

Technical and vocational education opportunities for refugees Yemen



© UNHCR. Launching of Blacksmith Aluminum project in Aden

“We welcome the joint effort of the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training and UNHCR to build the capacity and skill of students in Yemen”

Adnan Al Gefri, Governor of Aden

LOCATION

Sana’a, Aden and Lahaj
Governorates
YEMEN

DURATION

September 2010 to
September 2014

IMPLEMENTING

PARTNER

UNHCR
INTERSOS
Ministry of Technical
Education and Vocational
Training (MoTEVT)
www.unhcr.org

DONOR

European Union

BUDGET

US \$ 101,600 (one-time
investment, excluding
scholarships)

OVERVIEW

Since May 2003, some 170,000 refugees, mostly Somalis, registered at one of the reception centres in Yemen, with the majority having settled down in urban areas in Yemen after fleeing the civil war in Somalia since 1992. With a Yemeni population size expected to reach 35 million in 2025 (21,5 million in 2005), an urban population to jump to 60 percent (30 percent in 2005), and a predictable scarcity in water and petrol among others, the Government has launched important reforms and vast development type of programmes guided by the National Strategic Vision 2025. As Yemen is now facing a protracted refugee situation, it is a priority for UNHCR to integrate further its education programme within the national education system. The education pyramid of the refugee population is characterized by a broad base of illiterates and basic schooling (83.4%), while those holding pre-secondary diploma and above do not exceed 17% of the total. A limited number of refugees have access to post secondary education at the university level through DAFI scholarships (German cooperation) and Howard Buffet scholarships until the end of 2010.

AIM OF PROJECT

In line with UNHCR urban policy strategy in a protracted refugee situation, the aim of the project is to enlarge the education opportunities to the majority of post primary and secondary graduates through TEVT. Further, the project intends to develop transferable skills that refugees may use in the country of origin upon return. Within the framework of the MoU among UNHCR, the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training (MoTEVT) and implementing partner INTERSOS, 92 refugees will be integrated free of charge every year for 5 years, as a pilot project, in long term formal vocational training and technical education courses (2 to 4 years) in Aden, Sana’a and Lahaj Governorates, on the same selection basis as Yemeni nationals.

PROJECT OUTPUTS / RESULTS

- Over 5 years, 460 refugees are enrolled and graduated from the national TEVT education centers and institutes.
- 2 Vocational Training Institutes in the field of Aluminum Blacksmith are rehabilitated and upgraded. Curriculum and training techniques are reviewed and upgraded through ToT programme.
- 25 Yemeni students will benefit every year from the equipment donated to the VT institutes.
- Higher level of integration of UNHCR programme into the national development framework of the Government.

IMPACTS

The project creates self reliance opportunities, whereas 460 refugees will be able to have formal access to the Yemeni job market with as competitive and qualified skills as Yemeni nationals. UNHCR plans to further extend the MoU with the MoTEVT to offer refugees a wider selection of training in more governorates.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Projects implemented in partnership with the Government are more sustainable in a long run and serve to foster mutual understanding between Yemenis and refugees.
- Projects based on previous market survey give wide opportunities for job placement at the end of the training.