

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR CRISIS UPDATE #3

8 May, 2015

KEY FIGURES

906,467

People of concern to UNHCR, including refugees and persons displaced prior to the conflict.

300,000

Newly displaced people in Yemen since the onset of the conflict in March.

26,467

Arrivals to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sudan by sea or across land borders.

10,000

People will be reached in Aden with medicine and medical supplies provided by UNHCR.

800

Kits containing essential life sustaining items have been distributed to families in Al Bureiqa, west of Aden.

HIGHLIGHTS

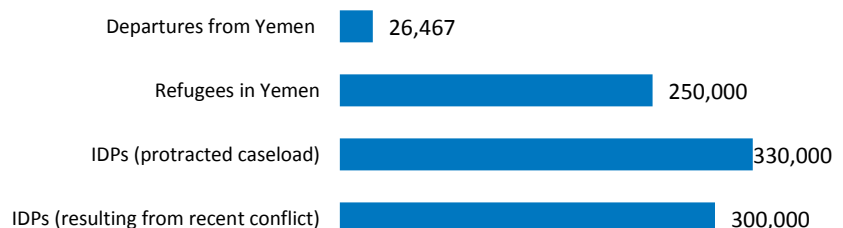
- The humanitarian situation in Yemen remains precarious with continuous airstrikes on civilian infrastructure and severe fuel shortages affecting the most vulnerable, including women, children, persons with medical conditions and disabilities. The need for basic items, including food, fuel, health services, water and sanitation, and shelter are increasing exponentially.
- UNHCR assisted 800 families fleeing the conflict in the Al Tawahi area in the Gulf of Aden, Yemen. Around the clock distribution of life sustaining items is taking place in schools and hospitals in Al Bureiqa district where families are sheltered.
- UNHCR contributed medicine and medical supplies to public hospitals and clinics in Aden to cover a population of 10,000 people for three months.
- In Djibouti, UNHCR and ONARS, the government refugee entity, have registered 1,025 arrivals from Yemen since 27 March. Of these, 736 refugees are currently hosted in two temporary transit centres (Obock sports centre and Al Rahma orphanage); 84 refugees are staying at the Markazi camp where UNHCR is providing refugee attestations.



New arrivals from Yemen at the Berbera Port in Somaliland are received by UNHCR and partners and provided with emergency health care and other requirements. May 2015/UNHCR.

Population of concern

A total of **906,467** people of concern



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

With continuous airstrikes on civilian infrastructure and severe fuel shortages, humanitarian needs have increased across the country, affecting the most vulnerable, not least women, children, people with medical conditions and disabilities, as well as older people. In particular, the besieged southern port city of Aden and Taiz in central Yemen remains imperiled by airstrikes while armed clashes destroy infrastructure. Two trucks heading to Sa'ada governorate transporting food were destroyed on 3 May. On 5 May, clashes and shelling took place within the Saudi territory affecting border cities near Najran. The Saba phone network in Sa'ada, the most reliable of the four telecommunication networks in Yemen, was hit, affecting communication in several areas.

The spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the conflict has resulted in 646 civilian casualties and 1,300 injuries (5 May). According to WFP's Yemen Market Watch, the prices of essential food commodities are 40 percent higher than prior to the conflict. An emergency UN Security Council meeting on Yemen was convened on 1 May and discussed the possibility of a humanitarian pause to facilitate the delivery of aid to Yemen.

UNHCR is concerned about the rising numbers of people displaced within Yemen since late March. The estimated number of newly displaced persons in Yemen since 27 March is approximately 300,000 people. The refugee community in Yemen continues to be affected by airstrikes and clashes and express concerns about their security.

The UNHCR Sub-Office in Aden, along with the other UN offices, remains under the control of a party to the conflict. UNHCR confirmed that no vehicles were taken and is negotiating the return of items including radios, fuel, and food. On 5 May, two UNHCR warehouses in Sana'a, Al Nasr and Al Sawan, were affected by an airstrike that hit a nearby road, causing damage to the roof of one warehouse, affecting stored materials.

At least 32 people were killed by airstrikes in a boat fleeing from Al-Tawahi district of Aden to Al-Bureiqa, west Aden. Hundreds of families are fleeing Al-Tawahi and Muala and arriving in Al-Bureiqa, including two UNHCR staff members, where they are sheltered in schools and public facilities. The fuel crisis is severely restricting patrolling activities. UNHCR's partner Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) was able to buy fuel at double the market price to patrol the Bab Al-Mandab strait. UNHCR partners ascertain there are still new arrivals to Yemen; they are being registered and assisted.

Departures from Yemen

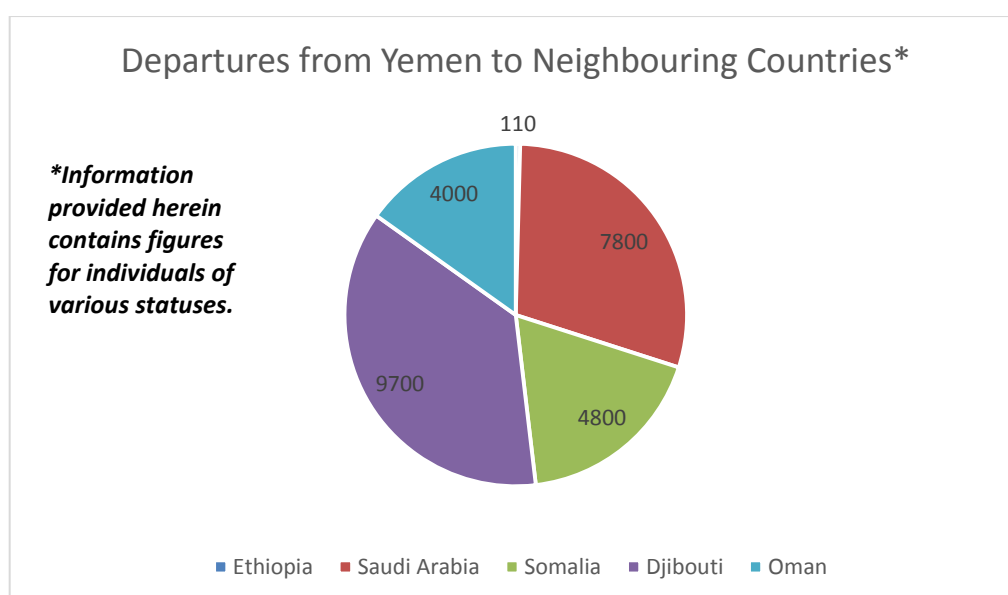
Djibouti: According to statistics from IOM and the Djiboutian government, 9,703 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 4 May since the onset of the crisis. 3,230 of those are Yemeni nationals. As of 6 May UNHCR has registered 1,025 refugees of which 967 are Yemeni nationals.

Somalia: As of 8 May, there are now 4,798 arrivals since the beginning of the conflict of which 327 are Yemeni nationals and 4,426 are Somalian.



Newly displaced persons in Al-Bureiqa received these essential items, including mattresses, cookware, and buckets from UNHCR's partner, Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS). May 2015/SHS.

Oman: Reports from the Omani Charitable Organization indicate that up to 4,000 Yemeni crossed into Oman, many of whom are said to be of dual nationality; this figure cannot be verified by UNHCR.



Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Protection staff maintain communication with Persons of Concern (PoCs) on the UNHCR hotline and through community leaders. Most calls received from over 20 PoCs and families this week were requests for evacuation, resettlement inquiries, or financial assistance.
- InterSos lawyers in Sana'a in cooperation with UNHCR coordinated the release of six Ethiopian asylum seekers detained for illegal entry into the country. Another six Ethiopians were also detained and lawyers are working on their release. In the north at least 31 PoCs received legal assistance from InterSos lawyers this week.
- InterSos lawyers also reported that Somali refugees detained in Al Mahrah central prison are provided with regular detention monitoring and support through the lawyer based in the governorate.
- Despite the conflict, arrivals to Yemen continue. However with limited patrolling capacity, the statistics are likely to be partial. During the month of April 4,064 new arrivals landed along the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea coast. Of them there were 517 refugees and asylum seekers who were registered and provided temporary documentation slips to facilitate their movement within Yemen.
- On 2 May the Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) was able to buy fuel at double the market price to patrol the Bab Al Mandab strait. No boats were reported as landing on the Arabian Sea coast on 30 April. On 2 May, 40 Ethiopian asylum seekers were encountered in the Dubab area, 25 of whom were taken to the Bab Al Mandab transit centre and provided with a meal before being transported to Kharaz refugee camp for registration. On 4 May, UNHCR partner YRC transported 14 new arrivals from the Bab Al Mandab transit centre to Kharaz Camp. A boat landed at the Arabian Sea coast carrying 119 new arrivals, 116 Ethiopians and 3 Somalis, the majority of which were male.

Djibouti:

- The Protection Working Group (PWG) under UNHCR leadership updated its inter-agency response plan to cover Yemen refugee needs for a six-month period. UNICEF and partners will support a rapid child protection assessment,

the establishment of child-friendly spaces and child protection committees, provision of psychosocial support to children, family tracing and reunification, and community mobilisation activities around child protection issues, children rights and gender-based violence to promote wellbeing, risk mitigation and positive coping mechanisms.

- UNHCR is providing refugee attestations in Markazi camp and will start imminently in the two transit centres.

Saudi Arabia:

- A joint announcement by the Ministry of Labour and Interior stated that Yemenis living and working in the Kingdom will be assisted, including a renewable six-month extension of their visas, permission to work, and an exemption from fines and other penalties. The ministries said the concession is for Yemenis who had not corrected their status and who were in the Kingdom before 10 April. The General Passport Department will correct the legal status for Yemeni nationals. UNHCR is following up with concerned ministries regarding those of concern to UNHCR.
- New arrivals continue to contact the UNHCR office seeking advice and support with regards to their emergency visa extension and the legal status of their sponsors.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- Power outages extend for hours at a time making it difficult for UNHCR Field Units to maintain regular contact with Community Based Protection Network (CBPN) members, impacting the flow of information.
- The lack of fuel and transportation has limited the ability of CBPN members to access IDP centres and to submit reports. The CBPN have been forced to drastically limit visits to IDP locations.

Djibouti:

- More security is needed to provide safe access to the water bladders and to prevent vandalism; a sensitization campaign amongst the refugee population in the camp has been launched. Electricity and fencing are required in Markazi camp.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- InterSos distributed cash grants to 40 refugee students attending vocational and technical colleges in Sana'a. The students are supported through their three year vocational training programme with monthly incentives.

Djibouti:

- UNICEF in collaboration with Lutheran World Federation and the Ministry of Education will support the establishment of temporary learning spaces, recruitment and training of teachers and educators, and provision of learning, teaching and recreational materials.
- The Ministry of Education is supporting the ongoing inter-agency/government response. The first materials provided by UNICEF will be deployed to Markazi next week, in coordination with UNHCR.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- The Ministry of Education announced that all schools and colleges in Yemen will remain closed until further notice.

Health

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR donated medicine, medical supplies to eight public hospitals and clinics. In addition UNHCR provided an Emergency Health Kit containing sufficient essential medicine, medical supplies and devices for a population of 10,000 people for approximately three months. Supplies in Aden have greatly diminished because of the security situation and inaccessibility of roads. Some hospitals and clinics were forced to close because of a shortage of medicine and supplies and regular electricity cuts.
- In the south, the Kharaz Refugee Camp treated 233 outpatients and five inpatients during the past week.

Djibouti:

- UNICEF, African Humanitarian Action (AHA), and the Ministry of Health are providing vaccines and cold chain equipment, essential medicine for childhood illnesses such as diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections.
- Six cases of severe acute malnutrition and 12 cases of moderate acute malnutrition have been identified among children under-five, and are receiving adequate treatment and care.
- The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, UNICEF and WHO are organising a National Campaign against Polio and Measles with vitamin A supplementation on 9 May, also targeting children in refugee camps.
- An assessment on chronic diseases was conducted in the transit centres and in the camp. As a result 31 chronic patients have been identified.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Djibouti:

- UNICEF, Action Contre La Faim (ACF), Johanniter and AHA support nutritional check-ups upon arrival and on a monthly basis for all children under-five, pregnant women and lactating mothers; quality treatment for moderate and acute malnutrition; a blanket feeding programme for children at high risk of acute malnutrition; and micronutrient supplementation. A Nutrition Sub-Working Group has been established in Obock.
- Malnutrition screening is ongoing for all under-5 refugee children, pregnant women and lactating mothers upon arrival. Six children with severe acute malnutrition and 12 cases of moderate acute malnutrition are receiving adequate treatment and care.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Djibouti:** Despite the supply of nutritional products to Obock last week, during a joint mission by the National Nutrition Programme and UNICEF, there is a shortfall of Formula 100; therapeutic milk used for the treatment of severe malnutrition. Arrangements have been done for the provision of this product to Obock Regional Hospital on the 6 May by the National Nutrition Programme.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Djibouti:

- UNICEF in collaboration with ACF, DRC, NRC, Djiboutian Red Crescent, ONEAD and Department of Rural Hydraulics supports access to safe water for the refugee population along with hygiene promotion activities both for refugee and host population. This will include the provision of water storage materials, purification tablets, hygiene kits and other WASH NFIs.



Yemeni refugees at the water point in Markazi camp, Djibouti. Two water bladders are now in place with a capacity of 15,000 litres each. May 2015/UNHCR.

- In Markazi camp, UNICEF and ACF replaced a bladder that was underperforming and installed a second one, both linked to water taps, increasing water storage capacity from 15 m³ to 30 m³.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Djibouti:** There is an urgent need to start hygiene promotion activities among the refugee and host communities to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR is distributing NFIs to around 800 families fleeing recent clashes in Al-Tawahi area on the Gulf of Aden. The displaced families arrived in a mass exodus and occupied schools and public facilities in Al-Bureiq, west of Aden. UNHCR working with its partner SHS, has provided 100 mattresses and blankets to the refinery hospital and NFIs including sheeting, sleeping mats and mattresses, kitchen sets and jerry cans to over 162 families in six primary schools in Al-Bureiq on 6 May. The distribution is going on around the clock to provide for the large numbers of displaced persons.
- 60 displaced urban refugees fleeing the conflict have been allocated shelter at the new arrival area in Kharaz camp. UNHCR established a committee including UNHCR, InterSOS, SHS and the refugee community to prepare accommodation for the displaced refugees in the new arrival area of the camp. The families were also provided with NFIs and rations. InterSOS will prepare individual documentation for each family.
- An assessment identified the need for emergency relief items to 41 families displaced from Fajj Attan Mountain. UNHCR partner InterSOS distributed NFIs to 19 families residing at the Olympic Hall in the Al Jeraf area on 6 May 2015. The remaining 22 families have moved since the initial assessment. UNHCR is locating the families to distribute the NFIs.

Djibouti:

- 736 refugees are currently hosted in two temporary transit centres (Obock sports centre and Al-Rahma orphanage); 84 refugees are staying at the Markazi camp.
- UNHCR together with NRC continues construction work in Markazi camp. So far, 82 tents, 38 latrines, ten community kitchens as well as one food distribution centre are in place.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Yemen:** UNHCR partner InterSOS is facing difficulties transferring cash from Sana'a to Kharaz camp and Aden.
- **Djibouti:** A shaded meeting point needs to be constructed in Markazi camp to provide a communal place for the refugee community.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Support to the Urban Refugees Centre, run by UNHCR's partner ADRA, remains open in Sana'a with shorter operating hours. Day care and Early Childhood Development (ECD) activities remain with a few children attending. ADRA resumed two English classes starting on 5 May.
- UNHCR partner, International Relief and Development (IRD) revised and approved a new Monthly Subsistence Allowance (MSA) to refugees and asylum seekers with emergency criteria. The amount of the MSA will increase and pregnant and nursing women are now a separate category, as is single parent headed households and Syrian temporary permit holders across all categories.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- InterSos Livelihood courses remain postponed by the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training until further notice.
- In the urban area of Basateen, Aden, InterSos has not been able to provide persons with specific needs with monthly assistance, as they are short on cash. InterSos is facing difficulties in transferring cash from Sana'a to the camp and to Aden.

**Logistics****Achievements and Impact****Yemen:**

- The procurement of emergency relief items from UNHCR's stockpile in Dubai to Yemen is underway. UNHCR has chartered a vessel with the estimated arrival to Yemen on 9 May. The 90,648 kilograms worth of items include kitchen sets, thermal blankets and sleeping mats.
- In Yemen, mattresses, blankets, sleeping mats, plastic sheeting, buckets and kitchen sets have been released for distribution to identified families in need.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There are very limited guarantees regarding the delivery of humanitarian supplies. Damage to the runways in Sana'a and Hodeida and the closure of Aden airport have severely hampered any attempts of an efficient and effective humanitarian response.

Working in partnership**Yemen:**

- A request by UNHCR was made to UNFPA in Amman for 3,500 dignity kits available in Yemen for distribution within the next three months to refugees and asylum seekers across Yemen.
- UNHCR submitted three proposals to the Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund (YHPF) totaling some 30 million USD. The YHPF aims to promote a strategic and coordinated response towards the Yemen emergency within 3-6 months.

Djibouti:

- 11 UN agencies and NGOs have submitted their inputs for the Refugee Response Plan for the Yemen crisis.

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Yemen Situation: Regional map

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