

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #21

27 August – 1 September 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,791,134

People affected by the conflict (in Yemen and surrounding countries), including refugees and persons internally displaced prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

1,439,118

Persons internally displaced prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

102,016

Arrivals to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sudan mainly by sea or overland.

250,000

Refugees in Yemen to be assisted with protection assistance and life sustaining items.

91,165

Individuals reached in Yemen with emergency relief items since the onset of the crisis.

FUNDING

USD 134 Million

Requested by UNHCR for the situation

UNHCR Supplementary Appeal for the Yemen Situation Emergency Response, April – September 2015 (12 June 2015), is available [here](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

■ Yemen:

On 31 August, the UNHCR Representative in Yemen, Mr. Johannes Van Der Klaauw, in his capacity as Humanitarian Coordinator, issued a statement calling for safe passage to Taizz and for a humanitarian window to deliver humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.

UNHCR is leading a joint UN mission to Aden to re-establish international UN presence in the south of Yemen.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Departures from Yemen

■ **Djibouti:** According to statistics from IOM and the Government, as of 31 August, some 24,176 people arrived since the beginning of the conflict: 11,354 Yemeni nationals, 10,968 transiting Third Country Nationals (TCNs) and 1,854 Djiboutian returnees. Five boats arrived at Obock port carrying 443 passengers: 380 Yemenis and 63 TCNs. UNHCR and ONARS registered 99 individuals. As of 30 August, UNHCR registered 2,603 refugees in Obock, among them 1,967 from Yemen. Arrivals in Moulhoulé and Gor-Angar (north of Obock) increased as boats lack fuel to reach Obock port: the majority of arrivals come from Bab-El-Mandeb and Dubab.



Somali returnees from Yemen receiving return package at Luuq Way Station © UNHCR Somalia

■ **Somalia:** According to cumulative statistics from UNHCR, Government, IOM and NGOs, some 28,887 people arrived from Yemen since 26 March. Three boats arrived from Yemen, carrying 96 individuals: 54 persons to Berbera (Somaliland) and 42 persons to Bossaso (Puntland). Among them 88 individuals were registered by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners in Berbera and Bossaso Reception Centers. Some 69 Somali returnees from Yemen reached South Central regions of Somalia: 20 individuals to Luuq (Gedo region) and 49 individuals to Baidoa (Bay region). Some 27 individuals were supported with return assistance packages by UNHCR and partners.

■ **Ethiopia:** Some 3,416 people arrived from Yemen: 907 Yemenis, 2,500 Somalis, 4 Eritreans, and 5 Iraqis; 67 per cent children and 56 per cent women. As of 1 September, UNHCR and the Government Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) registered 1,699 refugees and asylum-seekers: 868 Yemeni nationals, 822 Somali, 4 Eritrean, and 5 Iraqi. Some 39 Yemenis await registration, and an additional 151 were already registered with ARRA and UNHCR prior to the outbreak of the conflict in March. This indicates a total of 1,058 Yemeni refugees in Ethiopia.

New Arrivals to Yemen

From 26 to 31 August, 18 boats arrived along the Arabian Sea coast of Yemen carrying 1,780 Ethiopian and 110 Somali new arrivals. In Sana'a, UNHCR interviewed 37 new arrival asylum-seekers; one of them, who was identified for SGBV by UNHCR Community Services staff, was referred to UNHCR partner InterSos for immediate assistance. UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM, Action Africa Help International (AAH-I) and other partners, is continuing a Mass Information Campaign in Somaliland and Puntland on the risks of crossing into Yemen. These messages will also be disseminated through radio and newsletters to inform and give voice to refugees in East Africa.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

UN-backed talks in Oman have yet to produce any tangible results, with Yemeni President Hadi demanding that Houthis withdraw from the cities where they are based and hand over their arms prior to any further negotiations. On 26 August, Yemeni forces reportedly fired a scud missile from a location near Sana'a against the Saudi city of Jaizan. Renewed fighting was reported in Al-Hudaydah while Houthis and their allies regained more positions in Taizz. Recently, Saudi-led coalition troops deployed in Marid advanced on Shabwah. At least eight Yemeni cities were hit by airstrikes with newly reported civilian casualties, while Houthi-Saleh units intensified their cross-border attacks on Saudi army installations.

On 31 August, the Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator issued a statement calling for safe passage and predictable access to Taizz and a humanitarian window for delivery of assistance. The situation of the civilian population in the Governorate of Taizz is increasingly desperate. Civilians are subject to seemingly indiscriminate violence and other grave and systematic human rights violations perpetrated by all parties to the conflict. The HC called on all parties to the conflict to respect the lives and rights of civilians and protect civilian infrastructure under International Humanitarian Law.

The security situation in the country remains grim. From 25 to 27 August, the UN Under Secretary General for Safety and Security (USG UNDSS), Mr. Peter Drennan, conducted a mission to Sana'a to better appreciate the security environment UN staff are operating under, in Yemen. He met with UN agencies, INGOS and government counterparts. He reviewed security and safety measures for UN operations in the country. During the same period, the Director of the UN Medical Service in New York, Dr. Jillann Farmer, was on mission to Sana'a to identify health needs of Yemenis as well as UN staff in the country. She witnessed the capacity of local health facilities, met with national and international staff members to provide awareness on how to maintain physical and mental health, and reviewed contingency plans in the event of mass casualties and the need for urgent medical evacuation.

On 26 August, a delegation of six UN international staff (UNDSS, UNICEF, UNHCR and a member of the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster) left for a 2-week mission to Aden. They departed from Djibouti on a WFP chartered boat. The mission, led by UNHCR, is preparing for the return of international UN presence in Aden and to reinforce the work of the UN agencies.

On 30 August, petrol was again available on the market after a cut in fuel supplies for more than two weeks in the central and north of the country. Queues of vehicles stretched around petrol stations, blocking roads in some places. The reaction to the resumption of fuel sales led to some chaos and altercations: many people carried arms and displayed aggressive behaviour due to uncertainties on fuel supplies and next shipments.

Protection

Achievements and Impact

Djibouti:

- UNHCR distributed 12 family attestations and 23 refugee ID cards, and liaised with local authorities to issue birth certificates to four new-born Yemeni children in Markazi camp.

Somalia:

- On 28 August, a boat that departed from Mukalla (Yemen), reached Bossaso (Puntland). The boat carried 42 individuals from Kharaz, Aden and Sana'a. Among them, there were 20 children. Some 34 individuals requested assistance and were transported by IOM to Bossaso Reception Center.
- UNHCR registered 69 Yemenis as prima facie refugees in Bossaso.
- Some 1,300 Prima Facie Refugee Certificates were delivered to the Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR) for distribution to Yemeni refugees.
- At the Reception Centers in Berbera and Bossaso, UNHCR, through its implementing partners the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and InterSos, assessed the needs of 69 Somali returnees from Yemen, and supported 20 returnees with return assistance packages in Luuq Way Station, and assisted seven returnees from Yemen in Baidoa Way Station. The return assistance package includes a Core Relief Item kit, three-month food ratio, and reinstallation cash grant of 100 USD per person, up to 600 USD per family. Three returnee cases are being verified at the Way Station and are awaiting assistance.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- The UNHCR Assistant Representative (Protection) is reviewing registration needs in terms of staff and materials required to increase daily registration capacity and renewal of certificates at the UNHCR reception centre to avoid crowding outside the centre.

Djibouti:

- Maintaining accurate figures on camp population remains a challenge due to the high mobility of refugees between the camp and Obock town.

Somalia:

- Efforts are underway to secure transit and reception facilities in Mogadishu for effective returnee verification and distribution of return assistance package.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Djibouti:

- The Lutheran World Federation organized daily catch-up classes in the Al-Rahma orphanage for children from grades 1 to 7.

Health

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- On 26 August, UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), who suspended activities on 10 June due to insecurity, re-opened one of its two health centres in Al-Basateen in Aden for first aid, basic laboratory services, mental health and psychosocial support. UNHCR provided CSSW with a generator for electricity to the centre, while CSSW completed preliminary rehabilitation of the second building, severely damaged during the conflict.



UNHCR and Al-Rahma staff during the official launch of the school year, August 2015. ©UNHCR S.Malaguti

Somalia:

- Save the Children International (SCI), in coordination with Gardo Hospital, set up a mobile health clinic for emergency health support to arriving Yemeni refugees. The clinic consists of four nurses, one doctor and an ambulance.
- SCI and the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) referred emergency medical cases and provided first aid to eight new arrivals. Two children with respiratory problems, and three SGBV survivors were assisted by local NGO Tadamun Social Society (TASS), at Bossaso Reception Center.

Saudi Arabia:

- On 28 and 31 August, King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Works, in coordination with the International Commission for Doctors Across Continents, operated two relief planes that landed at Aden International Airport. They carried a total of 21 tons of medical supplies.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Somalia:

- WFP, through their implementing partner Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA), distributed cooked meals to all arrivals at Bossaso Reception Center (Puntland). WFP, through DRC, is also providing new arrivals in Berbera Reception Center (Somaliland) with wet food (Corn Soya Blend (CSB), pulse, oil and porridge).
- WFP registered an additional 139 individuals in Gardo and provided food assistance to 477 Yemeni individuals. All registered households are given an e-transfer card to purchase food items from WFP contracted retailers.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Somalia:

- During the reporting period, NRC continued a water, sanitation and hygiene campaign at the first Reception Center in Bossaso (Puntland), including garbage collection and hygiene awareness, and distributed two waste containers to the new Reception Center in Bossaso. SRCS provided five volunteers for hygiene and sanitation improvement.

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- On 25 August, based on an earlier assessment UNHCR’s partner Al-Amal distributed mattresses, blankets, sleeping mats, buckets and kitchen sets to 469 IDPs in Mabyan, and, on 28 and 30 August, to 465 IDPs in Abs in Abs and Haradh. This was the first distribution in Mabyan, and the second distribution for Abs (the last was conducted on 18 May and assisted 1,603 individuals). Al-Amal distributed 38 tents in Mayban and 6 tents in Abs.
- From 23 to 29 August, UNHCR partner Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) distributed NFIs to 1,706 IDPs in Amran, displaced from Sa’ada governorate. From 23 to 25 August, UNHCR partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) distributed NFIs to 153 individuals in Sana’a. On 23 to 24 August, UNHCR partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) distributed NFIs to 1,334 individuals displaced from Aden in Lahj.

Somalia:

- In Berbera, UNHCR provided five families with Core Relief Item kits. A total of 503 CRI kits were distributed since the beginning of the Yemen crisis in Berbera Reception Centre, Somaliland (including blanket, jerry can, and sleeping mats).

 Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- On 23 August, UNHCR delivered NFIs to Amran (ten trucks), on 24 August to Abs (five 40 metric tonne trucks and a sixth 10 metric tonne truck) and to Mayban (two 10 metric tonne trucks), and on 30 August in Sana’a (eight 10 metric tonne trucks). UNHCR also delivered 190 tents to Amran on 30 August (one 30 metric tonne truck). NFIs for Marib for 1,866 families (twenty 40 metric tonne trucks) are awaiting security clearance.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- The humanitarian community is preparing a convoy of relief items to Taiz and Ibb governorates, most affected by the current phase of the conflict. WFP will take charge of the costs for transportation, loading and off-loading relief items to and from Sana’a to the final destination. Through its partners the Yemen Red Crescent for Ibb and the Yemen Humanitarian Forum for Taizz, UNHCR will cover food and NFI distributions. IOM will contribute hygiene material, and UNFPA dignity kits. The first convoy will distribute items to 600 families (400 in Taizz and 200 in Ibb) to open up a humanitarian corridor.

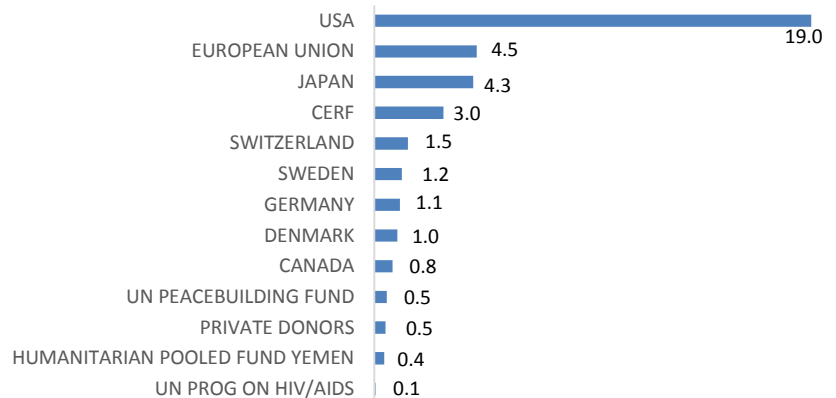
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 37.8 million**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Major donors of unrestricted and regional contributions in 2015: United States of America (160 M) | Sweden (80 M) | United Kingdom (53 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Priv Donors Spain (22 M) | Japan (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Canada (11 M)

Funding received (in million USD)



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Yemen Situation: Regional Map (total population movement out of Yemen: 102,016)

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