

DJIBOUTI

INTER-AGENCY UPDATE FOR THE RESPONSE TO THE YEMEN SITUATION #42

09 May - 31 May 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the latest available statistics from IOM and the Djibouti government, 35,562 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 23 April 2016 (since 26 March 2015). Of those, 19,636 persons (56 per cent) are Yemeni nationals, 13,962 (38 per cent) are transiting migrants and 1,964 persons (6 per cent) are Djiboutian returnees.
- As at 17 May, a total of 899 refugees returned spontaneously home from Obock (Markazi camp and Obock town).
- A verification exercise conducted in Markazi from 22 to 25 May indicated that Markazi camp shelters 1,311 refugees. Most Yemeni refugees in Obock town declined to attend the exercise.

KEY FIGURES

6,273

Refugees registered since the outbreak of the crisis

2,548

Registered females.

2,324

Registered children and adolescents.

Population of concern as at 25 May 2016

A total of **6,273** persons of concern

Nationality	0-4 years		5-11 years		12-17 years		18-59 years		60 years+		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Yemen	314	328	434	419	416	328	2337	1179	123	142	6,020
Syria	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Palestine	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	5
Somalia	4	9	12	12	5	15	32	79	3	9	180
Eritrea	6	1	3	2	5	3	15	10	0	1	46
Pakistan	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4
Ethiopia	1	1	2	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	10
Sudan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	325	340	452	433	426	348	2396	1275	126	152	6,273

All figures are provisional and still subject to change.

PRIORITIES

- Ensure protection of refugees and asylum seekers and provide assistance.
- Provide documents to refugees.
- Work with the government to ensure access to territory and freedom of movement.
- Continue to develop the infrastructure at Markazi camp.
- Continue border monitoring activities.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context and Migration

UNHCR continues to monitor new arrivals at Obock port. Though boats from Yemen continue to arrive, only a small number of Yemenis seek asylum in Djibouti (an average of 25 individuals per week). Rather, they use Djibouti as a transit country before travelling onwards to other countries. At the same time, Yemeni refugees continue to return spontaneously to Yemen though to a much smaller extent, and UNHCR has updated its database based on the returned refugee cards and attestations. According to UNHCR records, 899 Yemeni refugees have been removed from UNHCR Djibouti's database as of 31 May 2016. UNHCR continues to advise the refugees on the dangers of return. UNHCR has made it clear, and continues to do so, in meetings with partners, diplomats and the Government of Djibouti that UNHCR holds strong to its policy of no-return. The numbers of returns have indeed decreased. In February and March, there were 604 returns, in April 242 returns and in May 53 returns.

US Ambassador to Djibouti, H.E. Mr. Thomas Kelly, visited Markazi camp on 17 May with a delegation of U.S. civil affairs officers based in the neighbouring prefecture of Tadjoura. The Ambassador met with partners on the ground and discussed with them their activities, challenges and future prospects. Accompanying the U.S. Ambassador on his visit to Markazi camp was a delegation from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) on a monitoring mission to assess the conditions of refugees and services in the camp.



PUI taking aerial photos of Markazi camp using a drone with a camera attached.
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The French NGO, Pompiers d'Urgence Internationale (PUI), were in Djibouti to train health workers, partners and refugees on first aid and emergency response following a donation facilitated by the French Embassy in Djibouti of an ambulance to IOM. The PUI also trained staff and refugees on fire detection and management and donated five fire extinguishers to UNHCR for Markazi camp. Furthermore, the PUI provided UNHCR with aerial views of Markazi camp using a drone. This will help to identify areas where additional shelters could be added. Following necessary agreements, the ambulance is expected to be shared with refugees of the camp.

The French Ambassador to Djibouti, H.E. Mr. Christophe Guilhou, visited Markazi camp briefly on 23 May on an unofficial visit. He met with UNHCR staff and visited the health facilities in the camp.

A technical team from ECHO visited Markazi camp on 23 May on a monitoring mission to assess the activities of the World Food Programme (WFP), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The delegation visited the main infrastructures of the camp and had the opportunity to discuss the services and activities with refugees, partners and UNHCR staff.



Achievements and Impact

- From 09-31 May, UNHCR and ONARS registered 73 Yemeni individuals (43 families) in Obock and Djibouti, one Somali individual, and one Ethiopian individual. As at 25 May, a total of 1,316 urban refugees (709 families) were registered in Djibouti city.

- UNHCR conducted a physical verification exercise from 22-25 May to identify the number of Yemeni refugees present in Markazi Camp and Obock town. The figures have revealed 1,311 refugees in Markazi and Obock. UNHCR is currently updating its database based on the new figures.
- On 11 May, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) organised and facilitated an awareness campaign on child protection and gender-based violence in Markazi camp for an international visit of UNICEF. Fifteen children performed four short plays based on the most frequent violations against children and violence based on gender. Each play was followed by a Q&A session to discuss undesirable practices such as early marriage and corporal punishment. The performance was filmed by the Guardian. Some 35 women, 26 men, 40 children from the refugee population in addition to donors and partners attended the performance.
- As part of its activities to maintain family links, the Djibouti Red Crescent (CRD) offers phone call services to new arrivals and refugees so that they can call and reassure their families abroad. From 09-23 May, a total of 135 refugees in Markazi camp (78 women and 57 men and 05 minors) benefitted from the service.



DRC works with children and adults in Markazi camp to raise awareness on child protection and gender-based violence. ©DRC/E.Masiero. May2016.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- From 09-31 May, 794 refugees were treated at the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) outpatient clinic in Markazi camp mostly suffering from respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and skin infections. Furthermore, children have been complaining of intestinal worms. A door-to-door anti-parasite campaign will be conducted from 05 June to ensure all children under the age of five are treated. This may extend to children seven years of age and elderly persons in the camp as needed.
- During the reporting period, 12 patients visited the mental health unit and nine patients were transferred to Djibouti city for tertiary care. Moreover, two new baby boys were born; one of them through a caesarian section at the *Centre Medical Hospitalier (CMH)* in Obock.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Snakes have been detected in Markazi camp. Health partners are taking measures to ensure treatment is available at the CMH and the health clinic in the camp.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- Primary school students of Markazi camp (grades 1-7) who attend school at Al Rahma complex, completed their examinations during the month of May and received their exam certificates. Out of 170 students, 154 students passed their exams.
- Nine preparatory school (grade 9) students passed their exams in Djibouti city at the end of May. An additional 12 secondary school students (grade 12) are expected to pass their exams in Djibouti city during the second week of June. They were accompanied to Djibouti city by education partner Caritas.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- From 22-25 May, ONARS distributed the food and non-food items (NFIs) donated by the African Development Bank, which covered the needs of 1,496 individuals (468 families) in Markazi camp and Obock town including some vulnerable families in Obock and newly arrived refugees from Yemen. The distribution was carried out by ONARS under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The donation included flour, sugar, oil, tuna, pasta and tea. In addition to NFIs composed of mattresses, soap, jerry cans, detergent and baby nappies.
- The World Food Programme assisted ONARS with the composition of daily rations so as to provide a consistent amount of calories to refugees; consequently WFP suspended its distribution for the month of May in light of the generous donation from the African Development Bank.
- The blanket feeding in the second half of May benefitted 140 children under five years (73 boys and 66 girls) in addition to 34 pregnant and lactating women. As at the end of May, there were seven cases of severe acute malnutrition and 25 cases of moderate acute malnutrition receiving treatment in the nutrition unit in Markazi camp.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- Two solar energy missions were in Markazi camp in May to assess lighting parameters and extend existing lighting in the camp. The first mission was conducted by UNOPS on 12 May. The possibility of stand-alone posts with two batteries and two solar panels to be shared and placed between each two shelters was proposed. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) also conducted an assessment on 14 May.
- DRC distributed non-food items (NFIs), which included diapers for children and adults, wheelchairs and sanitary napkins. The distribution is carried out on a case-by-case basis for the protection of vulnerable refugees and persons with special needs in Markazi. In addition, DRC distributed 206 NFIs including 32 mattresses to 32 malnourished children in Markazi camp.



ECHO discuss means for providing ventilation and solar energy in the shelters at Markazi camp. ©DRC/E.Masiero. May2016.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR and NRC are assessing the construction of shaded areas throughout Markazi camp to protect refugees from the heat; and are exploring methods to protect the refugees from the strong winds of the Khamaseen period.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- The refugee population in Markazi camp is currently guaranteed 20 litres of water per person per day through water trucking conducted by NRC. Despite frequent water cuts, NRC trucks water from the nearby village of Oulma to ensure the water bladders are constantly filled. Construction of new water points is also underway and maintenance of existing ones is being carried out by NRC.

- During the month of May, rehabilitation and maintenance of latrines in sectors one to three in Markazi camp was undertaken by NRC to ensure proper functioning. All latrines in sector four have been dismantled, decommissioned and levelled.
- Solid waste and camp cleaning management also continues on a regular basis in Markazi camp. Solid waste is taken out of the camp every five days by NRC; and garbage collection is carried out on a regular basis with the participation of the refugee community. Cleaning tools and equipment are distributed to the refugees by NRC to facilitate garbage collection and cleaning of latrines.
- Based on regular sensitization of the refugee community, throughout the month of May, NRC hygiene promoters have noticed that children wash their hands regularly before and after meals and after defaecation. Women have also been observed to wash hands and utensils before cooking.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The showers in Markazi camp are accumulating stagnant water and are ground for breeding insects. NRC has stopped construction and is revisiting the design of the showers to ensure water is properly drained thus preventing insects from hovering around them.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with non-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.

The web portal for the Yemen Crisis is available on <http://data.unhcr.org/yemen>. This portal, co-lead by IOM and UNHCR, provides a regional overview as well as specific information on conditions and activities regarding the Yemen situation at the country level. Countries include Ethiopia, Djibouti, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Sudan. The site enables sharing of data on population and movements, maps, recent assessments, agency/NGO specific reports, the latest funding information and quick links to a variety of partner websites.

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US Ambassador and PRM learn from AHA about the health facilities and services in Markazi camp during their visit in May. ©UNHCR/N.Lashermes, May2016.

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