

# United Arab Emirates (UAE)

February 2022

Though not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, UNHCR works closely with the Government of UAE to **expand the protection space** for people of concern to UNHCR.

UAE is hosting the **Expo 2020** for a duration of six months under the theme “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future”, with the sub-themes of Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability.

UNHCR is working to **expand partnerships** in UAE with private and public entities, including with Dubai Expo, to raise awareness and provide support to UNHCR’s people of concern.



## FUNDING CONTRIBUTED (AS OF JANUARY 2022)

**\$25.4 million\***

\*In Government and private UAE contributions to UNHCR since 2021 until 2022.

UNHCR’s largest Global Stockpile in Dubai, UAE

### UNHCR Presence

**Staff:**

- 27 Local Staff
- 23 International Staff

**Offices:**

- 2 Offices (Abu Dhabi and Dubai)
- 1 Global stockpile (Dubai)



## Main Activities

### Protection

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR UAE implemented a **business continuity plan** to ensure the needs of people of concern continue to be met, while ensuring the safety of both staff and people of concern and taking into account national safety measures. The Office launched three dedicated emergency hotlines to respond to the needs of people of concern, routed the office landline to official mobile phones, and implemented a regular weekly schedule for staff to receive applications, review them and counsel applicants remotely.

### Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

- UNHCR seeks to expand collaboration with the UAE as a strategic donor through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in areas related to **protection, climate change displacement, and women empowerment**.
- UNHCR and UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation signed a \$2 million agreement as part of UAE's pledge at the International Conference on Venezuela in 2020, in support of the Venezuela situation in Colombia to carry out **women empowerment** initiatives and provide critical **protection assistance**, particularly to women, children and youth, and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).
- The Big Heart Foundation led by UNHCR Eminent Advocate Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher Al Qasimi, contributed \$1 million to support UNHCR's **child protection interventions** in Lebanon and Mauritania.
- The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) has contributed a total of \$2.6 million for the provision of **food assistance** to refugees in Nigeria and India.

### UNHCR Global Stockpile

- UNHCR's largest **Global Stockpile** is being hosted in the **International Humanitarian City** in Dubai. Since January 2022, UNHCR sent CRIs to Djibouti to support Ethiopian Tigray situation. In response to the new humanitarian crisis in **Ukraine**, UNHCR initiated a series of emergency airlifts to **Moldova** and **Poland**. The items shipped were High Thermal Blankets, CRIs, and Plastic sheets, supporting over **80,000** beneficiaries. The operations is expected to continue to support **over 1.7 million** people who fled Ukraine to neighboring countries, and have become refugees in Poland, Moldova, Hungary and Romania.

### Contacts

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### Links

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

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