

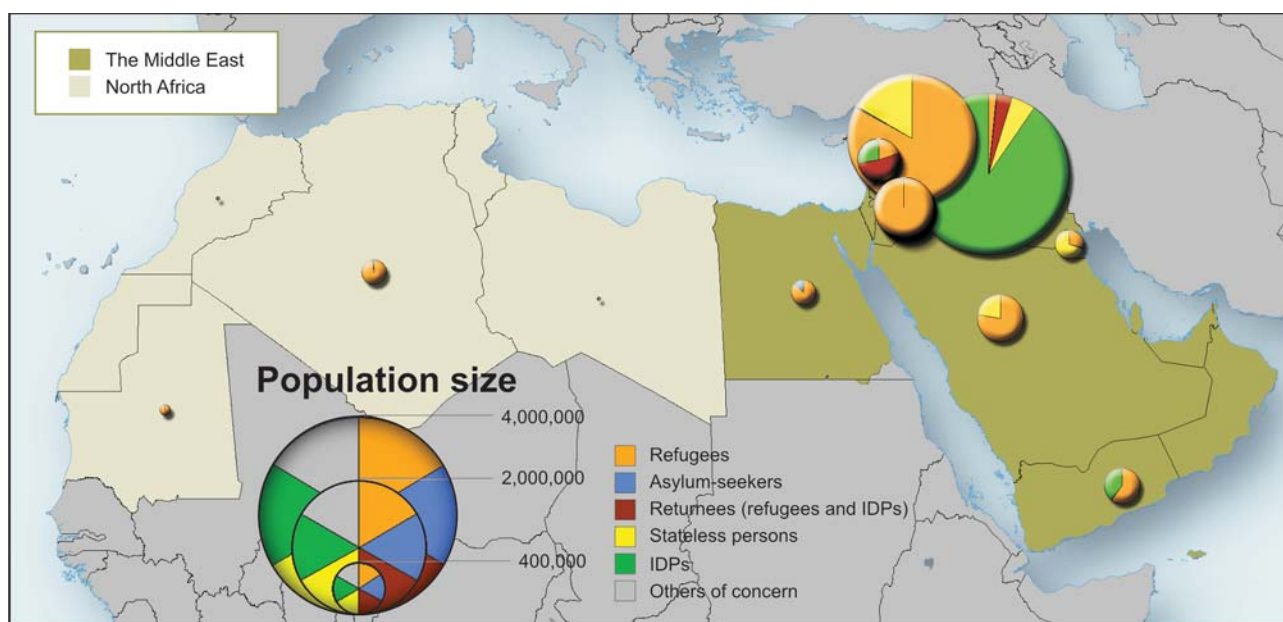
Middle East and North Africa

North Africa
The Middle East

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)			
Earmarking	Donor	Annual budget	Supplementary budget
Middle East and North Africa overall	Denmark	12,175	0
	Iceland	0	73,113
	United States	960,000	55,800,000
	Sub-total	972,175	55,873,113
Total		972,175	55,873,113

Note: Contributions shown exclude indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes.

Middle East and North Africa



Operational highlights

- Countries receiving large numbers of refugees in the region continued to show generosity in hosting them. However, the presence of some two million Iraqi refugees, particularly in the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan, put an excessive burden on the economies and infrastructure of these countries. Syria and Jordan also host a large number of Palestinian refugees. But despite the difficulties, refugee protection in both countries improved significantly.
- Although the situation inside Iraq is not conducive to organized massive repatriation, some improvements in security led a number of Iraqi refugees to return home in the last quarter of 2007. UNHCR helped the Government to assist those willing to return. The Office also submitted a proposal to the Iraqi Government for a joint return assessment mission to identify gaps in preparations for possible mass returns and urged the authorities to develop a national policy on return.
- The situation in the Horn of Africa has developed into an emergency, with thousands of people, fleeing violence in their country and others searching for better economic opportunities, crossing the Gulf of Aden into Yemen. There are reports of hundreds of deaths as well as torture, abuse and exploitation by smugglers during the journey.
- The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council are showing more interest in partnerships with UNHCR. The recent signing of a strategic partnership agreement with the Red Crescent Society of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an example.
- The adoption of national refugee legislation and establishment of national asylum procedures in Mauritania, as well as plans for the voluntary

repatriation of some 20,000 Mauritanian refugees from Senegal, were major developments in North Africa. Moreover, the signing of a country agreement, (*Accord du Siege*), with Morocco and a tripartite agreement between UNHCR, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the International Organization for Peace, Care and Relief (IOPCR), a leading Libyan NGO, laid a foundation for the implementation of the 10-Point Plan of Action. The Plan is designed to address various aspects of refugee protection in mixed-migration movements in order to reconcile refugee protection imperatives with States' migration-management interests.

- The terrorist attack on the UN in Algiers in December 2007, which claimed the lives of 17 UN staff and other personnel and destroyed both the UN House and the UNHCR office, brought the operation on behalf of urban refugees in Algeria to a temporary halt.

Working environment

Despite the generosity of countries hosting Iraqi refugees – especially the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan – the situation of over two million Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and a similar number of Iraqi refugees is dire. Women and children, both inside Iraq and in neighbouring countries, continue to be affected by various forms of gender-based violence and exploitation, including trafficking, survival sex and child labour. UNHCR works closely with government agencies and NGOs to address these problems.

The slight decrease in hostilities in Iraq in late 2007 prompted a number of Iraqi refugees in the region to return home. However, the presence of some two million Iraqi refugees, mainly in Syria and Jordan, puts a heavy burden on the economies and social services of the host countries. The positive response of the international community to the UNHCR humanitarian appeal in 2007 was not matched by support to the host governments, which fell short of expectations. Nevertheless, the Governments of Jordan and Syria have agreed to maintain their hospitable stand and not to forcibly return Iraqi refugees.

The Government of Yemen has traditionally maintained an open-door policy towards Somalis, granting them refugee status on a *prima facie* basis. However, the increase in the mixed population of migrants and asylum-seekers arriving in Yemen may jeopardise the generosity of the Government and undermine protection. Furthermore, a sectarian conflict that broke out in northern Yemen in 2004 has left some 77,000 people displaced or directly affected, putting new challenges before the Government and aid agencies. UNHCR is working with WFP and other partners to assist this group of displaced persons.

UNHCR has worked to create an awareness of refugee issues and build partnerships with various States and inter-governmental organizations, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States. It has also joined with civil society institutions and prominent individuals to promote their engagement on behalf of refugees and other people of concern. UNHCR seeks in this way to expand asylum space in the Arab world.

The phenomenon of mixed migration continues to be a major feature in the region, with up to 100,000 people, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, arriving in North Africa every year. Although many are in need of protection, a significant number of them are migrants in transit, trying to reach Western Europe in search of better economic opportunities. In the absence of national and regional strategies to tackle the challenges posed by mixed migratory movements, and without the strong commitment of all concerned stakeholders, it is difficult to ensure international protection for those who need it.

Achievements and impact

In 2007, UNHCR's goals in the region were to advocate for and support governments in the creation and maintenance of an international protection regime; to ensure international standards of protection for all people of concern; and to protect, assist and pursue

durable solutions for refugees. Based on UNHCR's Global Strategic Objectives (GSOs), the Office worked to achieve the following objectives in the region:

- **Protecting Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries as well as refugees and internally displaced persons in Iraq according to international law and standards, including protection against *refoulement* and other forms of mistreatment, exploitation and violence (GSO 1)**

Further consolidation of asylum space is required in the countries hosting large numbers of Iraqi refugees, mainly Syria and Jordan. However, these host Governments have made a commitment not to forcibly return Iraqi refugees, despite the economic and social burden of their presence. Additionally, in Syria, the Government has demonstrated a commitment to maintain the high standards of protection accorded to Iraqi refugees, and shown a genuine interest in improving Iraqi children's access to education.

- **Ensuring that basic humanitarian and social needs of refugees and other people of concern to UNHCR are met (GSO 3)**

In 2007, basic humanitarian assistance and social services were delivered to many people of concern to UNHCR. This was particularly important in Syria, Jordan and Iraq. More than 250,000 Iraqis were registered in Syria and Jordan. In 2007, UNHCR provided food and non-food items to some 150,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria, besides assisting in some 250,000 cases where medical interventions were needed. A total of 72,000 Iraqi children are attending school, including 47,700 in Syria and 24,000 in Jordan. Non-food items were also distributed to over 160,000 Iraqi IDPs.

In partnership with other agencies and NGOs, UNHCR provided food and other basic services to Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps in Algeria. Ongoing clean-water projects in the Tindouf region will make a valuable contribution to improving health in the camps.

- **Developing an international protection regime by building the capacity of governments in the region (GSO 2)**

The 10-Point Plan of Action on refugee protection in mixed migration movements is becoming the standard reference tool for reconciling refugee-protection imperatives and States' migration-management interests. Recent developments in some of the North African countries illustrate this. In Mauritania, national asylum procedures are now operational. In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a draft refugee law is currently under consideration by the National Legislative Committee,

and a country agreement, (*Accord du Siege*), has been signed between the Government of Morocco and UNHCR.

- **Developing dynamic partnerships with key stakeholders to address refugee and IDP issues in a comprehensive and collective manner (GSO 6)**

UNHCR has embarked on a strategy of comprehensive partnerships with the Gulf States, seeking their political, humanitarian and financial support on refugee issues. Partnerships with the OIC, the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, civil society institutions and prominent personalities are being strengthened to promote refugee rights in the region. An OIC conference on Refugees in the Muslim World is planned for 2008.

A good example of operational partnership is UNHCR's collaboration with the Syrian Red Crescent Society, which has played a crucial role in the provision of basic assistance to Iraqi refugees in Syria. Additionally, a strategic partnership agreement has been signed with the Red Crescent Society of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A tripartite agreement between UNHCR, ICMPD and IOPCR, designed to deal with mixed migration movements, has been finalized.

Constraints

The absence of adequate national asylum systems constrains UNHCR's work in the Middle East and North Africa and is a major impediment to the delivery of protection and assistance to refugees. In addition, the rise in extremist violence has led governments to concentrate on national security, often at the expense of refugee protection. The deadly December 2007 attack on the UN in Algiers, resulted in an almost total halt to UNHCR operations. Activities on behalf of urban refugees in the country were seriously affected. However, the Office was able to maintain the assistance programme in the Tindouf refugee camps.

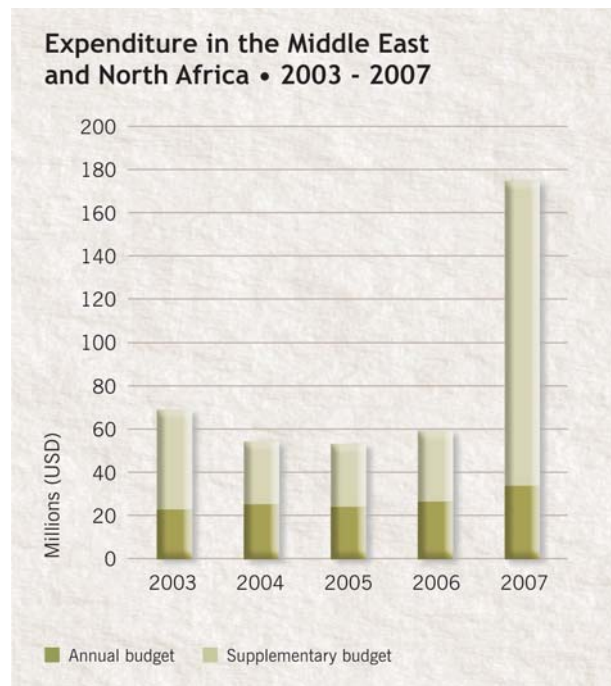
Ongoing conflicts in the Horn of Africa led to a significant increase in new arrivals in Yemen. The situation is aggravated by the lack of effective national structures capable of distinguishing between those in need of international protection and others seeking better economic opportunities. The magnitude of the problem required a stronger UNHCR presence and programmes in Yemen.



UNHCR and Syrian Red Crescent food distribution for Iraqi refugees on the first day of Ramadan in Yamouk camp, Damascus.

Financial information

Operations in the Middle East and North Africa were well funded in 2007. However, requirements grew in the course of the year and not all emerging needs could be covered by existing resources and staffing.



Budget and expenditure (USD)						
Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget ¹	Total	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
North Africa						
Algeria	5,679,842	722,014	6,401,856	5,675,868	396,254	6,072,122
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	844,914	89,945	934,859	843,487	42,841	886,329
Mauritania	1,170,628	2,175,171	3,345,799	1,131,610	1,853,832	2,985,442
Morocco	983,543	481,365	1,464,908	959,906	415,614	1,375,520
Tunisia	358,350	22,038	380,388	357,774	19,141	376,915
Western Sahara	0	2,667,257	2,667,257	0	2,351,896	2,351,896
Regional activities ²	0	823,625	823,625	0	624,972	624,972
Sub-total	9,037,276	6,981,415	16,018,692	8,968,645	5,704,550	14,673,195
The Middle East						
Egypt	3,981,245	3,023,905	7,005,150	3,965,835	2,555,904	6,521,739
Iraq	1,397,169	36,774,268	38,171,436	1,387,301	29,391,876	30,779,177
Israel	364,196	0	364,196	361,781	0	361,781
Jordan	1,657,173	39,746,048	41,403,221	1,570,455	38,970,602	40,541,057
Lebanon	7,845,936	5,016,513	12,862,449	7,706,731	3,887,067	11,593,798
Saudi Arabia	2,085,430	120,344	2,205,774	2,054,057	108,139	2,162,196
Syrian Arab Republic	2,163,456	57,131,697	59,295,153	1,843,483	53,546,116	55,389,599
United Arab Emirates	639,185	0	639,185	589,978	0	589,978
Yemen	5,653,351	1,238,217	6,891,568	5,625,226	935,060	6,560,286
Regional activities ³	0	6,614,357	6,614,357	0	4,946,788	4,946,788
Sub-total	25,787,139	149,665,348	175,452,488	25,104,846	134,341,553	159,446,399
Total	34,824,416	156,646,764	191,471,179	34,073,491	140,046,103	174,119,594

¹ Does not include a seven per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

² Includes institution building for asylum and refugee protection within broader migration movements.

³ Includes emergency assistance for Iraqi refugees and others of concern.

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)			
Donor	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
Australia	0	2,214,286	2,214,286
Australia for UNHCR	3,784	7,286	11,070
Belgium	360,231	2,158,491	2,518,721
Canada	0	2,004,310	2,004,310
CERF	0	6,216,658	6,216,658
Croatia	0	4,650	4,650
Czech Republic	106,910	129,563	236,473
Denmark	715,065	10,813,953	11,529,018
<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe E.V.</i>	66,113	443,144	509,257
<i>España con ACNUR</i>	133,333	26,806	160,139
Estonia	0	31,956	31,956
European Commission	5,222,475	2,492,580	7,715,055
Finland	1,327,434	381,148	1,708,581
France	920,882	1,085,603	2,006,485
Germany	334,667	2,270,113	2,604,780
Greece	17,176	251,351	268,527
Holy See	0	16,064	16,064
Iceland	0	166,113	166,113
Ireland	0	1,290,029	1,290,029
Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	5,000	0	5,000
Italy	0	5,281,062	5,281,062
Japan	1,000,000	13,916,013	14,916,013
Japan Association for UNHCR	40,010	126,651	166,661
Kuwait	500,000	0	500,000
Liechtenstein	0	71,964	71,964
Luxembourg	0	682,000	682,000
Mauritania	0	7,314	7,314
Netherlands	147,485	1,148,550	1,296,035
New Zealand	0	1,225,050	1,225,050
Norway	349,857	1,655,119	2,004,976
Online donations (Headquarters)	0	4,874	4,874
Private donors in Canada	0	102,568	102,568
Private donors in Germany	0	2,743	2,743
Private donors in Greece	0	35,494	35,494
Private donors in Italy	23,443	36,344	59,787
Private donors in Luxembourg	0	328	328
Private donors in the United Kingdom	0	1,923	1,923
Private donors in the United States	0	279,930	279,930
Red Crescent Society (United Arab Emirates)	14,866	0	14,866
Saudi Arabia	314,049	0	314,049
Spain	1,934,057	2,604,897	4,538,954
<i>Stichting Vluchteling (Netherlands)</i>	0	235,274	235,274
Sweden	3,347,889	5,081,902	8,429,791
Switzerland	513,926	1,315,867	1,829,793
Turkey	0	2,790,000	2,790,000
UNAIDS	47,880	0	47,880
UNDG Iraq Trust Fund	0	3,116,347	3,116,347
United Arab Emirates	0	9,300,000	9,300,000
United Kingdom	37,454	5,887,549	5,925,002
United States	9,236,413	62,914,500	72,150,913
USA for UNHCR	72,290	20,390	92,681
Total	26,792,686	149,848,757	176,641,443

Note: Contributions shown exclude indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities - mandate related" (NAM) Reserve.