

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #17

30 July – 5 August 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Yemen: UNHCR Representative in Yemen, Johannes van der Klaauw, in his capacity as Humanitarian Coordinator, undertook a 2-day mission to Sa'ada (5-6 August) to assess the humanitarian needs and impact of the escalated conflict. He met with staff and partners, to discuss the potential re-establishment of international presence in affected areas. He reports that the level of destruction and needs are high. Meanwhile, UNHCR, WFP and UNDSS are on a 3-day mission to Aden to ascertain whether, how and when a common UN office can be reopened and humanitarian operations can resume.

KEY FIGURES

1,616,110

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.

1,267,590

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

98,520

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.

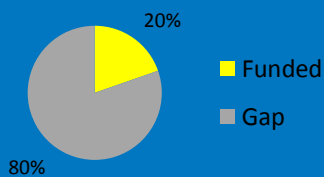
78,438

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

FUNDING

USD 134.1 Million

Requested by UNHCR for the situation



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



Markazi Refugee Camp, Djibouti - Children race on bicycles donated by the American Bar Association and private donations ©UNHCR/S. Malaguti, 2015

Departures from Yemen

Djibouti: According to statistics from IOM and the Djibouti government, 21,726 persons of mixed nationalities arrived in Djibouti as of 30 July: 9,953 Yemeni nationals, 9,946 (Third Country Nationals and 1,827 Djiboutian returnees). As of 5 August, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee agency) registered 2,445 refugees (2,318 Yemeni nationals): 1,795 refugees, of which 1,746 Yemeni nationals, are registered in Obock and are mainly hosted at the Markazi camp.

Somalia: Some 2,616 individuals arrived in Somalia from Yemen: 73 persons to Berbera (Somaliland) and 2,543 persons to Bossaso, Puntland (2,197 Somalis, 337 Yemenis, 7 Ethiopians, 1 Kenyan and 1 Indian). Among them, 1,124 individuals were registered by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners at the Berbera and Bossaso Reception Centres. The total number of arrivals to Somalia since the onset of the conflict in Yemen is of 28,433 individuals as at 4 August, of which 17,124 are registered.

New Arrivals to Yemen

Some three boats carrying 632 individuals (48 Somalis, 584 Ethiopians; 64 females) reached the Yemen Arabian Sea Coast; 28 asylum-seekers (27 males, 1 female) and 21 unaccompanied minors were identified. Since January, 37,416 new arrivals were recorded as at June 30.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Heavy confrontations and airstrikes continue in Aden, Lahj, Al Dhale'e, Shabwa, and Marib, Sa'ada, Hajjah and Hodeidah, while less reduction of airstrikes in Sana'a were noticed over the past week. Analysts indicate that a swift end to the conflict should not be expected, with a probable escalation in the short term. On 31 July a suicide bomber attacked an army checkpoint in Sana'a killing nine soldiers; Al Qaeda is reportedly responsible for the attack. On 1 August, 13 civilians were killed and many injured when airstrikes mistakenly targeted residential areas in Al-Hawta, Lahj governorate.

UNOCHA reports that 21.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. According to a new Gender Alert on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), approximately 20 to 30 per cent of displaced households are female headed. This reflects a dramatic increase when compared to about nine per cent before the current crisis. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights stated on 4 August that the civilian death toll in Yemen rose to at least 1,916, with another 4,186 civilians wounded since the start of the armed conflict in March 2015.

Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen, met with officials in Cairo as part of the ongoing efforts to reach a political solution to the conflict. Mr. Ahmed met with the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Nabil Elaraby, with whom he exchanged views on the situation in Yemen and the peace process. Mr. Ahmed will soon travel to Oman and Saudi Arabia, before traveling to New York to brief the Security Council.

The Aden the airport is reopening, counting on a United Arab Emirates (UAE) technical team overseeing repairs. Specialists are also reportedly working to repair the damages in the sea port to allow receiving more ships. Troops and armoured vehicles from the UAE are said to have arrived in Aden in recent days. A number of ships carrying relief supplies docked at the port of Aden during the week. It is hoped that this will facilitate the delivery of aid to Aden despite important remaining obstacles, i.e. ongoing insecurity, lack of access for distribution inside the city and in surrounding areas. The Saudi-led coalition is diverting flights from Sana'a airport (except for UNHAS flights) to Aden; Yemenia flights in and out of the country will now be leaving to and from Aden.

Following the recent developments and the Humanitarian Coordinator's mission to Aden, the head of UNHCR Aden sub office/Area Security Coordinator, accompanied by the UNHCR Field Security Adviser, WFP head of Aden office and a UNDSS officer departed on 4 August on a 3-day mission to ascertain feasibility, potentials and modalities to re-establish a UN office, led by UNHCR, to resume at the level commensurate to the significantly increasing needs.

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Since June, the reopened UNHCR Registration office in Sana'a, registered 206 refugees and asylum seekers, and renewed 212 refugee registrations. One case submitted for emergency resettlement was accepted by Sweden.
- UNHCR and partner International Relief and Development (IRD) assessed the vulnerability of 150 individual refugee/asylum seekers cases in Sana'a and identified 145 cases for assistance.
- From 2 to 3 August, UNHCR's partner the Millennium Development Foundation (MDF) conducted training on Child Protection Policy and Psychological First Aid in Sana'a for parents of 62 foster care families, 15 vulnerable female headed families, and six families with disabled children.
- UNHCR's partner InterSos provided 17 urgent cases in Kharaz refugee camp with financial assistance while continuing to assess individuals in need of assistance.
- The Yemen Humanitarian Forum (YHF) and UNHCR recently conducted a Multi-indicator Rapid Assessment (MIRA) with 330 families in the districts of Addis Al-Sharqia and Al-Shehr in Hadramout governorate, and the districts of Al-Dihar, Al-Sadah and Thi-Alsofal in Ibb governorate. Main issues identified are: food and potable water shortage, need for psychological support, a lack of health services, presence of armed youth, the lack of suitable shelter, scarcity of fuel, and significant protection concerns in the IDP accommodation centres.

Saudi Arabia:

- Some 416,052 Yemeni nationals regularized their status and were granted visas as at 4 August.

Somalia:

- UNHCR Bossaso registered 123 Yemeni arrivals (28 households) as prima facie refugees. The total number of Yemeni nationals registered as refugees in Somalia is currently 1,613 persons. UNHCR and Puntland Ministry of Interior conducted a survey in Bossaso, Garowe and Gardo to revise the scale of the subsistence allowance provided, which is deemed insufficient to cover the basic needs of Yemeni refugees, particularly in shelter needs.
- Rehabilitation of the two Reception Centres in Berbera is underway, including construction of a kitchen and extra latrines and laundry facilities. UNHCR's implementing partners, Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland (CCBRS) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), have now their own office at the Centre. IOM medical unit has been upgraded and Save the Children International (SCI) is completing the construction of the children playground area and the registration room.
- A joint mission by UNHCR, IOM and Somaliland Minister of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR) took place on 29 July 2015 to review possible reception sites in Berbera: a potentially suitable facility was identified and contract for rehabilitation work should be signed soon.

Djibouti:

- Yemeni refugees who left Markazi refugee camp during the severe weather conditions are gradually returning to the camp. Based on UNHCR registers and food distribution lists, over 650 refugees are currently residing in Markazi camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Somalia:

- Registration of Yemeni refugees in remote areas is pending due to difficulties by UNHCR staff in reaching those locations.
- As agreed with authorities, UNHCR will look into the distribution of identification cards to new arrivals so that their lawful status in Somaliland can be more easily confirmed and, where possible, assistance provided at their final destinations. New arrivals already receive proof of registration after initial data collection in Berbera Reception Centre, and certificates upon registration.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- On 4 August, InterSOS started English classes in the Kharaz refugee camp with 72 students participating.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- With limited access to electricity, InterSOS is unable to resume computer courses in the Kharaz refugee camp.



English class in Kharaz refugee camp. © InterSOS/M.Mahdi 2015

Health

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR's partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW)'s medical team visited the Al Khera district and Mansoura districts of Aden where displaced Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers are living. The team met with 49 families/233 individuals: 21 cases were treated, mainly for diarrhea and skin infections, and 100 long lasting insecticide treated mosquito-nets were distributed to all the identified 49 families to prevent dengue.

Saudi Arabia:

- On July 31 a relief plane arrived in Aden International Airport carrying 10 tons of medical supplies for patients with kidney failure. The cargo was accompanied by a team from King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Works (KSCRH) and from Doctors Without Borders.

Somalia:

- The Tadamon Social Society (TASS), UNICEF local partner, and SRCS provided emergency medical support to 18 individuals (including 9 children) upon arrival in Bossaso, and Save the Children International (SCI) provided medical referrals in Bossaso to 48 patients (10 children and 38 adults). SCI also provided emergency medical assistance to 20 Yemeni refugees in Gardo (4 children and 16 adults).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- The Basateen health clinic remains closed following damages to the laboratory caused by projectiles on 15 June.

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Last week a WFP truck loaded with wheat arrived to Kharaz refugee camp and on 3 August, another truck with rice reached the camp. According to WFP, the remaining food basket is en route to the camp. A new distribution will then be conducted.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR's partner Al Rahma Association will provide hot meals to Yemeni refugees in Markazi camp for another month. UNHCR continues to support with ad hoc in-kind donations and to assist with transportation and distribution of meals.

Somalia:

- WFP provided 2.32 metric tons of food to the Bossaso Reception Centre through its local partner Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA). Additionally, WFP provided plumpy doz to 150 children to prevent malnutrition. SCI provided nutrition screening at the Bossaso Reception Centre to 89 children under the age of 5 and 39 lactating mothers. Three moderate acute malnutrition cases were identified and provided with Plumpy' Doz.
- DRC provided emergency water and biscuits to 2,543 new arrivals at Bossaso Port and to 1,051 persons in the Reception Center in Bossaso.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- Some 24 WFP trucks destined for Aden and Kharaz refugee camp are stuck at a checkpoint in Bab-al-Mandab, Taiz. Negotiations are on-going. In Kharaz refugee camp, refugees regularly approach UNHCR and partners expressing their urgent need for food.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Somalia:

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) coordinates a waste collection and hygiene promotion campaign at the Reception Centre in Bossaso and SRSC provided five volunteers to engage in hygiene and sanitation activities.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- On 30 July, UNHCR's partner the Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) distributed NFIs to 47 families/123 individuals in the Al-Mansura district of Aden. On 31 July, UNHCR's partner the Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) transported NFIs from Sana'a to Amran prepositioned 700 families/4,900 individuals. YRC distributed NFIs to 70 families/432 individuals in Amran city. Since the start of the conflict, UNHCR has reached 12,368 families/78,438 individuals with emergency aid items in Yemen.

Djibouti:

- Following the storms of 17 July, 96 Sahara desert tents received from the Bahrain Royal Charity Association through ONARS were distributed and set up by UNHCR in Markazi camp. Tents have also been set up for the medical centre in Markazi camp and for the newly established reception area for UNHCR and ONARS at Obock port.

Somalia:

- NRC provided 527 NFI kits to 527 Somali returnee households at Bossaso Reception Centre.
- UNHCR's partner Puntland Elders Network (PEN) assisted 13 families of Somali returnees in Bossaso with finding housing.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- For the past three weeks, 17 UNHCR trucks with NFIs have remained at a checkpoint outside of Aden. Negotiations for entry are still on-going.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Somalia:

- UNHCR's partner IOM provided onward transportation assistance to 480 Somali returnees who arrived in Berbera and Bossaso, 370 of which went to Mogadishu or other South Central regions. Among the 30 July arrivals in Bossaso, 993 have or will be getting onward transportation assistance from local authorities, UNHCR and other Task Force members, including 918 returnees to South Central regions, 42 to Puntland and 33 to Somaliland.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- The UNHCR Representative met with the new Head of Mission of InterSOS to discuss refugee and IDP needs. The findings of the recently concluded in-depth protection assessment by InterSOS in Mukalla in Hadramaut governorate highlighted the need for a multi-sectorial response to the needs of both IDPs and refugees through a joint approach by the humanitarian community.

Saudi Arabia:

- UNHCR Yemen has deployed a staff to King Salman Center in Riyadh, to facilitate the approval of UNHCR project for Provision of live-saving assistance to Internally Displaced Yemenis and finalize the Memorandum of Understanding with the Center.

Djibouti:

- On 3 August, H.E. Mr. Thomas Kelly, United States Ambassador to Djibouti, visited Markazi Camp in Obock with UNHCR Representative, Mr. Paul Ndaitouroum, to observe the situation of Yemeni refugees and to inquire on the donor response to the Djibouti Refugee Response on the Yemen Crisis launched on 21 July. The Ambassador expressed his heartfelt appreciation to UNHCR staff.

Somalia:

- On 4 August 2015, the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General/Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator for Somalia, Mr. Peter de Clercq, visited Berbera (Somaliland) and Bossaso (Puntland) with a delegation from UNHCR, UNOCHA, and IOM. The delegation visited the Reception Centres in Berbera and Bossaso and met with the local government and partners.



United States Ambassador visits the health clinic at Markazi Camp ©UNHCR/A. Abdelkhalek, Aug 2015.

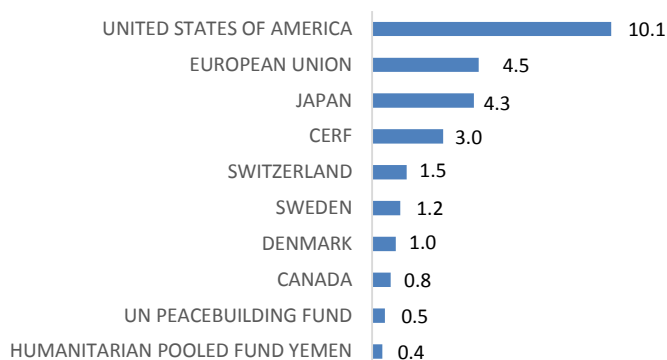
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 27.3 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 contributions in 2015: United States of America (133 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)

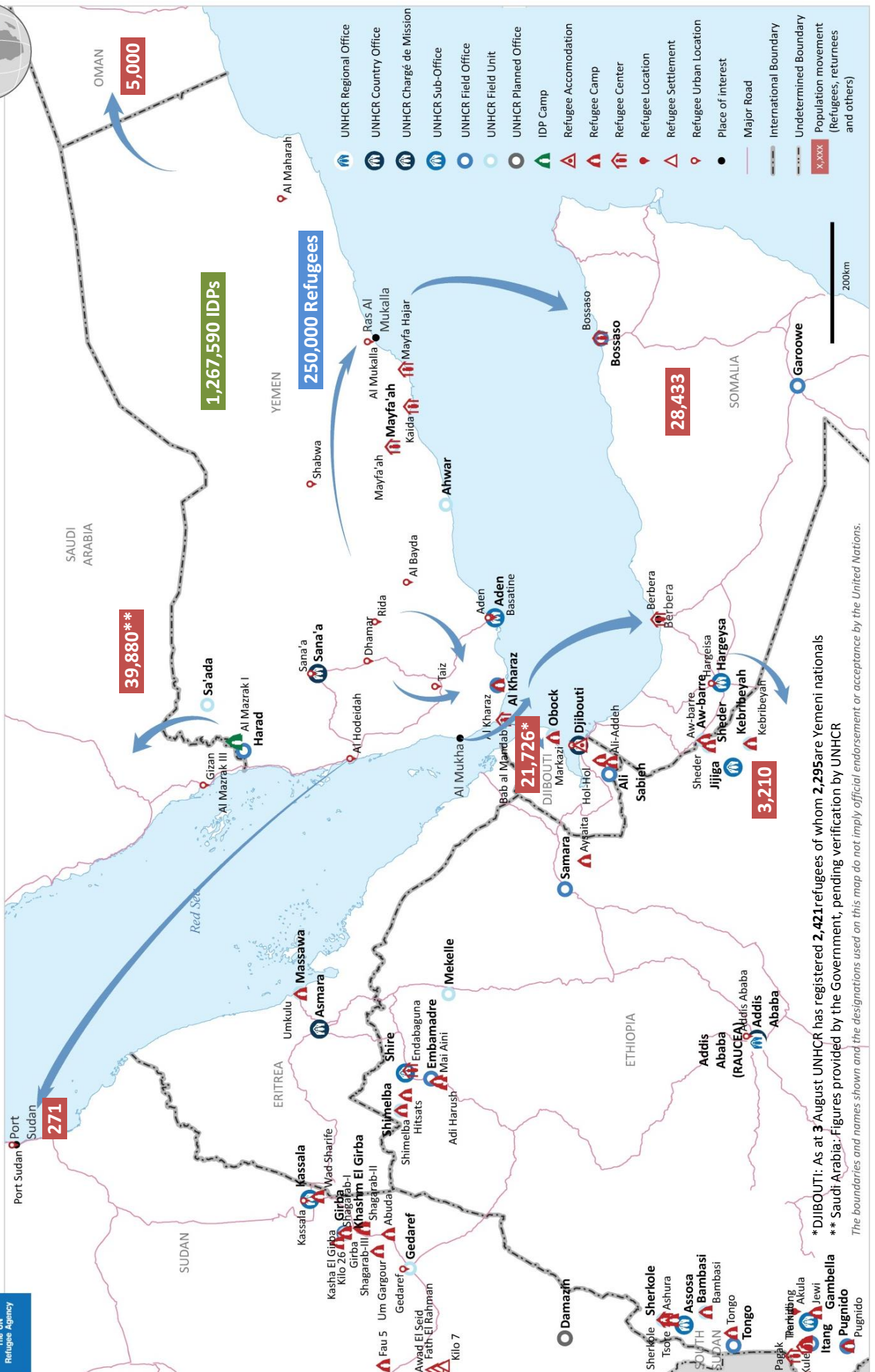


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Yemen Situation: Regional Map

6 August 2015



* DJIBOUTI: As at 3 August UNHCR has registered 2,421 refugees of whom 2,295 are Yemeni nationals
 ** Saudi Arabia: Figures provided by the Government, pending verification by UNHCR

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.