

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR CRISIS UPDATE #3

1 May, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- The security situation remains highly unpredictable in Yemen while airstrikes and ground offensives continue in various locations. Strikes, shelling, and fighting have affected civilian infrastructures with inevitable consequences to the UN offices in Aden. Lack of fuel, electricity, and communication systems is crippling the country and humanitarian efforts.
- UNHCR is transporting life sustaining items from Dubai to Yemen; the items, expected to arrive in the first week of May, will be distributed to 10,000 families based on vulnerability criteria, should access be secured.
- In Djibouti, 789 arrivals from Yemen have been registered since 27 March. Of these, 577 are currently hosted in three temporary transit centres (Obock sports centre, Al Rahma orphanage, and the IOM centre for migrants); 68 refugees have been transferred to Markazi camp. Twenty per cent of registered children (under 5) arriving from Yemen to Djibouti suffer from acute malnutrition.
- On 26 April, the largest single arrival in Somalia occurred with 1,152 individuals arriving in Bosasso, Puntland, bringing the total number of arrivals to Somalia since 27 March 2015 to 3,509 people; the majority are Somali nationals (3,250 people), followed by Yemeni nationals (253 people).
- The governments of Somaliland, Puntland, and Djibouti announced that Yemeni nationals will be recognized on a prima facie basis.

KEY FIGURES

819,529

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

300,000

Newly displaced people since the onset of the conflict in March

11,529

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

10,000

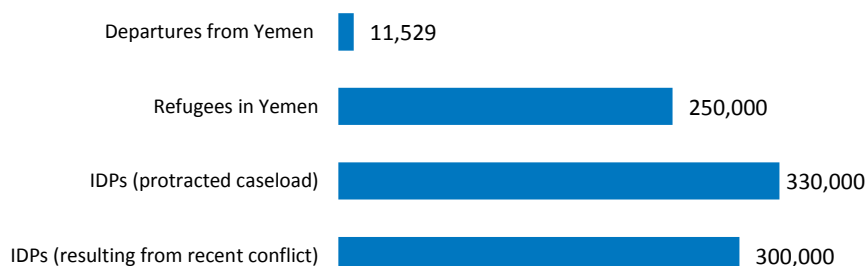
NFI kits to be distributed to vulnerable families in Yemen.

40

Completed or ongoing rapid needs assessments in 14 governorates

Population of concern

A total of **819,529** people of concern



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The security situation remains highly unpredictable and volatile. Airstrikes in various areas and ground combat continue in the south and east of Yemen, particularly in Aden, Taiz, Abyan, and Lahj Governorates. The UNHCR Sub-Office in Aden sustained minor damages from stray bullets and airstrikes targeting positions in the vicinity. On 28 April the UN compounds in Aden were attacked; food supplies and equipment were looted. The situation in Sana'a remains volatile. The Sana'a international airport was struck by airstrikes (28 April), reportedly damaging the runway, which may impact planned humanitarian missions and the supply of humanitarian aid.

Strikes, shelling, and fighting have affected civilian infrastructures with inevitable consequences. The severe shortage of fuel is increasingly having a detrimental effect on communications as internet and mobile companies indicate they may be unable to maintain services for much longer. The lack of electricity and fuel, domestic gas and basic commodities has become acute and is affecting all persons of concern to UNHCR as well as humanitarian actors' capacity to operate. Most of UNHCR international staff members are working remotely and have not left their homes for many days. Lack of fuel also restricts UNHCR's partners' patrolling activities, such as the Yemen Red Crescent at Bab Al Mandab. This will adversely impact the capacity to carry out of life-saving interventions and to monitor and register new arrivals on Yemen's coasts.



Families now live in open air in Abs district of Hajjah governorate, Yemen, after fleeing Mazraq camp for displaced people as a result of conflict. © CSSW

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 the beginning of the crisis is 300,000 people. In addition, there are an estimated 250,000 refugees in Yemen that are expressing concerns about their security and have suffered casualties due to the conflict in the south this week.

Thus far, 11,529 individuals of various nationalities have fled Yemen by boat or land borders since 27 March. Meanwhile, despite the ongoing conflict, potential asylum seekers continue to arrive along the south coast. UNHCR accommodates for the new arrivals in addition to those, who have been affected by the conflict. Moreover, reports indicated that, due to reduced patrolling and lack of security on the coast lines, smugglers and traffickers may be operating in a largely unhindered context.

Departures from Yemen

Djibouti: According to IOM statistics, 8,919 persons of mixed nationalities arrived from since the onset of the crisis; 2,425 are Yemenis of which 789 have registered with UNHCR; 577 are in transit centres and Markazi site whereas 250 live in Djibouti town on their own or assisted by Yemenis residing in Djibouti.

Ethiopia: Since March 2015, 51 Yemeni and 64 Somali nationals were registered as asylum seekers or refugees.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: The UNHCR in Riyadh received reports of the arrival of 7,000 to 8,000 Syrians said to have been residing in Yemen; 70 Palestinians; and some 700 Iraqis have been evacuated to Iraq with the support of the Iraqi embassy. UNHCR is verifying their status and assistance needs.

Oman: Reportedly, there are around 3,000 individuals of various nationalities including Syrians and Iraqis that have arrived in Oman from Yemen. UNHCR is coordinating with the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Oman in Riyadh to ascertain if these arrivals require UNHCR assistance.

Somalia: A total of 3,509 individuals have arrived in Somalia, including 253 Yemeni nationals and a number of Somali nationals including registered refugees with UNHCR in Yemen, as well as migrants. Arrivals to Berbera port in Somaliland are departing from Mukha port, Yemen. Yemenis have been arriving mainly to Berbera, while most Somali nationals have been arriving to Bosasso. The majority of arrivals have been women (1,325) and children (1,227).

The estimated figure of arrivals from Yemen as of 1 May, 2015:

**Information provided herein contains figures for individuals of various statuses. See above for details.*

Nationality	Ethiopia	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Somalia	Djibouti
Yemenis	51	0	253	789
Iraqi	0	0	0	0
Syrians	0	7000	3	3
Palestinians	0	70	0	5
Ethiopian	0	0	3	0
Somalis	64	0	3250	22
Eritreans	0	0	0	12
Pakistanis	0	0	0	4
TOTAL: 11,529	115	7,070	3,509	835

Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- The Protection Cluster in Amman has formed a Task Force to establish a displacement tracking system to institute a reliable and effective mechanism to collect information and statistics on displacement in Yemen. UNHCR plays a lead role in this initiative both as Cluster Lead and as one of the main agencies within the Protection Cluster. This will facilitate the mapping of hotspots and enable targeted, in-depth protection monitoring to take place and more systematic response to cases requiring psychosocial assistance, legal assistance, referrals to other service providers, and cash assistance. Together with IOM, progress is being made towards this objective.
- The recently conducted multi-cluster (MIRA) assessments in Abyan, Aden, Al Dhale, Hajjah, and Lahj governorates are now being used by UNHCR to inform responses from developing basic protection messaging to implementing targeted interventions. Assessments are particularly fundamental in planning for the distribution of items, based on identified needs and lists of persons of concern.
- Information leaflets about services for refugees are now available at the UNHCR office in Sana'a. They are also being translated into Oromo, Amharic and Somali to broaden the reach within the refugee and migrant communities.
- In Basateen (Aden), 23 unaccompanied and/or separated children (UASCs), including Ethiopian and Somali females and younger children, living with foster care families, received monthly cash assistance, while 54 Ethiopian and seven

Somali UASCs live in group-care shelters with caregivers from the community. UNHCR partner InterSos provides a monthly ration and NFIs to the caregivers and counselors pay regular monitoring visits.

Djibouti:

- An SGBV assessment was conducted in both transit centres by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) together with UNHCR and ONARS, (the government refugee entity), to determine actions for care and prevention of violence against women and girls, particularly on exposure to sexual violence.
- Together with ONARS, UNHCR is conducting awareness raising campaigns for the newly arrived refugees in Obock to promote peaceful coexistence between the refugee and the host community.

Somalia:

- The Protection Working Group (PWG) is establishing an information gathering system to review the protection impact on arrivals from Yemen, including their reason for flight, immediate needs, conditions in Yemen, and the information on protection assistance available in-country. Also, a survey among Somali refugees in Yemen will be conducted to establish their intent to return to Somalia.
- The Somaliland and Puntland authorities, in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, is coordinating the reception and screening of arrivals at Bosasso and Berbera ports. UNHCR coordinates the protection teams in both locations.
- In Somaliland, UNHCR supported its partner Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland (CCBRS) to identify, document, and assess special needs cases. UNHCR and CCBRS improved the special needs assessment forms and developed a UASC assessment form on 26 April. CCBRS conducted assessments for 20 families. All have been given a return grant on 26 April and departed to their respective areas of origin.
- At the reception centre in Bosasso, Save the Children International (SCI) distributed NFIs and hygiene kits and provided ready-to-drink milk to 89 children (46 girls, 43 boys), as well as biscuits, diapers and dates as part of the child protection kit. SCI is also providing recreational activities, as well as psychosocial support training to parents and children. Five returnees, who were arrested at the reception centre, were released by the Puntland Authorities as a result of advocacy from the protection team.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- In the south, UNHCR was unable to convene the Protection and Shelter sub-cluster meetings due to the prevailing insecurity, which severely restricts staff movements.
- In the north, 72-112 IDP families are blocked in Mazraq Camp 1 with no access to services. UNHCR and partners are unable to access the camp but are following up on their situation.
- Provision of cash assistance, salaries and entitlements is becoming problematic. Partners are finding it increasingly difficult to transfer cash from Sana'a to Aden. Despite the challenges, UNHCR through its staff and partners is working diligently to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict.
- UNHCR's refugee operation continues to function, albeit with reduced staff and partner capacity due to security and fuel constraints.

Djibouti:

- To safeguard child protection space in the transit centres and Markazi camp, a child protection rapid assessment is required as is the establishment of a Child Protection Committee and Child Friendly Spaces.

Saudi Arabia:

- Arrivals are granted temporary entry visas valid for a fifteen day period. A visa extension for new arrivals in Saudi Arabia has been granted for an additional 10 days.



Health

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR has been supporting six government health centres in Yemen (for three years) by providing medical equipment and developing staff capacity, particularly to mainstream refugees into the public health system.
- From 20-29 April, the outpatient clinic in Basateen received 349 cases and an average of 13 inpatients. The clinic is run by UNHCR's partner, the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), and continues to operate two daily shifts and provide support to refugees. CSSW coordinated with the National Tuberculosis (TB) Programme for the delivery of medication for registered TB patients. Ten patients received one month advanced TB treatment.
- The health clinic in Kharaz refugee camp continues to operate but with reduced capacity.

Somalia:

- The WHO led medical teams provided polio vaccinations to returning Somalians upon their arrival, as well as measles vaccinations for children in both Puntland and Somaliland. In Somaliland, the Ministry of Health also provides initial medical screening at Berbera Port.
- In Bosasso, Puntland, SCI provided medical assistance to 14 refugees/returnees and signed agreements with Daryeel Hospital and Banderqasim General Hospital to support all emergency health referrals.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Yemen:** On 28 April, the Faj Attan health centre in Sana'a was destroyed as a result of the current violence; six refugees were injured.

**Food Security and Nutrition****Achievements and Impact**

- **Yemen:** This week, UNHCR coordinated the inclusion of UASCs (refugees and asylum seekers) in the delivery of WFP wheat flour through its partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS).
- **Somalia:** A temporary kitchen is set up by the local partner Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA) at the Bosasso reception centre to provide food for new arrivals. ICRC provided a one month dry food ration and NFIs. DRC is providing refreshments to arrivals at Bosasso Port, Puntland.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Djibouti:** As malnutrition rates are known to be fairly high in Yemen, there is a need to ensure malnutrition screening for all under-5 children, pregnant women and lactating mothers upon arrival and to provide nutritional treatment of severe and acute malnutrition. Malnutrition screening is ongoing for all under-5 refugee children, pregnant women and lactating mothers upon arrival. One of the findings was that five per cent of the registered children were severely malnourished (SAM) and 20 per cent suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM). Given the high prevalence of malnutrition among under-5 children in Obock, a massive malnutrition screening campaign/programme will be conducted to evaluate the impact of the Yemen situation on this already highly-vulnerable population. According to WFP, the total food-insecure population in the country is now estimated to be around 12 million persons and could grow further, as the conflict continues.
- **Somalia:** Access to food remains a main challenge in Bosasso and all Puntland 'New Arrivals Task Force' members are working to establish appropriate arrangements to ensure that, as returns increase, capacity to provide food is preserved. WFP is also committed to support.

**Water and Sanitation****Achievements and Impact**

- **Djibouti:** UNICEF, FAO, the Department of Rural Hydraulics at the Ministry of Agriculture, and ONEAD (the Djiboutian water company), will assess the capacity of the existing boreholes serving the city of Obock in order to determine the capacity of the water system to meet the additional needs caused by the presence of refugees.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Shelter and Protection Cluster Coordination meetings take place in Amman and Sana'a to review rapid needs assessments findings, coordinate assistance delivery, and map out roles and responsibilities.
- Despite security constraints, a distribution of NFIs is being prepared for IDPs in Sa'ada through UNHCR partner Al Amal.
- UNHCR is preparing for NFIs to be released from the Haradh warehouse for distribution to 2,800 individuals (400 families) who fled airstrikes in Haradh (Hajjah Governorate) to other districts in the governorate. The kits include mattresses, thermal blankets, kitchen sets, water buckets, plastic sheets and sleeping mats.
- UNHCR operating from Amman, in coordination with UNHCR supply staff in Sana'a, have arranged for the transportation of NFIs from Dubai to Yemen through a chartered WFP vessel. These include 9,132 kitchen sets, 14,000 blankets and 3,000 sleeping mats. The items are expected to depart for Yemen on 1 May and will be distributed to 10,000 families based on vulnerability criteria, if access is secured.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR and humanitarian partners transferred 68 refugees to Markazi camp; over 500 refugees remain sheltered in two temporary transit centres in Obock.
- Also in Markazi, UNHCR together with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) erected 82 tents and 23 latrines have been arranged and community kitchens as well as one food distribution centre.
- UNHCR distributed 60 kitchen sets, 60 stoves and a total of 536 litres of kerosene to 88 families consisting of 274 individuals at the Al Rahma transit centre.



Together with the government entity responsible for refugees, (ONARS), UNHCR registers newly arrived refugees at Obock, Djibouti. © UNHCR

Somalia:

- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), in collaboration with UNHCR, distributed 33 NFI kits to new arrivals at the Berbera reception centre, Somaliland.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Somalia:** The rehabilitation works are ongoing at the Berbera reception centre, Somaliland. The shade is completed and construction of additional latrines is almost complete.

Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- **Somalia:** As many Somali returnees are likely to opt for return, the country-level Task Force is currently reviewing the areas where return and reintegration can be supported. All returnees will be provided with up-to-date information about their respective areas of origin to ensure a voluntary and informed decision. Brochures with information on conditions, services and assistance available in Puntland and Somaliland have already been prepared by UNHCR and are distributed regularly to new arrivals in Bosasso and Berbera reception centres.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- A cargo vessel transporting NFI items (as per above under NFI section) departed Dubai on 1 May 2015 and is due to arrive in Aden in the first week of May. UNHCR stands ready to provide additional relief items from its global stock pile should the need arise.
- UNHCR is planning to use Djibouti as a supply hub for its response in Yemen. Mission assessments are commencing and will engage stakeholders including other UN agencies and partners, and port authorities.
- WFP offered an initial 1300 m2 storage capacity to humanitarian partners for in-transit cargo.
- UNHAS (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service) passenger flights service was activated (managed by WFP). The first flight departed on 27 April from Djibouti to Sana'a; 3 flights per week (for 36 persons) are planned by WFP.
- UNICEF is building logistics and supply management capacity in Djibouti to continue to send goods and supplies into Yemen for the upcoming three to six month period. One plane-load of goods arrived from Djibouti to Yemen; distributions will take place by boat or plane to various areas in Yemen.

Somalia:

- IOM facilitates transportation from Bosasso Port, Puntland to the nearby reception centre for those wishing to benefit from services provided there.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- UNHCR is working closely with UN agencies on the ground and supports partners who maintain presence on the ground. UNHCR also regularly attend the IDP Task Force meetings in Sana'a and Geneva as well as in Amman through the Yemen Operational Centre. In addition to coordination meetings in Yemen, UNHCR continues to hold bilateral meetings with the Executive Unit in Sana'a and Amran.

Djibouti:

- On 23 April, the Contingency Plan has been launched by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Resident Coordinator, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The estimated funds required are USD 5,632,897 for three months.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

- UNHCR has maintained its readiness to support the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Oman in responding to the new arrivals from Yemen, and is strengthening its partnership and coordination with all relevant stakeholders. UNHCR is liaising regularly with its government and local counterparts regarding the situation and continues to advocate for maintaining the protection space.

Somalia:

- UNHCR and IOM are co-leading the inter-agency "Somalia Task Force on Yemen Situation". The Task Force reports to the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, with members from UN agencies, international and local NGOs. Regular coordination is taking place with the Task Force established by the Federal Government of Somalia led by Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MOIFA). The Task Force is coordinating the humanitarian response to support arrivals from Yemen, and their return and reintegration designated areas of return.

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Yemen Situation: Regional map

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