

UNHCR Kuwait FACT SHEET, June 2010

Country of origin	Asylum seekers	Refugees
IRQ	214	596
IRN	110	40
AFG	100	0
SOM	41	17
SUD	2	1
BAG	3	0
SYR	10	0
ERT	6	0
SRL	4	0
NEP	1	0
EGY	5	0
JOR	6	0
Pak	1	0
Stateless	218	0
Palestinians	136	0
Total	857	654

UNHCR Presence in Kuwait:

UNHCR signed in 1996 a Cooperation and Office Agreement with Kuwait. UNHCR Liaison office in Kuwait is working under the supervision of the Regional Office in Saudi Arabia. Its activities are carried out by 2 international staff (Senior Liaison Officer, and Protection Officer) and 4 national staff (Admin Assistant, Protection Assistant, Snr. Database Clerk and Driver).

Working with partners

- UNHCR Kuwait has signed two MOU with the International Islamic Charitable Organization and the Zakat House.

-UNHCR is working on strengthening cooperation with Kuwait Red Crescent Society. An invitation sent by the Bureau Director to KRCS president to co-chair the annual consultations with NGOsto be held in June was accepted by KRCS chairman and his participation to the meeting confirmed.

-UNHCR Kuwait is identifying ways of strengthening work relations with local NGOs, such KRCS (Kuwait Red Crescent Society) and KABE (Kuwaiti Association of the Basic Evaluators for Human Rights. Chairman of KABE will attend the San Remo workshop on International Refugee Law planned for June 2010.

-Islamic International Charitable Organization (IICO) and Kuwait Joint Relief Committee (KJRC) promised to support UNHCR operations in Yemen, Jordan, Syria and Pakistan. Projects proposal and funding request are being submitted.

1- Total number of main populations of Concern in Kuwait (specifically Iraqis, Palestinians Afghans and Somalis) is only estimated. No empirical figures exist due to the unavailability of official statistics. They remain of concern to the office and merit assistance once they approach HCR.

2- Others of Concern to UNHCR

Stateless estimate	93,000
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Areas of operational focus:

- Ensure the protection of and assistance to all refugees and asylum seekers in Kuwait, particularly those with special needs.
- Liaise with the Regional office to provide adequate protection and assistance to the Iraqi refugees in Kuwait.
- Continue interviewing cases and submitting eligible claims for resettlement.
- In cooperation with the local NGOs, provide assistance and humanitarian services (health, education, documentation, etc) to people of concern in Kuwait.

Major activities/events:

Protection & Resettlement:

- Registration of new A/S continues and proGres system is being updated.
- Iraqi cases have been submitted to the regional Hub in Beirut for resettlement in the US.
- Departure of cases to the resettlement countries (US).

Capacity Building

- A two-day workshop on "International Refugee Law" took place in Kuwait from 15 -16 March, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UN team and Kuwait RC and attended by 32 officials from Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Social Affairs . The workshop was facilitated by Law Professors from Egypt and Syria and UNHCR colleagues from RO Cairo, RO Beirut, RO Riyadh and LO Kuwait. The event has been highly appreciated by the Kuwait authorities and provided a forum to discuss a various relevant issues related to international protection, statelessness, human rights, asylum and migration and durable solutions. The event was extensively covered by local and regional media and TV broadcast and was the occasion to promote the book on comparative study on International Refugee Law and Islam. A wide range of UNHCR Arabic publications were also distributed to participants, including the Book.

External Relations

A DRRM Mission to Kuwait composed of the Head of DRRM, Panos Moutziz, and the Senior Donor Relations Officer, Anne Dolan, took place on 31 May and 1 June 2010 to explore with UNHCR Kuwaiti governmental and non governmental counterparts, opportunities of new partnership/funding.

Statelessness

- During a rally held on April 23, the Kuwait Stateless Committee (KSC), a number of MPs and political activists urged the Kuwaiti government to resolve the problem regarding the Bedoun/Stateless population in Kuwait. The rally coincided after the government decision last February to assign the Kuwait Supreme Council for Planning to develop proposals to address the Bedouns issue and before the review of Kuwait's Human Rights situation by the UN Human Rights Council.
- The Human Rights situation in Kuwait was reviewed on May 2010 during the 8th session of the UPR Working Group of the UN Human Rights Council.