Timely continued revisions of project budgets and submissions of SPMRs.</p> <p>2. NGOs and IPs continued to participate in training sessions in the region and elsewhere as needed. NGOs and governmental officials continued to</p>	<p>253,201</p>	

3. UNHCR conducted audit of IP's books at the end of every financial year.	contact with other IPs and share their experience in the region.  3. Audit of IP's books.	participating in training sessions to further learn about protection with UNHCR and its assistance programs and to increase their experience in this regard.  3. Audit of IP's books completed in 2006.		participate in training sessions to further learn about protection with UNHCR and its assistance programs and to increase their experience in this regard.  3. Audit of IP's books completed in 2007.		
<b>Total</b>			866,299		1,276,632	

- Reproduce form (copy and paste) for additional projects
- Delete rows as applicable for each project

## Country Operations Plan for [Syria], Attachment 1: Baseline, Objectives, Targets and Inputs

Population/Theme: Resettlement of refugees in Syria				Project symbol: 2007/AB/32140/RE/500		
Sector baseline end 2005 <sup>7</sup>	Sector Objective <sup>8</sup>	Target by end 2006 <sup>9</sup>	USD <sup>10</sup>	Target by end 2007	USD <sup>11</sup>	Staff time (optional) <sup>12</sup>
<b>B. TRANSPORT/ LOGISTICS</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aliens, including refugees, are not allowed to stay in Syria for more than 3 months and need to renew their residency at the end of this period.</li> <li>• Refugees are not allowed to work in Syria. If they commit an offence, they are subject to deportation.</li> <li>• In the absence of local integration in Syria or repatriation, resettlement becomes the only durable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All refugees selected for resettlement are assisted upon departure.</li> <li>• Processing cases for resettlement and furthering resettlement capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 71% of accepted refugees departed in 2006.</li> </ul>	13,879	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 71% of accepted refugees will depart in 2007.</li> </ul>	13,879	

<sup>7</sup> Refer to Standards and Indicators Report (SIR) of reporting year and participatory assessment findings

<sup>8</sup> Choose most relevant one. Maximum 3 objectives per sector

<sup>9</sup> A target is a measurable achievement using impact indicators

<sup>10</sup> Total operational budget in USD for current year

<sup>11</sup> Total operational budget in USD for planning year

<sup>12</sup> If feasible, include staff time directly attributable to achievement of the (planning year) target. Express in position and percentage (E.g. 100% UNV Field Officer, 50% P-3 Protection Officer, etc.). This column is optional.

<p>solution for a large number of refugees including long-stayers and cases with specific needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Durable Solutions Unit staff may be required to go on missions, trainings and workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missions and training sessions are conducted according to the needs of the Durable Solutions Unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The head of the resettlement unit will complete two missions and the entire unit will receive two training events. Two resettlement staff will complete the resettlement and RSD learning program.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The head of the resettlement unit will complete two missions and the entire unit will receive two training events. Two resettlement staff will complete the resettlement and RSD learning program.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>F. HEALTH/NUTRITION</b></p>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain refugee cases must include detailed medical report to support their resettlement submission.</li> <li>• Some refugees suffer from serious illnesses, which can not be treated locally.</li> <li>• The office depends on the services of UN physician to provide medical reports for such cases.</li> <li>• The DSU is comprised of 1 TA staff and 4 staff members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugees suffering from serious illnesses have access to fast-track resettlement due to their medical needs.</li> <li>• The UN physician provides medical reports for resettlement cases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugees are resettled and depart on the basis of having urgent medical needs.</li> <li>• UNHCR relies on the UN physician who provides medical reports for resettlement cases.</li> </ul>	<p>3,199</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of refugees are accepted by resettlement missions as a result of well-prepared and accurate medical reports.</li> <li>• UNHCR continues to rely on the UN physician who provides medical reports for resettlement cases.</li> </ul>	<p>8,000</p>	

under UNV contracts, who are provided with medical insurance under Van Breda scheme.						
<b>P. AGENCY OPERATIONAL SUPPORT</b>						
<p>1. Due to the lack of local integration in Syria, resettlement continues to be the main durable solution for refugees in Syria.</p> <p>2. The DSU is comprised of 1 TA staff and 4 staff members under UNV contracts, who are provided with medical insurance under Van Breda scheme.</p> <p>3. Admin fees are required for UNDP/LOU.</p>	<p>1. Recognized refugees benefit from a well-established resettlement process/ mechanism.</p> <p>2. The DSU will have two regular UNHCR staff members.</p> <p>3. Admin fees are provided for UNDP/LOU.</p>	<p>1. Reach the target number of submissions and increase the number/ rate of cases accepted by resettlement countries.</p> <p>2. The head of the DSU will fill the newly created G17 post corresponding with the post of a Senior Resettlement Assistant.</p> <p>3. Admin fees are provided for UNDP/LOU.</p>	28,920	<p>1. Continue to reach the target number of submissions and increase the number/ rate of cases accepted by resettlement countries.</p> <p>2. One UNV will fill the newly created G16 post corresponding with the post of a Resettlement Assistant.</p> <p>3. Admin fees are provided for UNDP/LOU.</p>	34,320	
<b>Total</b>			45,998		56,199	

- Reproduce form (copy and paste) for additional projects
- Delete rows as applicable for each project



## Country Operations Plan for [Syria], Attachment 1: Baseline, Objectives, Targets and Inputs

Population/Theme: Health/Nutrition, Education and Voluntary Repatriation for Iraqis from Syria				Project symbol: 2007/SB/32140/RP/333		
Sector baseline end 2005 <sup>13</sup>	Sector Objective <sup>14</sup>	Target by end 2006 <sup>15</sup>	USD <sup>16</sup>	Target by end 2007	USD <sup>17</sup>	Staff time (optional) <sup>18</sup>
<b>F. HEALTH/NUTRITION</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syria allows some Iraqis to benefit from public health care free of charge. However, this was suspended in January 2005 due to limited resources</li> <li>• Many of the public hospitals, dispensaries and clinics are in need of medical equipment to meet the arising needs of Iraqis. SRCS operates clinics in Sayyeda Zaynab and Masaken Barze, these clinics need financial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iraqis in Syria enjoy universal access to primary health care (preventive and curative) at all levels comparable with that of the host country and in accordance with international standards and norms.</li> <li>• New-born babies as well as their mothers receive special care.</li> <li>• The health status of Iraqi children is maintained at least at comparable levels with the host population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of children have vaccination coverage.</li> <li>• 50% of the Iraqis under Temporary Protection benefited from a well-established and enhanced medical system in the Syrian Arab Republic.</li> <li>• All needy Iraqi beneficiaries received preventive and curative health care.</li> <li>• All pregnant Iraqi women were visited and taken care of by the CSU.</li> </ul>	147,821	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% have access to primary and reproductive health care, 100% of the children have vaccination coverage.</li> <li>• 50% of the Iraqis under Temporary Protection benefited from a well-established and enhanced medical system in the Syrian Arab Republic</li> <li>• 50% of the health targeted capacity of the Syrian government improved and the</li> </ul>	45,000	

<sup>13</sup> Refer to Standards and Indicators Report (SIR) of reporting year and participatory assessment findings

<sup>14</sup> Choose most relevant one. Maximum 3 objectives per sector

<sup>15</sup> A target is a measurable achievement using impact indicators

<sup>16</sup> Total operational budget in USD for current year

<sup>17</sup> Total operational budget in USD for planning year

<sup>18</sup> If feasible, include staff time directly attributable to achievement of the (planning year) target. Express in position and percentage (E.g. 100% UNV Field Officer, 50% P-3 Protection Officer, etc.). This column is optional.

<p>support to be able to adequately meet the needs of Iraqis under TP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only few charity institutions are providing Iraqis with support and they have inadequate means. They would improve their delivery if they were supported financially.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iraqis suffering from mental illness are protected and cared for in the community.</li> <li>• Work in collaboration with the national program on combating HIV/AIDS.</li> </ul>			<p>Iraqis benefited from a well-established and enhanced medical system in Syria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All needy Iraqis receive preventive and curative health care.</li> <li>• All pregnant Iraqis were visited and taken care of by the CSU.</li> <li>• Returnees are medically examined and are provided with medication prior to departure.</li> </ul>		
<p>I. EDUCATION</p>						
<p>1. There are 27,217 Iraqis registered with UNHCR; many of these adolescents who have not followed the mainstream schooling system find themselves deprived of educational opportunities. Their enrolment in public vocational programs is not possible due to their educational background. They are in need of UNHCR's assistance in order to participate in private vocational training and have the possibility to</p>	<p>1. The Vocational Training Centre is well equipped. There, Iraqi adults develop marketable skills and secure employment, increasing their self-reliance and prospects for economic integration in Syria or following voluntary repatriation. Iraqi children and adolescents attend school and complete recognized levels of education.</p>	<p>1. Iraqi adults participating in vocational training; 60% of those trained who obtain employment. 80% of Iraqi children enrolled in Syrian schools. Equal enrolment of girls and boys has been reached.</p>	<p>123,071</p>	<p>1. 85% of Iraqi children enrolled in Syrian schools. Equal enrolment for girls and boys has been reached. Of those Iraqi adults who participated in vocational training; 60% obtain employment.</p>	<p>40,000</p>	

<p>gain skills. In addition, UNHCR Damascus has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Education to support the governmental infrastructure.</p> <p>2. The Syrian Arab Republic allows and admits Iraqi students into its various schools and universities free of charge and treats them similar to Syrian citizens. This tolerance has created an extra burden on the financial resources of the Syrian Arab Republic. The UNHCR BO in Damascus signed an agreement with the Syrian Red Crescent Society to provide Iraqis with stationary, school uniforms and registration fees.</p>	<p>2. The capacity of the governmental schools is to be improved. A large number of Iraqis receive education at Syrian schools. The percentage of Iraqi students at various school levels in GOV schools increases by 10%.</p>	<p>2. Supplies and equipment is distributed to 20% of local schools that accept Iraqi students at several levels.</p>		<p>2. Supplies and equipment is distributed to 30 % of local schools that accept Iraqi students at several levels in different areas of Syria.</p>		
<p>P. AGENCY OPERATIONAL SUPPORT</p>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iraqis willing to repatriate are provided with repatriation grants and transportation grants to assist them in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide all Iraqis willing to repatriate with repatriation grants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initially, approximately 500 Iraqis will be provided with transportation and repatriation grants.</li> </ul>	<p>149,830</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of those Iraqis willing to repatriate receive repatriation grants prior to departure.</li> </ul>	<p>15,000</p>	

the reintegration process upon their arrival in their country of origin.						
<b>Total</b>			420,722		100,000	

- Reproduce form (copy and paste) for additional projects
- Delete rows as applicable for each project