

UNHCR Israel Fact Sheet – June 2010

Presence in Israel

The Honorary Representation in Israel became a Representation in 2009.

Israel signed the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees in 1954, and the 1967 Protocol in 1968.

UNHCR's strategic objectives in Israel

- Following the handover of responsibility for asylum seeker and refugee registration and refugee status determination (RSD) to the Government of Israel, to ensure the implementation of a fair and efficient asylum procedure in the country.
- To assist the Government in developing a favorable asylum legislative and procedural framework in accordance with international standards.
- To secure access of refugees and asylum seekers to Government provided services.

UNHCR's main activities in Israel

RSD Handover. The handover of RSD responsibility to the Ministry of Interior began on 1 July 2009. UNHCR is seeking to negotiate a MoU given the changed role in Israel. RSD is conducted for all asylum seekers, except Sudanese and Eritreans who enjoy a form of temporary protection.

Advocacy. UNHCR Israel continues advocacy efforts aimed at developing a Refugee Law, and ensuring a favorable asylum environment. This focuses on certain legislative initiatives that could prove harmful to asylum.

Detention. Approximately 10% of asylum seekers, mainly Eritreans, are detained on arrival. UNHCR staff have access to detained asylum seekers and regularly visit them in detention.

Capacity Building. UNHCR organizes capacity building and training activities for state and civil society with the intention of expanding public services for asylum seekers and refugees and is seeking to increase the involvement and responsibility of the authorities and civil society in assisting refugees.

Key Government Partners

- Ministry of Interior (main interlocutor is the Immigration, Population, and Border Authority)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Justice

Implementing Partners

African Refugee Development Center (ARDC) Humanitarian aid for vulnerable groups and advocacy.
Aid Organization for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (ASAAF) Advocacy and individual and family psychosocial Support
Hotline for Migrant Workers Visits to asylum seekers in detention and legal representation.
Kav LaOved Advocacy for employment and labour rights for asylum seekers.
Mesila Assistance, counselling, advocacy and Community empowerment.
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) Provision of primary and secondary healthcare

Budget

UNHCR 2010 Budget

Operations: \$849,469.00

ABOD: \$450,000.00

UNHCR staff

Total: 22 (International staff 3, National Officer 1, National staff 13, Junior Professional Officer 1, and international UNVs, 4)

Statistics (as of 1 July 2009)

Nationality	Total
Eritrean	11,852
Sudanese	5,502
Nigerians	946
Ethiopians	545
Others	3,035
Total:	21,880

Statistics provided by the Ministry of Interior as of 1 May 2010.