

Kuwait

December 2021

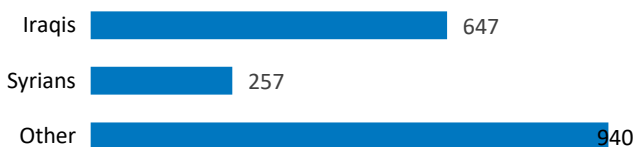
UNHCR has been present in Kuwait since 1991. In 1996, UNHCR and the Government of Kuwait signed a Cooperation and Office Agreement, granting UNHCR privileges and immunities in the State of Kuwait. UNHCR enjoys a long-standing relationship with the Government of Kuwait, which ranks as **the top donor** to UNHCR in the region over the last 10 years, with contributions exceeding \$ 435 million.

The Government of Kuwait, and its developmental arm, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), have provided significant support to UNHCR to respond to the Iraq, Syria, and Yemen situations. There has also been an increase in engagement through the **private sector** and through Islamic philanthropy.

UNHCR carries out a range of **protection activities** in the country for people of concern, including refugee status determination, learning and development, and community-based protection. UNHCR continues to pursue durable solutions such as complementary pathways for refugees.

FACTS AND FIGURES 2021

People of concern



Total registered people of concern: **1,844**

FUNDING CONTRIBUTED 2010 – 2021

\$435.2 million*

in direct Government contributions as of 31 December 2021

* Additionally, UNHCR received a total of **\$10.1 million** in funding from private sector donors since 2010.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 11 National Staff
- 5 International Staff

Offices:

- 1 Office (UN house, Diplomatic Square, Mishref, Kuwait City)



Main Activities

Protection

- Refugees and asylum-seekers in Kuwait are included in the national response for **COVID-19**, including for treatment and vaccination.
- UNHCR works closely with counterparts at the concerned departments from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior to **enhance protection measures** and prevent potential deportations of people of concern.
- UNHCR began implementing the **Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS)** in Kuwait in 2017, registering 907 total individuals as of 31 December 2021. A verification plan is underway to update the biometric data of all registered asylum-seekers in 2022.
- Since 2019, UNHCR has partnered with **Lothan Youth Achievement Center (LOYAC)** to provide people of concern with youth development and professional skills, including internship opportunities.

Resource Mobilization and Partnerships

- UNHCR's main government partners in Kuwait are the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and **Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED)**. UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with KFAED in 2016, who has remained a strategic partner in providing funding focused predominately on infrastructure. KFAED has provided vital support to UNHCR projects in Iraq, Jordan and Yemen, with total contributions of **\$16.5 million** towards improving living conditions for IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers through access to shelter, expanding water services, installing solar power, and providing health services.
- UNHCR established a joint mechanism back in 2019 in collaboration with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and the **Ministry of Social Affairs** to oversee fundraising activities in Kuwait and partnerships with local NGOs, culminating in allowing UNHCR to launch public fundraising campaigns since then.
- **Private sector partnerships** are also growing in Kuwait, with a focus on support to the Rohingya emergency, Syria situation, and Yemen. Sectors with the highest interest include Cash Assistance, Health, Education, Shelter, and Protection.
- UNHCR also collaborates closely with local NGOs to mobilize resources and launch joint fundraising campaigns. The Office launched its second **MENA winterization campaign** in November 2021, which will be extended until March 2022. Additionally, a public fundraising winter campaign was launched in collaboration with **Sheikh Abdullah Al Nouri Society**, securing \$500,000 towards **cash assistance** for refugees in Jordan.
- The **Kuwait Red Crescent Society** provided \$100,000 in Zakat funding for **shelter activities** for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.
- UNHCR Kuwait launched its second public fundraising campaign during Ramadan in collaboration with the **Tanmeia Foundation**, which secured \$400,000 for **protection activities** for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

CONTACTS

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LINKS

<http://www.unhcr-arabic.org> • <http://www.withrefugees.org> • [@UNHCR_Arabic](https://www.instagram.com/UNHCR_Arabic)

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