

# United Arab Emirates (UAE)

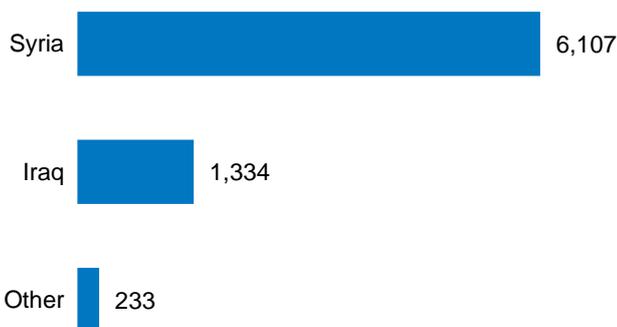
February 2019

The International Humanitarian City in Dubai hosts **UNHCR's Global Stockpile**. The UEA has undertaken four airlifts in response to emergency situations.

UNHCR **assists persons of concern** in UAE, for example, providing financial support to the most vulnerable.

UNHCR is **developing partnerships** with public and private entities that support programmes for refugees, particularly in the context of sustainable development, and the Dubai World Expo 2020.

## REGISTERED POPULATION OF CONCERN



**Total Registered Persons of Concern to UNHCR 7,674**

## RESOURCE MOBILISATION

**USD 42 million**

(Raised in 2018)

## UNHCR PRESENCE

**Staff:** 48 total

31 National Staff

17 International Staff

### Offices:

2 Liaison Offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai

1 Global Stockpile in Dubai



## Working with Partners

- **UNHCR liaises with the Government of the UAE and has mobilized resources for a number of operations, regional situations and for activities stemming from the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR).** UAE donated USD 31.5 million in 2018 to UNHCR's operations in Yemen, as well as USD 2 million for emergency nutrition, to UNHCR's operations in Bangladesh. UAE continues to fund GCR-related projects in Uganda in the fields of education, livelihoods and the provision of sustainable water supplies.
- **As part of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in January 2019, UNHCR participated in the World Future Energy Summit,** organised by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Through engagement in such events, UNHCR is building new partnerships in the renewable energy sector, to support persons of concern.
- **The UAE Government continues to fund warehouses and office space for UNHCR's Global Stockpile,** in the International Humanitarian City in Dubai, and has undertaken four airlifts in response to the situations in Myanmar (1), Indonesia (1) and Ethiopia (2).

## Main Activities

### Protection

- **UNHCR welcomed the series of visa reforms announced by the Government in 2018,** notably the granting of amnesties and of renewable visas to a number of people from conflict-affected countries who had been residing irregularly in the country. While the amnesty helped many people secure regular residence, some continue to have difficulties accessing basic services and securing employment.
- **In 2018, UNHCR registered 7,663 individuals as persons of concern.** Over 95 per cent of registered persons of concern in UAE are from Syria and Iraq (7,441 out of 7,674) but these reflect a small percentage of the estimated 250,000 Syrians and 100,000 Iraqis in the country.
- **UNHCR has started a referral process for prioritized registered individuals seeking protection interventions,** including regularization of their visa status; the process continues to be discussed with authorities.
- **UNHCR provides cash assistance** to the most vulnerable persons of concern. In the most recent distribution, 398 individuals received quarterly financial assistance.
- **UNHCR works closely with immigration and law enforcement authorities** to identify durable solutions for persons of concern who are either in detention centres or are detained at airports. UNHCR is advocating for more systematic coordination between different stakeholders.
- **In 2018, UNHCR organized eight capacity-building activities,** primarily for government officials from across the seven emirates, but also including representatives from semi-governmental organizations, media outlets and academia. The workshops raised awareness of UNHCR's mandate, and sought to establish and improve referral mechanisms between UNHCR and relevant government bodies. A further eight capacity-building activities are planned for 2019.

### Durable Solutions

- In 2018, UNHCR submitted 74 cases (195 individuals) for resettlement, while 21 individuals were resettled.

## External / Donor Relations

### CONTACTS

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### LINKS

[www.unhcr-arabic.org](http://www.unhcr-arabic.org)  
[www.withrefugees.org](http://www.withrefugees.org)  
@UNHCR\_Arabic