

# LEBANON

## Operational highlights

- Lebanon's Council of Ministers issued a decree allowing registered refugees temporary residence in the country for up to a year.
- UNHCR cooperated with the Ministry of Education to ensure access to schools for refugee children.
- Work with the Ministry of Health led to several clinics agreeing to provide services to refugees on a par with those available to nationals.
- The number of detentions of people of concern declined in 2010 from the year before. UNHCR assisted detained refugees and asylum-seekers by providing them with legal aid, food and non-food items, vocational training and psychological counselling, as well as by intervening with the authorities to obtain the release of those detained.
- UNHCR provided some 4,250 refugees with monthly financial assistance, 7,200 with food coupons and 4,400 with sanitary materials.

## Working environment

The operation in Lebanon was beset in 2010 by an increase in political instability and significant population flows. On the other hand, it was possible to improve emergency preparedness and make progress in advocacy and the development of legal frameworks.

UNHCR worked to provide protection, address basic humanitarian needs, find solutions for refugees and prevent or reduce statelessness. While the flow of new arrivals into the country from Iraq continued, their numbers were offset by those who departed for resettlement and those who returned to Iraq voluntarily.

Life for refugees in Lebanon continued to be characterized by constant fear of arrest, prolonged detention and deportation. The cost of living rose, and coupled with the limited access to legal employment, refugees found it increasingly difficult to cope.



## Achievements and impact

### Main objectives and targets

UNHCR's main objective was to maintain and expand the protection space in Lebanon for people of concern, particularly by providing them with assistance to meet their basic needs.

### Favourable protection environment

- The Council of Ministers issued a decree that would extend the protection space for registered refugees in

## Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees <sup>1</sup>	Iraq	7,600	7,600	38	34
	Various	320	320	31	31
People in a refugee-like situation	Various	110	110	89	10
Asylum-seekers	Iraq	600	600	27	25
	Sudan	500	500	6	5
	Syrian Arab Rep.	140	140	31	33
	Various	90	90	32	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,360</b>	<b>9,360</b>		

<sup>1</sup> This number reflects a notable decrease from the one recorded in 2009. The latter was based on outdated estimates. Recent field assessments concluded that the more accurate figure is the number of refugees registered with UNHCR. These conclusions have not been refuted.

Lebanon. The decree states that: 1) Lebanon is not a country of temporary or permanent asylum; 2) the law on entry and exit of foreigners must be implemented and necessary decrees issued; 3) refugee status should be determined by UNHCR on fixed and objective criteria that justify the request for asylum; 4) the deportation of asylum applicants will be suspended for a maximum two months from the time of application and all rejected asylum-seekers will be deported; and 5) recognized refugees are to be provided with an exceptional residence permit for three months, renewable every three months thereafter up to a maximum of one year, in order to allow UNHCR to seek entry visas for third countries.

## Fair protection processes

- In the absence of a relevant legal framework for refugee protection and procedures for registration, UNHCR assumed full responsibility for registration, profiling and refugee status determination (RSD).
- In 2010, the average time elapsed from the first contact with the Office and the actual registration was three months for Iraqis and one month for non-Iraqis. Over 4,000 people registered with UNHCR in 2010, the majority of them Iraqis.

## Security from violence and exploitation

- More than 100 people of concern to UNHCR were detained in 2010. However, working relations between UNHCR and the General Directorate of the General Security improved. Most notably, the rate of releases increased over the course of the year, although the combined rate of arrests and deportations continued to outnumber the rate of releases by two to one.
- UNHCR provided legal counselling to some 380 people of concern during the year. It also assisted 50 people with legal representation on a variety of issues. In addition, 720 people were assisted to regularize their status.

- In order to increase awareness of sexual and gender-based violence and mainstream programmes to prevent and respond to it in community-based activities, UNHCR and its partners organized a range of activities for the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. Some 100 refugee women at risk were trained to identify sexual and gender-based violence and informed about existing services. Some 30 children participated in a story-writing competition addressing how sexual and gender-based violence could negatively affect them. Additionally, 30 youths participated in a drawing and photography competition with the same theme.

## Basic need and services

- Some 86 per cent of refugee girls and boys between the ages of four and 17 were registered in schools for the 2009-2010 academic year. Enrolment rates for the 2010-2011 academic year rose as over 1,200 refugee children registered for primary and lower secondary education, aided by the provision of tuition, textbooks, stationary, school bags and transportation fees. UNHCR also assisted 380 children at the kindergarten level in order to facilitate their entry into primary school.
- Health care was extended to more than 7,600 people, as UNHCR signed agreements with 10 private and public hospitals across Lebanon to grant refugees access to their facilities on a par with nationals.
- UNHCR provided some 4,200 refugees with monthly financial assistance, around 7,200 with food coupons and some 4,400 with sanitary materials.

## Community participation and self-management

- Male and female community outreach volunteers were mobilized to identify people with specific needs from their communities and refer them to existing services and support. Community-health volunteers were also mobilized to raise health awareness and refer people for services.



## Durable solutions

- UNHCR submitted more than 3,000 refugees for resettlement, exceeding the initial submission target of 2,000, with 1,850 departing for third countries.

## External relations

- UNHCR organized consultative sessions with partners to agree on the elements of the Regional Response Plan for addressing the needs of Iraqi refugees. More than 220 articles and news reports about refugees and asylum-seekers were published in local, regional and international media outlets.

## Logistics and operational support

- UNHCR conducted six training sessions for implementing partners. During the year, 60 project verification visits were undertaken.

## Headquarters and regional support

- The Regional Resettlement Hub drafted and updated a paper on Iraqi refugee resettlement, as well as papers on secondary movements and on Iraqi refugee women-at-risk. Guidance notes on various refugee populations were also provided. A framework for reporting on fraud in areas of protection, especially resettlement, was developed and disseminated.

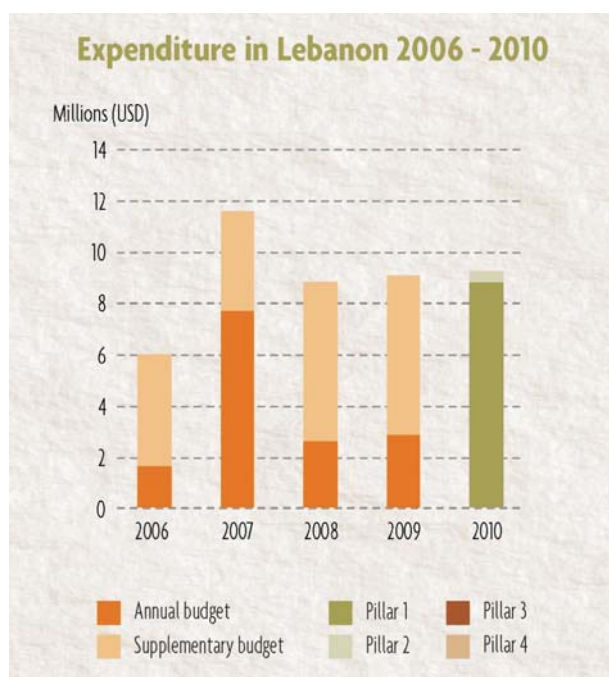
## Constraints

Lebanon is not a State Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. Moreover, there are no laws or administrative practices to address the specific needs of refugees and asylum-seekers. As a result, refugees not only face serious protection problems but, with a lack of basic self-reliance opportunities, are constrained to live in hardship.

The volatile security environment in the country remains a major constraint to UNHCR operations.

## Financial information

While the 2010 requirements for Lebanon totalled some USD 13.5 million, only USD 9.2 million was available, representing a 27 per cent shortfall. Because of this, material assistance could be provided to only 3,000 refugees with specific needs, leaving another 6,000 without support, and prey to the risks of illegal and exploitative work, child labour, substance abuse and domestic violence. Although the budget allowed UNHCR to meet the primary health care needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, it was not sufficient to cover all emergency or tertiary care.



## Organization and implementation

Since UNHCR has full responsibility for refugee protection, durable solutions and assistance in Lebanon, its priority in 2010 was to build its capacity to ensure that it continued to be a reliable partner for the Government. The Office in Lebanon also provided management, oversight and guidance for the regional resettlement hub, which processes resettlement referrals from all countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

## UNHCR's presence in 2010

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

## Working with others

UNHCR operated in Lebanon through five implementing partners and 16 operational partners, including local and international NGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations and government counterparts. All benefited from greater coordination through the Regional Response Plan's Relief and Community Empowerment sectoral working groups. UN agencies, such as WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO, provided expertise and support. The participatory approach was widely used and refugees took part in 14 focus groups.

## Overall assessment

In 2010, refugees faced serious challenges in Lebanon, particularly in urban environments. UNHCR assisted those in greatest need, providing them with financial and material assistance. It also increased coordination with partners to reduce dependence.

Registration, documentation and the provision of humanitarian assistance for refugees continued to be at the core of UNHCR's protection work. In light of increased population flows in 2010, there was an 18 per cent rise in the number of new registrations. While the number of refugees detained for illegal entry or stay declined in 2010, as compared to the year before, it was still high. UNHCR advocated for legal and administrative reform to end the practice of detaining refugees for illegal entry or stay.

Partners
<b>Implementing partners</b>
<b>NGOs:</b> Association Justice et Misericorde, Amel Association, Caritas Lebanon, Middle-East Council of Churches
<b>Operational partners</b>
<b>Government:</b> Directorate General of the General Security
<b>NGOs:</b> Danish Refugee Council, Frontiers Association, International Medical Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children Sweden
<b>Others:</b> ILO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

## Budget, income and expenditure in Lebanon | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
FINAL BUDGET	13,067,443	470,500	13,537,943
Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	908,234	0	908,234
Other funds available	7,881,577	450,797	8,332,374
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	8,789,811	450,797	9,240,608

## EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

*Favourable protection environment*

National legal framework	55,176	127,611	182,786
National administrative framework	59,683	0	59,683
Prevention of statelessness	0	139,015	139,015
Co-operation with partners	0	127,611	127,611
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	81,989	0	81,989
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>196,847</b>	<b>394,237</b>	<b>591,083</b>

*Fair protection processes and documentation*

Registration and profiling	418,187	0	418,187
Fair and efficient status determination	304,228	0	304,228
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>722,415</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>722,415</b>

*Security from violence and exploitation*

Gender-based violence	86,766	0	86,766
Protection of children	92,687	0	92,687
Non-arbitrary detention	498,110	0	498,110
Access to legal remedies	57,778	0	57,778
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>735,340</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>735,340</b>

*Basic needs and essential services*

Basic domestic and hygiene items	364,478	0	364,478
Primary health care	698,582	0	698,582
Education	446,656	0	446,656
Services for groups with specific needs	354,590	0	354,590
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,864,306</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,864,306</b>

*Community participation and self-management*

Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	181,150	0	181,150
Self-reliance and livelihoods	106,858	0	106,858
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>288,008</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>288,008</b>

*Durable solutions*

Voluntary return	55,776	0	55,776
Resettlement	1,998,418	0	1,998,418
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,054,194</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,054,194</b>



	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
<i>External relations</i>			
Donor relations	38,413	0	38,413
Partnership	44,791	0	44,791
Public information	72,525	0	72,525
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>155,729</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>155,729</b>
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>			
Programme management, coordination and support	1,633,302	56,560	1,689,862
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,633,302</b>	<b>56,560</b>	<b>1,689,862</b>
Instalments to implementing partners	1,123,724	0	1,123,724
Other objectives	15,947	0	15,947
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,789,811</b>	<b>450,797</b>	<b>9,240,608</b>

<sup>1</sup> Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.