

YEMEN

UNHCR UPDATE

23 – 29 June 2017

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

As the Holy month of Ramadan came to a close, Eid brought little respite for Yemenis and refugee communities alike. Armed conflict and hunger continued to affect families, placing civilians directly in harm's way. In addition, the United Nations warned that Yemen is facing the worst cholera outbreak in the world. The latest figures show a continued increase in the number of suspected cases, which now stands at over 200,000 individuals, and the number of deaths at 1,300, one third of whom are children. The death toll is expected to continue to rise, with an estimated 5,000 suspected new cases daily.

UNHCR teams across the country worked to respond to the most vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs), IDP returnees and refugees. Tough weather conditions, from searing heat to heavy rains, added to the challenges in responding. Nonetheless, assistance, in particular emergency shelter support, continued to reach vulnerable families in contested areas, in an effort to provide vulnerable cases with a sense of privacy and dignity as the conflict continues unabated.

IDP RESPONSE

Members of the Shelter/NFI/Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster, led by UNHCR, carried out a joint mission to Ibb Governorate, seeking to assess the gaps and challenges faced by cluster partners. During the two day mission, cluster partners visited IDPs in five collective centers, and four schools that are slated for relocation. UNHCR will support the relocation efforts by providing rental subsidies through partner ACTED. The mission also met with a representative from the Governor's Office who briefed on the current situation and urgent needs in Ibb.

UNHCR's country-wide effort to disburse rental subsidies to vulnerable displaced and IDP returnee families continues, with a goal of assisting 9,200 families (64,400 individuals) by the end of July. The subsidy covers three months' worth of rental costs, amounting to US \$300 per family. In Aden, UNHCR is working with partner INTERSOS, and 1,213 families have been verified for rental subsidies in the governorates of Aden, Lahj, and Taizz. The cash transfer is also underway in Sa'ada. Hudaydah and Hajjah this week, and will reach 1,000 families respectively. A further 511 IDP families in Dhamar, Marib and Amran Governorates received rental subsidies during the past week.

A rapid assessment was conducted for families affected by flooding in various districts in Ibb Governorate. A total of 166 families were identified as vulnerable, in dire need of food, NFIs and emergency shelter. Among those affected are families who have been supported by UNHCR in the past, with heavy rains washing away emergency shelter and NFIs previously received. In response, UNHCR and partner ACTED, joined by Deputy Governor and head of Executive Unit Ibb, provided emergency assistance, in the form of NFIs and emergency shelter kits, to 1,336 individuals.

REFUGEE RESPONSE

UNHCR efforts continue to focus on confronting the epidemic in areas with a high concentration of refugees, through supported health and community centres, early case detection/surveillance and referral services. In Kharaz refugee camp, seven individuals with suspected cholera were treated successfully at the UNHCR Diarrhoeal Treatment Centre, including two refugees and five Yemenis from Kharaz town. In Sana'a, one cholera case among the refugee population was confirmed this week, and is receiving treatment. Awareness sessions reached 1,500 people across the country this week.

UNHCR, in close coordination with IOM, Yemen authorities and the Somali Consul, are working toward the roll out of the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme for Somalis. So far, 383 individuals have been counselled at established return help desks in Kharaz camp and Basateen in the south of Yemen. Somalis have received information on conditions in return locations in Somalia and detailed information on the voluntary return process, as life in Yemen becomes more challenging.

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KEY FIGURES

18.8

million people in need

1,988,946

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

81

Percentage of IDPs displaced for more than a year

900,258

IDP returnees

860,061

recipients of NFIs since March 2015

280,096

refugees and asylum seekers

24,559

new arrivals to Yemeni coast since 1 January 2017

FUNDING

USD 114.6 million

requested for IDPs and refugees in Yemen for 2017

