

LEBANON

| Operational highlights |

- All individuals who approached UNHCR for assistance were registered on an individual basis, in line with international protection standards that ensured that the privacy, confidentiality and dignity of each person were respected.
- UNHCR's interventions helped to reduce the number of people of concern in detention compared with previous years.
- Some 500 men and women were offered vocational training opportunities at two community development centres.
- UNHCR's advocacy and assistance with school grants, books and transportation fees prompted the enrolment of some 48 per cent of eligible refugee children in public schools, a jump from 30 per cent in 2010.
- A total of 3,320 refugees, including 3,169 Iraqis and 151 non-Iraqis, were submitted for resettlement in 2011, with 825 departures.

| Working environment |

Since April 2011 there has been a surge in the numbers of Syrians fleeing to northern Lebanon, creating a new displacement situation. UNHCR worked closely with the Government of Lebanon to respond to the protection and humanitarian needs of these refugees, strengthening its links with the Government in the process. At the same time, UNHCR enhanced its collaboration with traditional UN and NGO partners as well as with new organizations.

| 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 by providing refugees and asylum-seekers with assistance to meet their basic needs.

Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Iraq	8,500	8,500	41	34
	Various	350	350	32	33
People in a refugee-like situation	Various	150	150	83	14
Asylum-seekers	Iraq	700	700	32	29
	Sudan	490	490	4	5
	Syrian Arab Rep.	370	370	32	33
	Various	140	140	36	27
Others of concern	Syrian nationals of concern to UNHCR	4,800	4,800	50	54
Total		15,500	15,500		



Favourable protection environment

- A new draft Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing the protection space for people of concern was shared with the Government, but the finalization of the agreement was delayed because of the sensitive political situation. A total of 635 people of concern were assisted in formalizing their status in Lebanon in 2011, while an additional 595 Iraqis received help to obtain or renew their legal status documents.



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Fair protection processes

- In the absence of a national legal framework for refugee protection and procedures for registration, UNHCR assumed full responsibility for all registration, profiling and refugee status determination (RSD) activities in Lebanon.
- Nearly 3,600 refugees were registered in 2011, representing a decline of 11 per cent in registrations from the previous year. Of this total, some 78 per cent of refugees registered were from Iraq, and 22 per cent were from other countries.
- In 2011, a total of 590 RSD decisions were made, of which 285 were for Iraqis and 305 for non-Iraqis.

Security from violence and exploitation

- The number of people of concern in detention in Lebanon stood at its lowest level in several years in 2011. There were 58 detainees in Lebanon in 2011, down from 103 in 2010. Of the 58 people of concern in detention, only 15 were held for reasons of illegal entry or stay.
- Some 190 refugees were provided with legal representation before the courts in order to help them defend themselves in criminal cases involving prosecution for illegal entry and possible extradition. Legal aid was also made available in cases involving personal-status matters, including birth registration. UNHCR provided more than 2,000 people of concern with individual counselling on matters including personal security, regularization of stay, personal status, child protection, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), rental problems and/or labour disputes.

- In 2011, nearly 90 people, most of them women, were identified as victims of SGBV. All received the medical, psychosocial, physical and material support they required.

Basic need and services

- During the 2011/12 academic year more than 1,600 refugees were registered in schools.
- UNHCR provided family support in the form of one-time emergency grants, food coupons, sanitary material and diapers to nearly 8,000 beneficiaries. Health care was provided to some 6,200 people through agreements with private and public hospitals throughout Lebanon.
- Some 2,100 people with specific needs were given financial assistance on a monthly basis to help them secure basic household items for their families.

Community participation and self-management

- One thousand people of concern benefited from community development activities organized through the community centres.
- Some 500 refugee women and men, including youths, benefited from skills and vocational training services. Courses covered computer literacy and maintenance, English language instruction, hairdressing skills, sewing skills and handicraft production. Thirty refugees who succeeded in their courses were provided with the equipment needed to start small businesses.
- UNHCR organized and facilitated two training sessions (one in Arabic and one in English) for more than 40 people, both UNHCR and partner staff, on participatory assessments. The exercise involved 51 focus-group discussions with 632 refugees of diverse backgrounds.

Durable solutions

- UNHCR assisted 117 Iraqi refugees with voluntary repatriation grants.
- Of the 3,320 refugees submitted for resettlement (including 3,169 Iraqis and 151 non-Iraqis), only 825 were able to leave for their new homes in 2011. This figure represented less than 36 per cent of the 2,300 refugees targeted for resettlement departures during the year. A change in security procedures in the United States of America was one reason for the slowdown.

External relations

- UNHCR convened four informal consultations with donors in 2011 to keep them abreast of programme priorities and objectives and to flag potential areas of unmet needs. UNHCR increased its profile on behalf of refugees through 50 interviews and more than 30 briefings for the media as well as attendance at three refugee-related public events during the year.

Logistics and operational support

- During the reporting period, UNHCR extended its partnership with its six implementing partners and conducted 80 project verification visits.

Constraints

The influx of Syrian refugees in northern Lebanon, coupled with the deployment of UNHCR staff to other emergency operations in the region, put a strain on human resources for several months. This had an impact on RSD, Protection Services and Community Services. As a result, there were delays in RSD processing and protection advocacy.

The introduction of additional resettlement-related security checks by the United States had consequences on resettlement departures, which were 60 per cent lower than in 2010. Despite an 11 per cent drop in the number of registered cases in 2011 from the year before, the overall number of registered persons of concern increased by 12 per cent in 2011 as a result of non-departures. This also had an impact on the allocation of programme resources for the operation.

Financial information

While UNHCR Lebanon's 2011 Comprehensive Needs Assessment requirements were over USD 13.7 million, just under USD 12 million was available.

Organization and implementation

As a result of the refugee crises in North Africa, 20 staff from Lebanon were sent on mission to the region over a five-month period.

In April, Lebanon experienced an influx of Syrians displaced by the conflict in their country. Within weeks, their number had grown to more than 5,000. UNHCR mobilized quickly while the Government played a leading

role in ensuring the provision of registration, needs assessments and humanitarian assistance.

To help meet increased and unforeseen needs, UNHCR Lebanon was able to call on short-term deployments from other operations.

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	1
□ Total staff	84
International	18
National	33
JPOs	1
UNVs	1
Others	31

Working with others

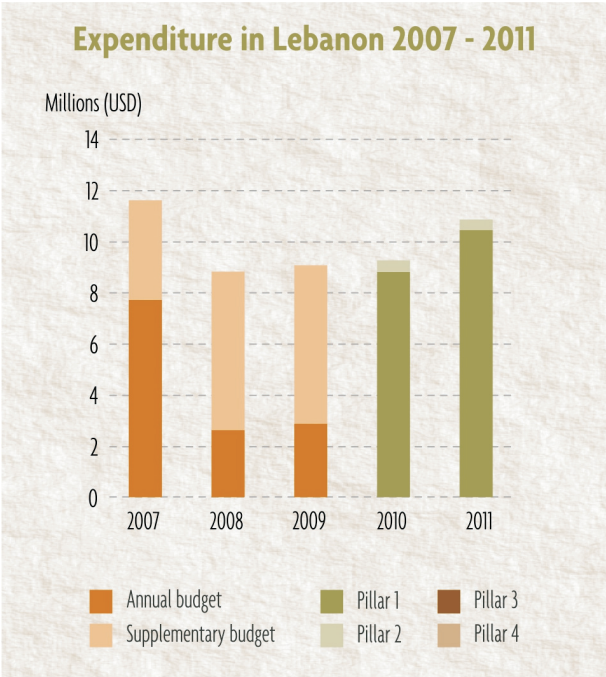
UNHCR operated in Lebanon with six implementing partners and 16 operational partners, all of whom benefited from predictable coordination through Regional Response Plan working groups. Additionally, UN agencies (notably WHO, UNICEF, ILO, OHCHR, IOM and UNRWA) continued to partner with UNHCR on areas of joint concern. The contributions of people of concern through participatory assessments informed all programming. Informal consultations were held with donors at both operational and strategic levels to ensure their continued engagement.

The constructive relationship between the Lebanese Government and UNHCR was sustained through regular meetings with relevant interlocutors, including the Ministries of the Interior, Public Health, Education, and Social Affairs. UNHCR's engagement with the Prime Minister's Office intensified with the influx from the Syrian Arab Republic and the establishment of daily coordination with the High Relief Commission. UNHCR also worked to build the capacity of the Government-run Social Development Centres.

Overall assessment

A number of initiatives were introduced to improve effectiveness. These included a review of the cases of long-staying refugees to identify those who could be resubmitted for resettlement or counselled about other options. RSD processes were improved through refresher training of staff and the implementation of more effective processing measures to improve the quality and timeliness of decisions. Finally, detention monitoring was enhanced by more frequent exchanges with the authorities and implementing partners and the production of a monthly detention report. These measures resulted in a dramatic fall in the number of people of concern detained for illegal entry or stay during the year. They also reduced the average length of incarceration for those detained.

Refugees in Lebanon have great difficulty in meeting their basic domestic expenses, owing to their minimal financial means, the high cost of living and their informal status. Those with specific needs are the most seriously affected, being entirely dependent on the limited assistance



provided by aid agencies. There is a need to provide targeted financial assistance, increase community support and invest in comprehensive self-reliance and livelihoods strategies. These strategies must be informed by poverty studies and market assessments, which are currently being pursued with the American University of Beirut and ILO, respectively.

All refugee and asylum-seeking children have access to Lebanese schools. UNHCR provided support to all registered children, who were also able to benefit from remedial classes and vocational training. More than 90 per cent of primary school-aged children registered with UNHCR (excluding Syrians in northern Lebanon) were enrolled in formal education in 2010-2011, a rise from 85 per cent in 2009-2010. Moreover, the rate of enrolment in public schools rose from 33 per cent to 54 per cent. Such achievements were obtained through successful mobilization of the refugee community and through refugee involvement in responding to high dropout rates. The main challenge, however, is to raise the enrolment and retention levels of children at lower and higher secondary school levels. Enrolment rates in the north among Syrian displaced children were much lower and enhanced efforts are being put in place to ensure both enrolment and retention in school.

Unmet needs

- Insufficient funding for self-reliance activities meant that approximately 85 per cent of the refugee population was at risk of working informally under exploitative and abusive conditions.
- Nearly 1,700 students did not receive school supplies: only 20 per cent were provided with bus transportation and remedial classes; and 10 per cent of children between the ages of 6 and 11 dropped out of school.
- Long-term chronic illnesses could not be responded to, resulting in premature deaths.
- Less than 40 per cent of the non-Syrian registered refugee population were provided with intermittent food assistance, forcing families to use their money for rent rather than food, leading in some cases to anaemia in children. The lack of proper nutrition among pregnant women led to premature deliveries and low birth weight among newborns.
- The lack of financial assistance for some 50 per cent of the total refugee population in the last quarter of 2011 led to high rates of stress among female-headed households, a 15 per cent drop in the number of children in school, a 12 per cent increase in divorce rates during the second half of the year on grounds of domestic violence, and an increase in the number of demonstrations at the UNHCR office.

Partners
Implementing partners
NGOs: Amel, Association Justice et Miséricorde, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre, Danish Refugee Council, International Medical Corps, Makhzoumi Foundation, Restart, Save the Children Sweden, The American University of Beirut
Operational partners
Government agencies: Directorate-General of the General Security, Ministries of Education, Health, Justice and Social Affairs
NGOs: Frontiers Association, Heartland Alliance, ICRC, IOCC, Islamic Relief, Médecins Sans Frontières, Norwegian Refugee Council, World Vision international
Others: ILO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

Budget, income and expenditure in Lebanon | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
FINAL BUDGET	13,109,645	661,358	13,771,003
Income from contributions	1,702,662	0	1,702,662
Other funds available	8,716,848	413,592	9,130,440
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	10,419,510	413,592	10,833,102
EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN			
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>			
National legal framework	55,336	98,250	153,586
Prevention of statelessness	0	122,826	122,826
Cooperation with partners	64,513	98,250	162,763
<i>Non-refoulement</i>	55,336	0	55,336
Subtotal	175,185	319,326	494,511
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>			
Registration and profiling	589,691	0	589,691
Fair and efficient status determination	465,159	0	465,159
Subtotal	1,054,850	0	1,054,850
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>			
Gender-based violence	76,310	0	76,310
Protection of children	33,547	0	33,547
Freedom of movement	33,547	0	33,547
Non-arbitrary detention	497,721	0	497,721
Access to legal remedies	96,293	0	96,293
Subtotal	737,418	0	737,418
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>			
Shelter and other infrastructure	98,643	0	98,643
Basic domestic and hygiene items	728,375	0	728,375
Primary health care	571,453	0	571,453
Education	421,932	0	421,932
Services for groups with specific needs	633,134	0	633,134
Subtotal	2,453,537	0	2,453,537
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>			
Participatory assessment	94,623	0	94,623
Community self-management	177,338	0	177,338
Self-reliance and livelihoods	80,869	0	80,869
Subtotal	352,830	0	352,830
<i>Durable solutions</i>			
Durable solutions strategy	107,238	0	107,238
Voluntary return	64,908	0	64,908
Resettlement	773,518	0	773,518
Local integration	148,055	0	148,055
Subtotal	1,093,719	0	1,093,719
<i>External relations</i>			
Donor relations	51,675	0	51,675
Partnership	56,115	0	56,115
Public information	63,774	0	63,774
Subtotal	171,564	0	171,564
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>			
Programme management and coordination	1,823,841	94,265	1,918,106
Subtotal	1,823,841	94,265	1,918,106
Other objectives	137,233	0	137,233
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	2,419,332	0	2,419,332
Total	10,419,509	413,591	10,833,100