

UNHCR Saudi Arabia and GCC countries, FACT SHEET: June 2010

Refugees and Asylum seekers registered

Country of origin	Refugees	Asylum Seekers
ERT	385	7
IRQ	1,036	279
SOM	43	66
SUD	54	22
AFG	3	9
SYR	52	38
Others	138	630
Total	1,711	1,051

Others of Concern

In addition to the above there are some 38,000 persons of concern in Kuwait, comprising to 30,000 Iraqis, 6,000 Palestinians, and 2,000 Somalis

Stateless

Stateless estimate	164,200
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UNHCR Presence in GCC countries:

UNHCR Regional Representation for the GCC countries is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. UNHCR has presence in Kuwait (LO) and Abu Dhabi (LO). RO Riyadh covers Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. In Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, UNHCR is represented by Senior Liaison Officers. RO Riyadh provides substantive support to both LOs Abu Dhabi and Kuwait as well as to the Service Hub in Dubai.

Working with partners

- Operational partners include leading NGOs from the six Gulf States such as the Saudi Red Crescent Society, Kuwait Red Crescent Society, UAE Red Crescent Society, Qatar Charity, Zayed Foundation and Oman Charitable Organization.
- AGFUND has recently announced donation of 400,000 USD for IDPs and refugees in Yemen .
- Zakat House has decided to donate to UNHCR USD 50,000 for its operations in Yemen, as a start.
- UNHCR and Kuwait Joint Relief Committee are working on a joint, co-funded, pilot project on Assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan amounting to USD 1 million for health sector.
- Kuwait Red Crescent Society is ready to support UNHCR activities like in the past in Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Oman Charitable Organization agreed to the draft MOU suggested by RO Riyadh and currently under consideration.
- Possible partnership and funding of UNHCR activities by Awqaf Ministry through the signature of a Cooperation Agreement including the Amiri

Major activities/events:

Protection/Resettlement:

- An outstanding outcome for the DHS circuit ride to Bahrain has been achieved; 46 cases/94 persons (96%) has been accepted, 1 case/ 3 persons (3%) has not been decided upon yet and only 1 case/ 1 person (1%) was denied resettlement in USA.
- No reactions/feedback was located on the report released by Refugees International on statelessness in Kuwait. However, internal comments from Kuwait human rights bodies, some reporters, some parliament members were critical of Dr. Al Afassy's (Kuwait Minister of Affairs) down playing the issues of Statelessness and Domestic Labor as major concerns in Kuwait.
- A letter was sent to Saudi MoFA availing UNHCR expertise to assist the Saudi Government in addressing the issue of the Rhoingyas Mayanamar (Burmese) population in KSA which is estimated in hundreds of thousands. The issue which was initially raised and in length by HRH Prince Naif bin Abul-Aziz, Minister of Interior.
- RO submitted the Universal Periodic Review on Oman to address any protection gaps.
- A proposal to establish partnership with the Saudi Committee for Relief of Palestinian People under the auspices of the Saudi Minister of Interior HRH Prince Naif Bin Abdul Al-Aziz is under consideration, aiming at obtaining more information on the Palestinian population in KSA, referral of individual cases for any possible assistance by the Committee as well as for resource mobilization, given that this Committee has contributed by approximately some USD 200 millions for funding charitable projects for this population.

Capacity Building

- RO provided support to LO Abu Dhabi in the training workshop for UAE government officials in the immigration, prison and police departments, which took place in 23 - 24 June 10. Positive feedback was received requesting more training and capacity building activities.
- Preparations for al Madinah workshop next October is well under way in cooperation with NAIF University. Feedback is awaited for the workshops in Qatar, Bahrain and KSA.
- A training for members of Mohammed bin Rashid Center in Dubai on International Law/ Refugee Law/ and UNHCR mandate was organized.

External Relations/Fundraising activities:

- On 20 June, RO signed an agreement with Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) amounting to USD 10.8 million for UNHCR operations in Pakistan. RO is closely working with SFD and BO Pakistan in the prompt implementation of this project in a manner that meet the expectations and the requirements of the donor.
- The stock take DER mission started its GCC tour in Kuwait from 31 May – 01 June 2010. Meetings were conducted with Head of International Organizations Department at Kuwaiti MoFA and various partners and potential donors. During the meetings, two projects were submitted to Kuwait Joint Relief Committee and International Islamic Charitable Organization; Assistance to Afghan Refugees in Pakistan-health care- USD 500,000 (KJRC) and Assisting Iraqi Refugees in Jordan/Syria and Uprooted People in Yemen- health care and education- USD 2,000,000 (IICO).
- DER mission visited Abu Dhabi and Dubai on 02 and 03 June 2010, respectively. Meetings were conducted with UAE Red Crescent Society, Director of International Organizations at UAE MoFA, Office of HRH Princess Haya, Dubai Cares, Sheikh Khalifa Foundation, Dubai Community Development and the CEO of International Humanitarian City (IHC). The main outcome of the meetings is a possibility to conclude a tripartite agreement amongst Sheikh Khalifa Foundation, IHC and UNHCR ranging between USD 5- 20 million for the production of NFI. As for Dubai Community Development, the creation of a Human Rights Center to which UNHCR partnership is requested was stirred.
- DRRM mission visited Saudi Arabia on 13 June 2010 followed by Qatar on 15-16 June 2010.
- World Refugee Day was commemorated in Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Qatar and Kuwait by conducting several activities including photo exhibition in Riyadh, distribution of TV and newspaper advertisements, forum and media interviews with the Regional Representative and his deputy. LO Abu Dhabi also supported UAE Red Crescent to advocate for Sheikhha Faima Fund on the World Refugee Day.