



YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #27

7-14 October 2015

KEY FIGURES

2,690,737

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.

2,305,048

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

121,074

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

264,615

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

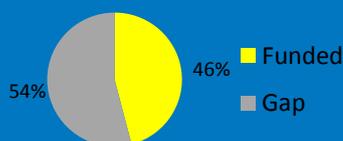
118,653

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

FUNDING

USD 153 Million

Requested by UNHCR for the situation



UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for the Yemen Situation Emergency Response, April – December 2015 (16 Oct 2015), is available [here](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

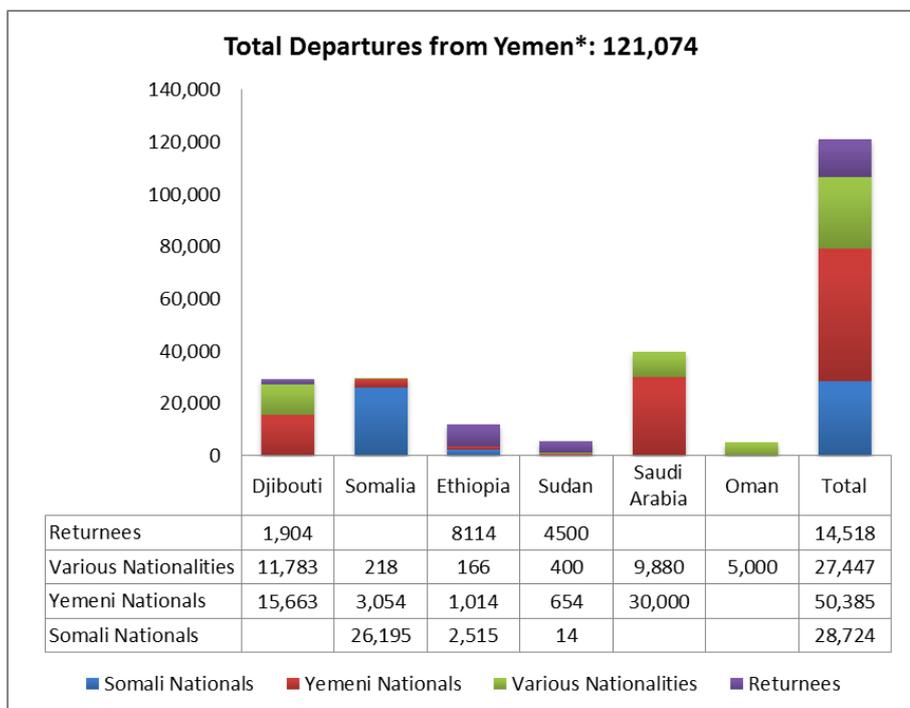
Yemen:

- On 14 October, the new report by the Task Force on Population Movement was released, with updated figures for IDPs in Yemen amounting to an estimate of 2,305,408.
- From 6 to 8 October, UNHCR Yemen participated in the Consultative Meeting for Yemen in Larnaca, Cyprus, aimed at building a shared understanding among participating Yemenis and international partners on the current situation in Yemen and likely scenarios through 2016.

Somalia

- During the reporting period, three boats carrying 148 individuals arrived to Somalia from Yemen: 41 to Berbera (Somaliland) and 107 to Bossaso (Puntland). Out of them, 131 individuals were registered by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners in Berbera and Bossaso reception centres. The others directly rejoined their families and were not in need of assistance.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS



*From statistics by UNHCR, IOM, governments, and NGOs, 27 March until present.

New Arrivals to Yemen

In September, 10,804 new arrivals landed along the Arabian and Red Sea coasts, bringing the total arrivals in 2015 to over 58,000 (3,457 new arrivals so far in October). The situation along the Taizz coastal area is extremely critical with parties to the conflict actively fighting along the road UNHCR partners usually patrol. In Sana'a, UNHCR registered 50 new arrival asylum seekers; eight minors and two GBV cases were referred by Community Services to partners for assistance.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND GAPS

Operational Context

The overall security situation in Yemen remains tense and continues to deteriorate due to ongoing heavy fighting in Marib, Taizz, Al Bayda and continuous airstrikes in Sana'a. On 11 October, several airstrikes were carried out on the airport in Al Hudaydah, on the presidential palace as well as Al Hafa'a and Nuqm mountains in Al Sabeen and Azzal districts of Sana'a. According to the latest report by WHO, from 19 March to 27 September, there have been 5,306 deaths, including 290 women and 356 children, and 26,294 cases of injuries as a result of the conflict. As at 20 September, 6,777 cases of dengue fevers were recorded in Yemen: 1,700 cases in Taizz, with an increase of cases in Shabwah governorate. In September Yemen received only one percent of its monthly commercial fuel needs and there have been no shipments since 6 October. Eleven commercial ships remain anchored off-shore waiting to berth at Al Hudaydah port. Yemen relies on imports, but the blockade has slowed shipments to a trickle.

In Somalia, the influx of new arrivals has reduced in the last few months due to rougher conditions at sea and informal reports that the situation in Somalia is not favorable. The most recent arrival in Bossaso was a boat carrying 107 persons on 10 October 2015. The latest arrivals in Berbera were on 8 October 2015: a commercial boat carrying 41 individuals (40 Yemenis and one Somali) and a boat carrying 40 individuals reached Zeilac, a port city in the northwestern Awdal region of Somaliland. Data collection is being conducted by the government authorities, and needs assessment by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to identify those in need of onward transportation assistance. Another boat arrived in Bossaso on 4 October 2015 (but was not reported in the previous update) carrying seven Somalis.

In Djibouti, border monitoring from 27 September to 8 October revealed that boats continue to arrive at Obock port and at the nearby coastline at Mulhuleh and Khor Anger. These are either commercial boats carrying large numbers of people or small fishing boats traveling between Bab Al Mandab in Yemen and Djibouti. Since 27 September, boats carrying 2,231 passengers (2,100 Yemenis and 131 migrants in transit) made it to the shores of Obock. UNHCR and ONARS work together with the port authorities to facilitate arrival formalities. Upon arrival at the port, WFP and UNHCR provide the new arrivals with water, food and high-energy biscuits. Once settled in Markazi camp, UNHCR provides them with standard non-food items (NFIs).

Protection

Yemen:

- On 7 October, UNHCR in Sana'a met with the Director of the Bureau for Refugee Affairs (BRA) to finalize the letter of understanding on payment of incentives for BRA staff and partial coverage of office expenses, which the Representative signed on 11 October. The letter enabled the resumption of BRA registration activities for Somali refugees, and joint BRA/UNHCR reception of asylum requests from non-Somalis.
- On 11 October, UNHCR in Sana'a met with members of the National Subcommittee for Refugee Affairs (NASCRA) to discuss the long-standing cooperation between the National Committee for Refugee Affairs (NACRA), NASCRA and UNHCR. NASCRA members briefed the Assistant Representative on their role as the concerned governmental body responsible for all refugee related issues, e.g. their involvement in mixed migration, voluntary repatriation and registration of Somalis. NASCRA also informed UNHCR about a number of issues that refugee leaders brought to their attention, including requests for an increase in financial assistance, resettlement and relocation services, and dry food rations. UNHCR and NASCRA agreed

to resume regular meetings and NASCRA expressed an interest in being involved in consultations with persons of concern, such as age, gender and diversity mainstreaming (AGDM).

- The Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM) published its 5th report, which validates new IDP figures of 2,305,048 internally displaced persons due to the current conflict in Yemen, as compared to 1,439,118 persons in the 4th report (published on 5 August). This represents an increase of 865,930 displaced people (60 per cent). The number of districts covered by the information collection increased by 29 per cent. Five governorates most affected by the fighting - Abyan, Aden, Al Dahle, Hajjah and Taizz - account for more than 1.3 million of the 2.3 million internally displaced people, or 57 per cent of the total. Aden governorate hosts the highest number of IDPs (393,508 individuals), followed by Taizz (300,585 individuals) and Hajjah (280,821 individuals).

Ethiopia

- As of 12 October 2015, Ethiopia received 3,538 refugees from Yemen: 2,515 Somalis, 1,014 Yemenis, five Iraqis and four Eritreans.
- UNHCR and the Government Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) registered 1,806 persons of concern: 975 Yemenis, 822 Somalis, five Iraqis and four Eritreans.
- Following ARRA's decision to waive nationality screening for Yemeni asylum-seekers considering that all arrivals so far held either national passports or letters from the Yemeni Embassy attesting their Yemeni citizenship, 900 of the registered Yemeni are now recognized as *prima facie* refugees, while 140 remain asylum-seekers. Consequently, of the total registered population arrived from Yemen, 145 are asylum-seekers (140 Yemeni and five Iraqis) and 1,726 are refugees (900 Yemenis, 822 Somalis and four Eritreans).

Somalia

- UNHCR Bossaso registered 42 Yemeni refugees (24 families). The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), through UNHCR funding, provided a subsistence allowance to 73 Yemeni households. As of 12 October, the total number of registered Yemeni refugees was 1,742 individuals (658 families).
- Save the Children International (SCI) provided psychosocial support to 33 children at the reception centre in Bossaso (including two separated children). SCI also conducted family tracing and reunification training for child protection working group members, the Puntland Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs and reception centre security guards.
- Some 38 Yemeni refugees (26 cases) were registered in Hargeisa by Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR). Some 2,036 Yemeni refugees (1,038 cases) have been registered in Hargeisa by the MRRR since 28 March, and 2,098 Yemeni *prima facie* refugees (1,062 cases) with UNHCR Hargeisa (including the Yemeni cases that were transferred from UNHCR Bossaso to UNHCR Hargeisa). No new registration took place between 11-17 October, as all registration activities were on hold for UNHCR and the MRRR to conduct the Yemeni *prima facie* refugee verification exercise.
- UNHCR Mogadishu, in close collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) of the Federal Government of Somalia, registered Yemeni refugees at the IOM reception centre in Mogadishu. A total of 271 Yemeni refugees have been registered so far: 132 individuals have been verified as already registered at the entry ports of Bossaso and Berbera, while 139 Yemeni refugees have been newly registered. The exercise will continue until the estimated total of 2,000 Yemeni refugees living in Mogadishu has been registered. In parallel with the registration exercise, UNHCR conducted a vulnerability assessment for the Yemeni refugees: 20 families have been assessed and recommended for subsistence allowance for three months.

Education

Yemen:

- The Ministry of Education announced that the start of the academic school year has been postponed to 1 November (excluding several governorates in the south where school commenced on 4 October).

- In Sana'a, UNHCR partner ADRA launched five English classes, with over 50 students enrolled.

- On 8 October, Kharaz refugee camp celebrated teachers working in the camp on the occasion of World Teacher Day. UNHCR partner Millennium Development Foundation (MDF) hosted the event; children sang songs, read poems and 37 teachers received certificates of appreciation in



In Kharaz refugee camp (Yemen), teachers are celebrated on the occasion of World Teachers Day. ©MDF 2015

recognition of their long standing service in educating refugees in the camp.

- UNHCR and MDF met to discuss planned activities for the next three months to support the return of refugee children to schools. MDF also delivered stationery to Kharaz camp schools and kindergarten.
- UNHCR partner Solidarity Foundation for Development (SAD) conducted visits in the community in Basateen to coordinate with the parents of kindergarten children, distribution of uniforms for children in kindergarten, and registration of new students.

Somalia:

- School National Examination for Yemeni students in Hargeisa (Somaliland) was ongoing until 14 October, overseen by a mission from the Yemeni Ministry of Education.

Djibouti:

- Given the increase of arrivals and asylum seekers, the UNHCR/ONARS bus used for transporting children is no longer available and sufficient. Education partners are discussing alternative solutions to ensure the continuity of the shuttle service for children between Markazi camp and Al Rahma school to attend catch up classes.

Health

Yemen:

- UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) provided medical services and medicines in Basateen and Kharaz camp for 414 children and 237 adults, and reproductive healthcare services to 79 women.
- UNHCR partner Association for Developing Persons with Special Needs (ADPSN) reopened its early intervention centre in Basateen neighbourhood in Aden following the departures of IDPs seeking shelter there. ADPSN made a general announcement in the community about the resumption of the centres' activities, including physiotherapy, for returning refugees. ADPSN is also preparing a quick and informal survey to collect information on the whereabouts of families of children with disabilities, to assess whether they returned and if not, where are they are located, for the full resumption of services for refugees.

Djibouti:

- 133 children were vaccinated at Markazi Health Centre, among them 37 children under 5 years old and 76 children between 6-15 years old.

- On 10 October, the King Salman Humanitarian and Relief Center (KSHRC) set up two fully equipped prefabricated clinics (7 meters x 5 meters each) with two air conditioning units and two generators at Markazi camp. Cutting-edge medical supplies were also installed by the engineers from the KSHRC.
- On 5 October, UNHCR partner NGO Johanniter conducted a sensitization session for 90 women from Markazi camp to raise awareness on complementary feedings, immunization, medical follow up and healthcare. The same session was conducted in Obock town for 80 women and mothers of malnourished or at-risk children.



Food Security and Nutrition

Somalia:

- WFP continued to provide three hot meals a day at Bossaso's 1st reception centre during the reporting period (35 metric tons of food). WFP also registered 22 individuals (12 households) in their database SCOPE, to be provided with a food voucher card to complement food provided at the reception centre.

Djibouti:

- On 12 and 13 October, cooking stoves and kerosene were distributed to new arrivals in Markazi camp. UNHCR received 3,200 litres of kerosene from ONARS). UNHCR will cease to distribute meals to the refugees.
- On 7 October, CSSW and the Qatar Royal Charity distributed food baskets to new arrivals (400 households). On 8 October, the King Salman Center donated food baskets to 400 refugee households at Markazi camp to both newly arrived and already resident refugees in the camp. The distribution was facilitated by ONARS and UNHCR.



Water and Sanitation

Somalia:

- NRC continued its garbage collection and hygiene awareness campaign and provided a three-day training on hygiene promotion and awareness sensitization to 14 volunteers at Bossaso 1st reception centre.
- In Puntland, SCI provided baby hygiene kits to eight children and DRC distributed 110 sanitary pads to 55 vulnerable women and girls. Each beneficiary was given two packs with 10 pieces each.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR and NRC are discussing a plan to construct new latrines and showers for new arrivals close to the newly built tents in Markazi camp. Construction will commence as soon as possible.



Shelter and NFIs

Yemen:

- From 4 to 11 October, UNHCR distributed core relief items (CRIs) to 10,307 IDPS (6,904 IDPs in Amran, 732 IDPs in Sana'a, and 2,671 IDPs in Hajjah). Since the beginning of the conflict, UNHCR distributed CRIs to over 118,653 IDPs.
- From 4 to 6 October, UNHCR partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) conducted a rapid needs assessment of some 400 IDP families in Ras-al-Ara (Lahj governorate) who fled from the Bab-el-Mandab area and distributed NFIs to them. 50 extremely vulnerable families living in the open were given tents.
- Most IDPs who were living in schools in Aden either returned to their homes (some damaged), moved in with relatives, rented other accommodation, or relocated to collective centres. However, many vulnerable IDPs are moving between schools currently not being used for classes, and collective centres in the hope of receiving some form of assistance, primarily food, from local NGOs and charities. One school in Dar Saad district still hosts some 200 families (refugees, asylum seekers, along with Yemeni families from Basateen and Dar Saad). UNHCR partner InterSoS conducted an assessment of the families, based upon which Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) will provide rental subsidies for the most vulnerable.

- As of 8 October, UNHCR has available CRI stocks for 45,080 individuals (for 35,182 individuals in the north, and for 9,898 in the south). Between 9 to 10 October, Sub Office Aden transferred NFIs to its warehouse for some 84,000 individuals.

Somalia:

- UNHCR distributed 12 CRI kits to new arrivals at Berbera reception centre. So far, 673 CRI kits have been distributed in Berbera.

Djibouti:

- Six trucks carrying 300 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) reached Obock on 8 October. They are stored at Markazi camp and at the UNHCR field unit in Obock. NRC is also providing storage facilities, and discussions between UNHCR and NRC are ongoing regarding installation of the RHUs.
- There is a need to coordinate donations reaching Markazi camp. UNHCR, ONARS, WFP and partners decided to store newly received food items so as not to overwhelm the population with too many donations.
- Given the limited space in Markazi camp, discussions with local authorities resulted in expanding the camp area and allocating space in the sports complex of Obock to accommodate the influx of new arrivals.



Logistics

Somalia:

- UNHCR, through its partner IOM, conducted vulnerability assessments for the group that arrived in Bossaso on 10 October, and provided 64 Somali returnees with onward transportation assistance to Mogadishu (39 persons), Baidoa (13), Kismayo (six), Hargeisa (one), Jowhar (three), Barawe (one), and Dinsoor (one).
- UNHCR, through its partner IOM, conducted vulnerability assessments and assisted 41 Somali returnees who arrived in Berbera on 8 October with onward transportation assistance to Hargeisa.

Working in partnership

Regional Refugee Coordinator's Office

- Joint UNHCR-IOM donors briefing in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) on the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RRMRP): On 7-8 October the Regional Refugee Coordinator and IOM jointly briefed donors and humanitarian actors on the RRMRP in Riyadh. The briefing was attended by ambassadors and the UN country team. Additionally, meetings were held with the King Salman Centre and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to present the trends of new arrivals in the region, achievements, challenges, as well as likely scenarios, planning figures for the next 15 months and to highlight priorities, including preparedness. The meeting also provided an opportunity to present the link between the RRMRP with the Gulf of Aden Strategy, which was drawn up by IOM and UNHCR to pursue four priorities with the aim of building upon the objectives of the Regional Response Plan for countries affected by the Yemen situation. It was well attended, with the ambassadors from Denmark, Norway and Belgium participating.

Yemen:

- From 6 to 8 October, UNHCR Yemen participated in the Consultative Meeting for Yemen held in Larnaca, Cyprus. The meeting was organized by the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union. The objectives of the meeting were to build a shared understanding among participating Yemenis and international partners on the current situation in Yemen and likely trajectories through 2016; define priority needs and actions in key sectors to support immediate needs, reconstruction and recovery, and longer-term development; and strengthen relationships and coordination mechanisms among Yemenis and international partners working on immediate needs, reconstruction, recovery and development issues.
- UNHCR Sub Office Aden met with partners in the south to discuss expansion of presence, awareness and reach of the sub-national Shelter and Protection clusters. The meetings were of an introductory nature to share existing information on activities, needs and displacement trends in the south.

Somalia:

On 12 October, a Protection partners meeting took place at the UNHCR Hargeisa Office to discuss cash assistance modalities for new arrivals including refugees and returnees from Yemen. In order for UNHCR and partners to continue to design and implement appropriate solutions to support arrivals from Yemen, an assessment of new arrivals' living conditions was discussed. Partners were invited to fill out the assessment and share it with UNHCR to have a consolidated analysis within the next two weeks.

Djibouti:

- On 8 October, UNHCR met with partners in Obock and decided to hold regular sectorial coordination meetings to better address the urgent gaps and needs of the camp and the refugees.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

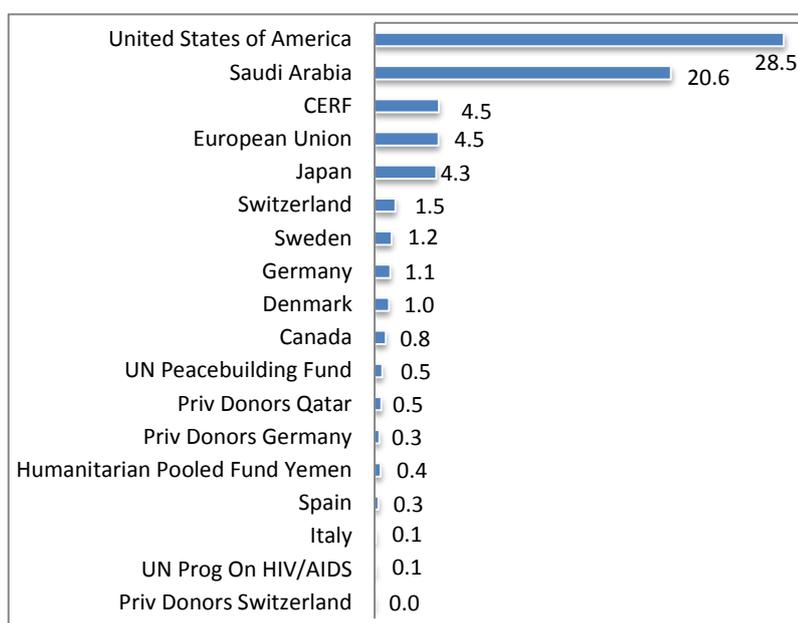
Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 6 October amount to some

US\$ 70.2 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 un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2015: United States of America (251 M) | Sweden (80 M) | United Kingdom (53 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Priv Donors Spain (29 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Canada (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Italy (13 M) | Priv Donors Sweden (12 M) | Finland (10 M)

Funding received (in million USD)



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