

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #30

28 October – 3 November 2015

KEY FIGURES

2,691,733

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.

122,070

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.

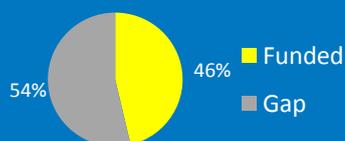
150,892

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 October 2015), is available [here](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Yemen:

- UNHCR commenced distribution of 3,000 NFI kits and 1,000 tents in Cyclone Chapala affected areas along the Gulf of Aden in Yemen.
- On 28 October, the Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator led a UN inter-agency mission (UNHCR, WFP, WHO, OCHA) to Amran governorate to assess the impact of the conflict.



UNHCR and SHS deliver NFI kits and tents in Chapala-affected Al Jila village in Shabwa. © UNHCR/SHS 2015

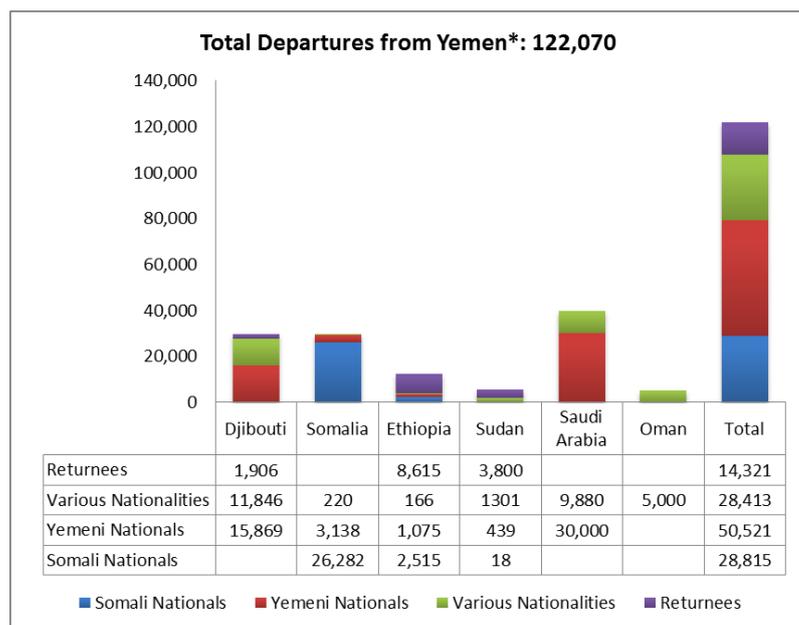


Somalia:

- 181 Somali returnees from Yemen (39 households) reached South Central regions of Somalia through Berbera and Bossaso: 127 individuals (26 families) arrived in Mogadishu, 45 (11 families) in Baidoa, and nine (two families) in Luuq.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Departures from Yemen



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

New Arrivals to Yemen

UNHCR Yemen continues to liaise with colleagues in Somaliland and Puntland to carry out a Mass Information Campaign to dissuade Somalis and Ethiopians from taking boats to Yemen due to the level of insecurity in the country and to the dangerous conditions at sea as a result of Chapala. From 16 to 31 October, there were 6,609 new arrivals along the Arabian Sea coast, and over 11,000 new arrivals in October. Humanitarian operations along the Red Sea remain suspended due to the ongoing conflict. In Sana'a, UNHCR registered 84 new arrival asylum seekers; two were minors whom UNHCR Community Services referred to partners for assistance.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND GAPS

Operational Context

On 1 November, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, announced that talks between all parties will begin in mid-November. Meanwhile in Yemen, airstrikes continued in Hajjah, Sa'ada, Al Hudaydah, Amran, Al-Jawf, Maribka, Sana'a, Al-Mahwit, Taizz, Ibb, and Shabwah governorates. Armed clashes persist in Al-Jawf, Al Bayda, Marib, and Taizz, and cross border shelling struck Najran city in Saudi Arabia. On 26 October, six consecutive airstrikes hit Haydan Hospital run by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Sa'ada. More than 20 people were inside the hospital at the time, including three patients and various medical and other staff; seven were reportedly injured. The UN Secretary-General reminded that hospitals and medical personnel are explicitly protected under international humanitarian law, and called all parties to respect their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law to prevent attacks against civilians and civilian objects. MSF is seeking security guarantees to continue working in Yemen. This was the 39th health centre hit since the violence escalated in March. Critical shortages of fuel, medications, electricity, petrol and water threaten to prevent many more from operating.

Over the past few weeks, violence increased in intensity in Taizz. On 29 October WFP issued a statement appealing for access to Taizz where 240,000 civilians are in urgent need of food, as there have been no deliveries for five weeks. WFP's statement echoes the earlier appeals by both MSF on the urgent need to deliver medical supplies, and the Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator asking for safe access to humanitarian workers.

Forty three fishermen were reportedly killed at sea by airstrikes off the coast of Al Hudaydah. It is estimated that nearly 150 fishermen have been killed since the escalation of the crisis. Lack of fuel and fear of airstrikes deter

fishermen from going out to sea, which is affecting the already grave level of food insecurity and livelihoods for a population that relies heavily on fishing as a source of food and income. The Yemeni Rial recently dropped in value from 215 to a record low of 300 to the US dollar, while fuel, cooking gas and food prices continue to soar.

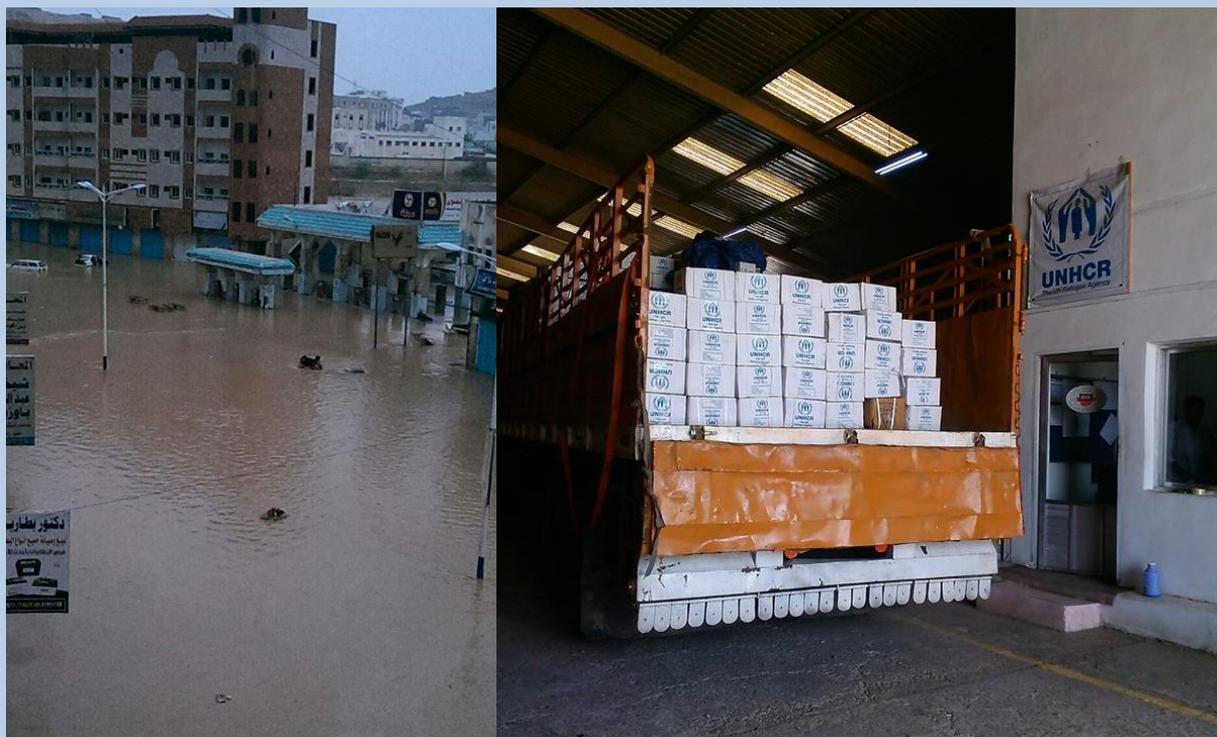
In Djibouti, the pace of arrivals decreased significantly and only 17 new refugees were registered. On 1 November, three boats arrived to Obock port with 209 Yemenis: 12 Yemenis registered as refugees, and the others continued on their way to Djibouti city. UNHCR and partners continue to scale up Markazi camp to accommodate new refugees. Through regular meetings, partners coordinate the work on the ground to set up Refugee Housing Units (RHUs), build pit latrines and communal kitchens, enhance health services and improve the child friendly spaces in the camp. Yemenis, who recently arrived in Djibouti, confirmed that some Yemenis would like to flee Yemen but are prevented by militias' check-points along the roads in Yemen that allow foreigners to leave but stop the Yemenis. Other reasons preventing departures include fear of landmines and heavy fighting in Taizz governorate, where the Bab Al Mandab fishing port, popular for its proximity to Djibouti, is situated.

Update on Tropical Cyclone Chapala in Yemen

Tropical Cyclone "Chapala," a category 3 cyclone, made landfall in Yemen on 3 November in Hadramaut governorate before moving into Shabwah. The effects of the cyclone was felt over large parts of Yemen, and particularly in Shabwah and Hadramaut, potentially affecting 1.9 million persons. 76 per cent (1.4 million) are already in need of humanitarian assistance, which includes over 100,000 displaced people and over 27,000 refugees and migrants. Chapala hit the Yemeni island of Socotra situated 350km from the mainland in the Arabian Sea on 1 November, reportedly killing two people and injuring nine while some 80 houses were damaged and over 1,000 families displaced on the island, with many taking shelter in caves, schools, or in the homes of relatives. People on the Yemeni island of Socotra in the Arabian Sea are urgently in need of NFIs, in particular tents, mattresses and blankets.

UNHCR is coordinating response with other UN agencies, humanitarian actors, local authorities, and civil society, and already transferred 3,000 NFI kits and 1,000 tents to Al Mukalla, of which some 1,000 NFI kits were moved to Shabwah. UNHCR partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) distributed items for UNHCR in Hadramaut, Shabwah, Al Maharah and other affected areas. UNHCR is in the process of transferring 5,000 emergency shelter kits to Al Mukalla and replenishing its Aden stocks from Sana'a. Roads between Al Mukalla and Al Maharah were partly destroyed by the cyclone, and SHS is exploring alternative routes to promptly reach affected areas. SHS also conducted evacuations in Bir Ali, Shabwah, transporting civilians to Mayfa'a and other areas. UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) evacuated 80 IDPs families to the orphan training centre in Al Maharah, 1,350 IDP families from the Bir Ali area to its training centre in Al-Ghaidha (Shabwah), and over 2,000 IDP families from coastal areas to health centres, two general hospitals, and six shelters in Hadramaut.

Flooding in Al Mukalla (left); UNHCR preparing response (right). ©SHS, ©InterSos 2015



Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR renewed 93 refugee certificates and registered seven new-borns. The RSD unit is prioritizing assessments of all fast-track pending cases. Community Services counselled seven unaccompanied minors and two children with special needs, as well as three best-interest assessments and 25 home visits, to ascertain living conditions and needs of refugee children and their families or guardians.
- UNHCR partner International Relief for Development assessed 81 new cases for financial assistance (nine with emergency needs) and reassessed 8 cases for further assistance. In Kharaz refugee camp, UNHCR partner InterSos assessed four new cases and provided financial assistance to 75 cases.
- On 29 October, Community Services in Sana'a trained 50 participants including government counterparts, UNHCR partners and refugee community leaders as part of a multifunctional team, to conduct age gender diversity mainstreaming group discussions.

Djibouti:

- From 29 September to 1 November, UNHCR Obock registered 2,053 individuals (560 families). There are 2,634 refugees (743 families) in Markazi camp. Since the government decision on 30 September to facilitate registration of Yemenis residing in Djibouti-city, 641 cases were registered as of 1 November.
- On 29 October, UNHCR facilitated and monitored the distribution of dignity kits (containing slippers, women's clothes, sanitary napkins and a small torch) provided by UNFPA for 320 families in Markazi camp.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is rehabilitating the child friendly space in Markazi camp. DRC will also provide maintenance of recreational equipment to make it safer for the children.

Somalia

- During the reporting period, UNHCR Bossaso registered 18 Yemeni refugees (six families) and verified 45 Yemeni individuals (13 families) with biometrics system. As of 2 November 2015, 1,890 Yemeni refugees (737 families) were registered by UNHCR Bossaso in proGres.
- The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) assisted 53 Somali returnees from Yemen with restoring family links (RFL) phone calls and assisted seven vulnerable returnees with psychosocial support.
- Eight Yemeni refugees (two cases) were registered in Hargeisa by the Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (MRRR): 2,125 Yemeni *prima facie* refugees (1,056 cases) are registered with UNHCR Hargeisa as of 1 November, including 62 Yemeni refugees (23 cases) who were transferred from UNHCR Bossaso to UNHCR Hargeisa.

Ethiopia:

- UNHCR and the Government Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) registered 1,847 persons of concern: 1,016 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, 952 of the registered Yemeni are now recognized as *prima facie* refugees, while 212 remain asylum-seekers. As a result, of the total registered population arrived from Yemen, 217 are asylum-seekers (212 Yemenis and five Iraqis) and 1,778 are refugees (952 Yemenis, 822 Somalis and four Eritreans).
- In UNHCR's latest meeting with ARRA, instructions were issued for ARRA Jijiga to immediately start working on a plan to transport 81 Yemenis and 822 Somali refugees registered in Jijiga. UNHCR is coordinating with IOM the relocation. Registration and assistance of Somalis who arrived in Dollo Ado was approved by ARRA. Information leaflets on registration and assistance were developed to be distributed to new arrivals in Jijiga and Dollo Ado at UNHCR and ARRA offices. The first draft will be submitted to ARRA for approval. At a later time, copies of the leaflets will also be given to immigration officials based at border areas.

Somalia:

- The World Food Programme (WFP) provided hot meals three times a day at Bossaso reception centre, and Save the Children International (SCI) provided ready to drink milk and biscuits for children and mothers.

 Health

Yemen:

- In Basateen (Aden), and in Kharaz refugee camp, UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) provided medical services and medicines to 763 refugees (315 under five), reproductive healthcare services to 133 women, routine immunization for 114 children, mental health services for 87 refugees and held health education sessions for 467 refugees. From 26 October to 1 November, CSSW conducted a measles vaccination campaign in Basateen for 7,994 children aged six months to 15 years old, and held a hygiene awareness session for 16 parents in Kharaz refugee camp.

Sudan:

- According to the government-run health facilities and the UNHCR Community Services Unit, 297 Yemenis sought treatment in two Khartoum hospitals (Khartoum Hospital and Haj Alsafi Hospital). These figures are in addition to the number of Yemenis registered by UNHCR and represent a small portion of the larger Yemeni population in Khartoum that has not approached UNHCR for registration or assistance. In Khartoum Hospital, 88 patients (including five women and five children) received treatment and 54 surgical operations were performed. The presence of a further 60 accompanying family members was also reported there. In Haj Alsafi Hospital, 209 patients have been treated, of which 149 have been discharged and intend to travel back to Yemen. According to the health facilities, the basic needs of all patients have been covered with local NGOs providing some material support. There remains a critical need for assistive materials, such as wheelchairs and walkers.

 Water and Sanitation

Somalia:

- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provided sanitary pads to 65 individuals at Bossaso reception centre. Each person received two sanitary packets containing 10 sanitary pads each.

Djibouti:

- From 26 October to 2 November, the Djibouti Red Crescent (CRD) distributed standard hygiene kits to 100 new arrivals in Markazi camp and to four new arrivals at the port of Djibouti.
- From 27 October to 3 November, UNHCR partner DRC conducted a five-day personal cleanliness campaign for children in Markazi camp, to promote hand washing, personal hygiene and cleanliness.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), with the participation of the community, completed digging 20 out of the planned 42 family-shared pit latrines in Sector 4, where most new arrivals are accommodated. The NRC will resume slab production once procured construction materials will be available.

 Shelter and NFIs

Djibouti:

- In Markazi camp, UNHCR and the Office national d'assistance aux réfugiés et aux sinistrés (ONARS), in collaboration with NRC, other implementing partners, and the community, set up 280 RHUs donated by the Qatari Red Crescent.

IDP Response in Yemen

Shelter and NFIs

Yemen:

- From 21 to 27 October, UNHCR partner Sama Foundation Yemen distributed CRIs to 3,428 IDPs in Al Jawf, and ADRA distributed CRIs to 78 IDPs in Sana'a. Since the escalation of the conflict, UNHCR has distributed CRIs to 150,892 IDPs.



UNHCR partner SHS distributing CRIs in Aden. ©SHS 2015

- In an effort to clear schools hosting IDPs, as of 1 November, IDPs in Sana'a began leaving Al Juraiza School; 13 families moved to the Al Jeraf

Education Centre, serving as a collective centre, and the Executive Unit for IDPs (ExU) provided nine families with cash assistance and food rations for six months. The Ministry of Education confirmed having recovered the school, which will be rehabilitated by UNICEF. The ExU also provided cash assistance and food rations for six months to 12 IDP families in Al Zubairy School and 39 IDP families in the 30 November School. The Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC), on behalf of UNDP, is screening three identified alternative shelters (collective centres) for any suspicious explosive materials or landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs), and UNHCR partner ADRA will conduct a technical assessment of the buildings to estimate the cost of the rehabilitation. The ExU is continuing efforts to identify further potential collective centres in Sana'a.

- As of 1 November, the Sana'a warehouse has available CRIs stock for 46,200 individuals; the Sa'ada warehouse for 3,500 individuals; and the Aden warehouses for 56,000 individuals, while stocks were replenished from Sana'a to the Al Hudaydah warehouse. UNHCR is expecting to receive 55,807 blankets, 4,784 kitchen sets, and 10,944 plastic buckets in Sana'a by 15 November.
- On 29 October, UNHCR transported emergency shelter kits for 2,800 IDPs to Khamer district in Amran, to be distributed by UNHCR partner Yemen Red Crescent, and loaded kits in Sana'a for 35,000 persons affected by the cyclone in Al Mukalla. UNHCR is also transporting CRIs for 21,000 persons and emergency shelter kits for 7,000 persons from Sana'a to Aden.

Coordination Mechanisms

Yemen:

- On 28 October, the Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator led a UN inter-agency mission (UNHCR, WFP, WHO, OCHA) to Amran governorate to assess the impact of the conflict. The delegation met with the Governor and local authorities to discuss humanitarian interventions and challenges in responding to the needs of IDPs in the governorate. The delegation visited Amran public hospital and MSF-supported Al Salam hospital, oversaw the distribution of emergency shelter kits to 396 displaced Muhamasheen families, and met with 40 IDP families hosted in Al Shahid School for whom UNHCR and the Shelter cluster are finding alternative accommodations.

Regional Refugee Coordinator Office:

- In Djibouti, on 26 October, a video production commenced, to focus on the countries affected by the Yemen situation, the inter-agency coordination led by UNHCR and IOM, and the needs of the people fleeing Yemen. The film will be viewed on 9 December at the Appeal in Nairobi.
- On 5 November in Nairobi, a two-day workshop was held to discuss UNHCR's protection responses, plan for 2016, as well as the operationalization of the Gulf of Aden Strategy, a joint strategy developed by UNHCR and IOM. On the second day of the event, several IOM and UNHCR participants met to discuss the next steps, including with other partners from the NGO community.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation as

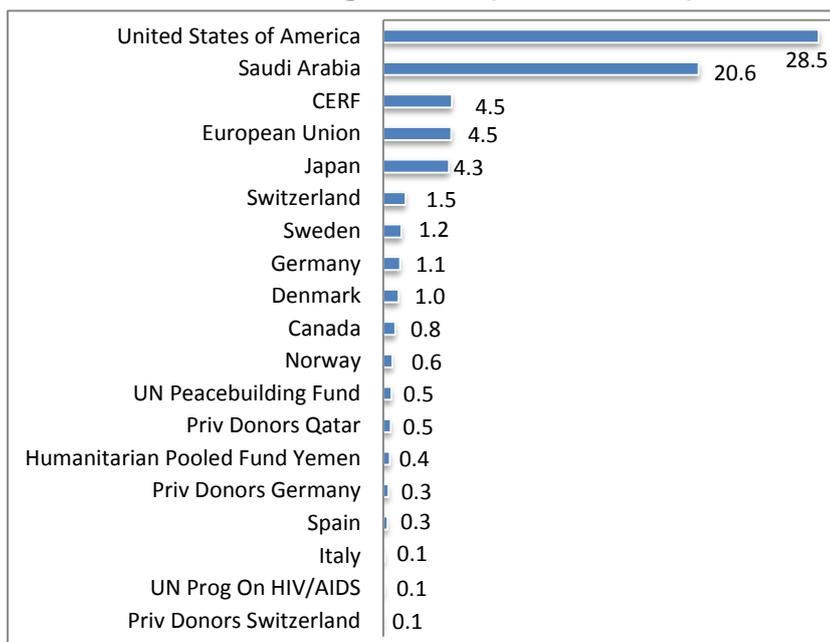
at 3 November amount to some

US\$ 70.7 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) | Finland (10 M) | Priv Donors Japan (10 M)

Funding received (in million USD)



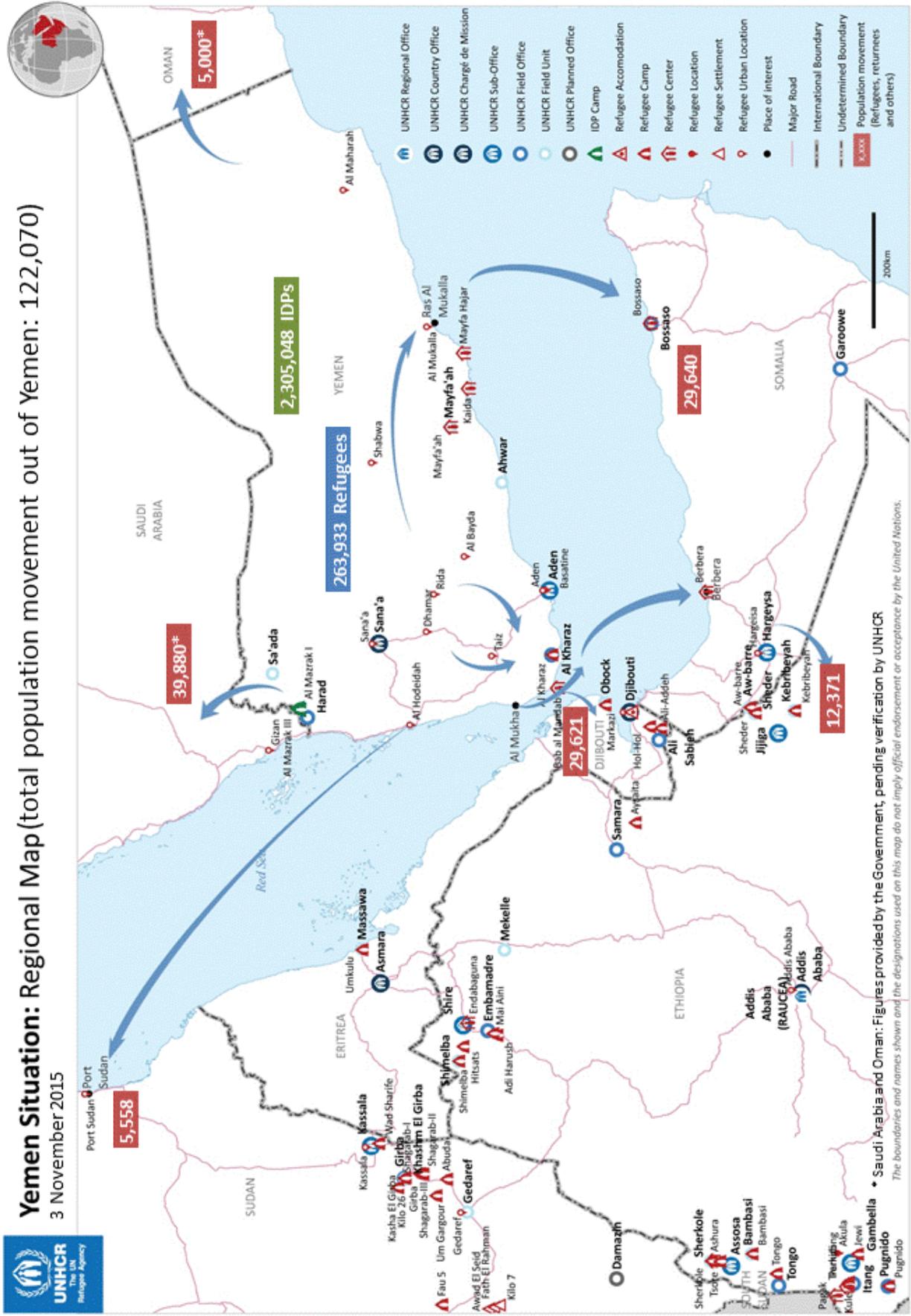
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Yemen Situation: Regional Map (total population movement out of Yemen: 122,070)

3 November 2015



• Saudi Arabia and Oman: 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.

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