

## KEY FIGURES

**1,789,988**

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.

**1,439,118**

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

**100,870**

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.

**84,710**

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

## FUNDING

**USD 134 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](#)

## YEMEN SITUATION

### UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #20

20-26 August 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ Yemen:

On 25 August, the UNHCR Representative in Yemen, Mr. Johannes Van Der Klaauw, opened a Family Centre in Sana'a managed by UNHCR partner Millennium Development Foundation (MDF). The Family Centre specializes in addressing the needs of refugee children with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children, as well as children at risk.

After an absence of five months due to the armed conflict, UNHCR returned to Sub-Office Aden, and began preparations for re-opening, following a UNHCR led two-week assessment mission in the area with the aim of arranging for the return of a UN international presence in the city.

### ■ Regional Refugee Coordinator Office:

On 18 and 19 August, the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Yemen Situation, Ms. Claire Bourgeois, in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, organized a workshop to discuss the different components of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RRMRP) set to be launched on 14 September. The workshop brought together IOM, UNHCR, UN agencies and NGO representatives; participants likewise included representatives of government counterparts, as well as the Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Johannes Van Der Klaauw.



UNHCR, UNDSS and UNICEF colleagues are escorted by security on their mission to Aden (Yemen). © UNHCR/D. Khan 2015

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

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### Operational Context

Entering the sixth month of conflict, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate with 21 million Yemenis – 80 per cent of the population – in need of humanitarian assistance. With commercial imports accounting for 90 per cent of Yemen's food and fuel supplies, the coalition-imposed blockade has had a severe impact on the humanitarian situation. Half the population is now facing food insecurity; over 15.2 million people lack access to basic health care, and over 20 million lack access to safe water thus contributing to the spread of preventable diseases such as dengue fever, polio and acute diarrhoea. WFP reported that water prices in Sana'a tripled since the escalation of the conflict in March, more than 400 schools were damaged and some 3,500 schools were shut down according to UNICEF.

On 21 August, the Special Envoy to the Secretary General, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh, resumed talks in Oman with the Al Houthis after meeting with exiled President Hadi in Riyadh, who proposed a 15-day ceasefire to coincide with the withdrawal of Shiite rebel militias from all government institutions and military installations and all cities and provinces – including Sa'ada. Intensive fighting and bombing nevertheless continued across the country. On the ground, the Al Houthis suffered further losses in the south, with the other frontlines in the conflict remaining active. Clashes raged on Taiz as the coalition deployed ground troops. On 20 August, 65 civilians were reportedly killed in Taiz. The coalition reportedly deployed thousands of troops with heavy armaments in the eastern province of Marib to prepare to further push northwards. On 18 August, 21 educators were killed as they were in a meeting discussing the examinations process for schools. On 19 August, at least 13 people were killed, when four airstrikes hit a local market in al-Dhahi town to the north of Al Hudaydah. The Al Hudaydah seaport, the main hub for the central and north parts of the country, ceased operating. Ship liners and port workers are no longer docking and offloading due to continued airstrikes.

On 20 August, there was an explosion near the offices of the Governor of Aden, temporarily located near the Faculty of Administrative Sciences in the Al Buraiqeh district of Aden. At least four people were killed and at least ten injured in the explosion. On the same day, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flight from Djibouti to Sana'a was postponed due to airstrikes on targets near the Sana'a International Airport; the UNHAS flight resumed the following day.

The Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) cleared UNHCR's Sub-Office in Aden last week, after which national staff returned to the building to take part in the cleaning of the premises. Repairs on the water and electrical lines, and the generator are ongoing; the office should re-open in the coming week. On 25 August, UNHCR (as lead) began a two-week joint mission to Aden with UNDSS, WFP, and UNICEF to prepare for the re-opening of offices and opening of a UN guesthouse to facilitate the return of UN international staff in the city.

### Departures from Yemen

**Somalia:** During the reporting period, two boats with 88 individuals arrived in Somalia from Yemen: 21 persons to Berbera (Somaliland) and 67 persons to Bossaso (Puntland). Out of them, 52 individuals were registered by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners in Berbera and Bossaso Reception Centers. Since 27 March, 28,791 persons arrived in Somalia from Yemen (25,757 Somalis, 2,824 Yemenis and 210 of other nationalities) and 17,405 persons were registered at the Reception Centers.

**Djibouti:** According to statistics from IOM and the Djiboutian government as of 23 August, 23,459 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti since 26 March. Of those, 10,754 persons are Yemeni nationals, 10,864 are transiting Third Country Nationals (TCNs) and 1,841 persons are Djiboutian returnees. From 19 to 24 August, five boats arrived at Obock port with 354 passengers aboard: 250 are Yemenis, while 104 are TCNs. Three individuals sought asylum. As of 23 August, UNHCR Obock registered 1,917 refugees: 1,868 are Yemeni nationals. From 19 to 24 August, five boats arrived at Obock port with 354 passengers aboard: 250 Yemenis, and 104 Third Country Nationals (TCNs).

### New Arrivals to Yemen

Between 22 and 24 August, seven boats arrived along the Arabian Sea coast of Yemen carrying 589 Ethiopian and 24 Somali new arrivals. In July 2015, some 3,903 persons reached Yemen along the Arabian and Red Sea Coast: 3,440 persons landed along the Arabian Sea Coast and 463 at the Red Sea Coast. As of 31 July, some 41,319 persons arrived in Yemen by sea since 1 January. The new arrival figure represents a 91 per cent increase compared to June 2015 of 2,044 new arrivals. UNHCR partners reached 3,523 new arrivals along the coast in July. Ethiopians constituted the majority of new arrivals (96 per cent), mostly from the Oromia region (East and West Hararge, Jimma and Arsi); some other arrivals came from Tigray. The 4 per cent Somali arrivals were, mostly from South and Central Somalia (mainly Mogadishu) and Somaliland (Hargeisa, Burao). They were all informed about the security situation in Yemen, and the asylum procedures in Yemen. Some 287 persons (7.35 per cent of July new arrivals) were registered by UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC), which include 143 *prima facie* Somalis and 144 Ethiopians.

## Achievements and Impact

### Yemen:

- Between 30 July and 18 August, UNHCR partner InterSos identified, assessed and assisted refugees in Al Mukalla, Hadramaut governorate, who were displaced from Aden due to the conflict and the ongoing insecurity. The team visited refugees taking shelter in five schools and one collective centre. InterSos provided the refugees with regular psycho-social counselling and emotional support, and coordinated with a local health association to receive medical cases. InterSos identified 13 individuals that need help with family tracing and are coordinating with ICRC for further follow-up. The team carried out individual rapid socio-economic assessment and provided cash assistance to 283 refugees with specific needs, according to UNHCR's approved vulnerability criteria for urban refugees. InterSos also provided psycho-social counselling and one-off financial assistance to 28 IDP families from Aden and Abyan. The IDP families are living in the collective centres with refugees, who were also displaced.
- On 25 August, UNHCR and its partner MDF celebrated the opening of the MDF Family Centre in Sana'a. With UNHCR support, the Family Centre provides refugee children with a safe environment to study and play, and specializes in addressing the needs of refugee children with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children, as well as children at risk. UNHCR and the MDF Family Centre conduct assessments and home visits to identify needs, and provide financial assistance to extremely vulnerable refugee children and families. They coordinate with civil registration authorities to facilitate birth registration for refugee children. In addition, they support with health and legal services, as well as classes in a range of subjects, including computers and Arabic and English language, while also giving them a place to be together, laugh and play. As schools are closed since March due to the conflict in the country, for many of the students this is the only opportunity to continue their education, develop their social skills and undertake recreational activities.



*UNHCR celebrates the opening of the Millennium Development Foundation Family Centre in Sana'a (Yemen). Children pose for a picture with UNHCR Yemen Representative, Mr. Johannes Van Der Klaauw. © UNHCR 2015*

### Somalia:

- The backlog of Yemeni cases pending registration in UNHCR Bossaso (Puntland) was cleared as of 23 August. During the reporting period, UNHCR Bossaso registered 77 Yemeni individuals (37 households) as *prima facie* refugees; UNHCR Hargeisa registered 215. Since the beginning of the conflict in Yemen, some 1,610 Yemeni nationals were registered in Bosasso, while 1,331 were registered in Hargeisa. In Somalia, a total of 2,941 Yemeni individuals are registered.
- During the reporting period, at Bossaso Reception Center, the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) provided free phone calls, through their Restoring Family Links (RFL) Programme to 90 individuals.
- A total of 94 Somali returnees from Yemen reached South Central regions from Berbera and Bossaso: some 56 individuals arrived in Mogadishu and joined their relatives in Hodan District. UNHCR and partners are also verifying 38 Somali returnees at the Way Stations in Baidoa (24 individuals), Luuq (7 individuals) and Kismayo (7 individuals) for provision of return assistance packages.

### Djibouti:

- From 19 to 24 August, the UNHCR/ONARS team registered seven Yemeni families of 16 individuals.
- In Obock, UNHCR is in close contact with the local authorities to ensure birth registration procedures are followed and will distribute asylum brochures outlining key messages on asylum modalities at Obock Port.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

### Somalia:

- In Puntland, provision of subsistence allowance for Yemeni refugees has become increasingly challenging as Yemenis are scattered in different locations and some decided to move to places where there is no UNHCR presence. UNHCR is discussing with partners and the Puntland authorities on how to reach out to those Yemeni refugees in remote locations. In Somaliland, there are increasing numbers of vulnerable new arrivals that have been identified living in Hargeisa. Most of the new arrivals are now running out of savings and are not able to pay their basic necessities. Many refugees and returnees require immediate support on shelter, food and livelihoods.

- A proper reception and registration facility in Mogadishu needs to be secured to kick-start the registration/verification and provision of assistance package to Somali returnees from Yemen. UNHCR multi-function team conducted a field visit to identify suitable facilities in Mogadishu to be used while the site agreed with the authorities for the Reception Center/Way Station is being rehabilitated. Four locations were identified awaiting approval by management and security.

#### Djibouti:

- Individuals identified with protection needs (not in a position to stay in the camp) are provided with special shelter in Obock city. Nevertheless, given the high cost of the rent UNHCR Obock has been paying so far, there is an urgent need to find an alternative solution or refer these cases to Djibouti.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

#### Djibouti:

- UNHCR partner, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) registered refugee children who will attend primary and secondary school at the Al-Rahma Orphanage. As of 22 August, 107 children were registered.

## Health

### Achievements and Impact

#### Yemen:

- Between 17 and 19 August, as part of the national polio campaign, UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), conducted polio vaccinations in Kharaz refugee camp for 1,895 refugee children under-five years of age.

#### Somalia:

- At the Reception Centre in Bossaso, Save the Children International (SCI) conducted psychosocial counselling for 48 children (28 girls and 20 boys) to ease the emotionally and traumatizing experience of displacement and conflict. SCI also provided emergency medical referrals in Bossaso to 16 individuals (four children and 12 adults). In Gardo, SCI provided emergency medical assistance to 36 individuals (eight children and 28 adults). Three from this group were referred to Gardo General Hospital. In coordination with the Gardo General Hospital, SCI set up a clinic to provide emergency health support to the refugees residing there.

#### Saudi Arabia:

- On August 20, a relief plane landed at Aden International Airport carrying 10 tons of medical equipment and supplies, supervised by King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid and in coordination with the Supreme Committee for Relief.

## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

#### Somalia:

- Through its partner the Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA), WFP provided three cooked meals a day at Bossaso Reception Centre. Some 465 individuals were registered with biometrics on WFP's SCOPE system in Bossaso to enable them to purchase commodities at WFP retailers using e-transfer card.
- The Yemeni refugees residing in Gardo received WFP's food assistance through the e-transfer card; in the reporting period, WFP conducted a post distribution monitoring exercise. Some 102 households (338 individuals) received e-transfer cards. According to the households interviewed, the main items purchased with the cards are rice, wheat flour, milk, pulses, vegetable oil, salt, dates, sugar and canned fish.
- UNHCR partner, DRC provided emergency water and biscuits to all 67 new arrivals that reached Bossaso Port on 24 August.

#### Djibouti:

- From 17 to 19 August, Johanniter International (JI), in collaboration with the National Nutrition Programme, conducted the monthly nutrition screening for children aged 6 to 59 months. Some 40 children (24 girls and 16 boys) were screened. While the results showed neither malnutrition nor oedema, seven children are at risk of malnutrition. Five pregnant women and lactating mothers were screened: none of them presented signs of malnutrition.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

#### Djibouti:

- The Al-Rahma Association stopped providing meals to refugees in Markazi camp; however, Yemeni refugees continue to receive two hot meals on a daily basis. Refugees continue to request additional support, notably in the form of cash assistance to complement the meals.



- Following numerous complaints from refugees that they were no longer receiving WFP food rations, UNHCR requested WFP to undertake sensitization campaigns in Markazi camp to explain its mandate and the fact that WFP cannot distribute rations while refugees receive hot meals.



## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and Impact

#### Somalia:

- SCI provided supplementary clean drinking water to returnees and refugees at the Reception Centre in Bossaso and donated some cleaning equipment to the Reception Centre management to keep the facilities clean.

#### Djibouti:

- Johanniter International (JI) in collaboration with UNICEF integrated a small survey on WASH practices and hand washing sensitization with nutrition screening and reached 26 families. Some 18 out of 26 families confirmed treating their drinking water by using Aquatabs. However, the remaining eight families have not yet received Aquatabs since they are new arrivals. All of the 26 surveyed refugee households report using shared latrines.



## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

#### Yemen:

- From 20 to 22 August, UNHCR partner Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) distributed non-food items (NFIs) to IDPs in Amran, who had been displaced from Sa'ada governorate. YRC assisted 534 families (3,790 individuals) with blankets, sleeping mats, mattresses, plastic buckets, and kitchen sets. Since May, UNHCR provided NFIs and shelter assistance to 13,229 families (84,710 individuals) in Yemen.

#### Somalia:

- During the reporting period, UNHCR distributed 11 Core Relief Item (CRI) kits to Yemeni refugees in Bossaso.
- UNHCR informed the new Somaliland Minister of Education that one school in Berbera was requisitioned by the local authority, with the knowledge of the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR), to be a Reception Center for arrivals from Yemen. A second meeting was held in Berbera with the local representative of the Ministry of Education to fine tune the return of the building to the community, before the start of the school year on 1 September. WFP was approached to dismantle the rub hall. For the time being, one Reception Center will remain operational in Berbera. Discussion with authorities and partners are ongoing on rehabilitating a possible alternative reception site already identified, in case the number of arrivals continues to increase in the coming weeks.

#### Djibouti:

- In preparation for the arrival of the Refugee Housing Units (RHUs), on 19 August, UNHCR Obock undertook an initial mapping exercise to establish concrete camp population figures. While results will be verified in the coming week, initial findings show that 371 refugees are effectively residing in Markazi Camp. From 1 to 3 September, UNHCR will provide training to refugees and labourers in Obock who will be involved in the construction of the RHUs.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

#### Yemen:

- Despite lengthy discussions with stakeholders, the issue of IDPs accommodated in schools remain unresolved. Cluster members continue to negotiate with local authorities that see rental subsidies as the only solution.



## Logistics

### Achievements and Impact

#### Yemen:

- The Supply Unit arranged for the shipment of NFIs for 12,600 IDP families from the Amman stockpile to Aden. The shipment is expected to arrive around 5 September.

#### Somalia:

- UNHCR, through its partners IOM and SCI, provided onward transportation assistance to 24 Somali returnees in Bossaso to enable them to return to their area of origin: 13 will be going to Mogadishu, one to Baidoa, one to Afgoye, and one to Hargeisa. UNHCR, through IOM, distributed onward transportation assistance to three individuals in Berbera, one Somali single mother traveling to Kismayo with two children. Since 27 March, some 8,838 Somali returnees were provided with onward transportation assistance from Berbera/Bossaso.

## Working in partnership

### Somalia:

- On 22 August, UNHCR and IOM attended a ceremony at Bossaso Port for the handover of equipment and a rub hall provided to the Puntland Department of Immigration. IOM donated 10 laptops, 10 printers, 10 office desks, 20 chairs, and UNHCR the rub hall. The equipment is given for the purpose of improving the initial registration at Bossaso Port and was handed over as a conclusion of a three day training of 10 immigration officers.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

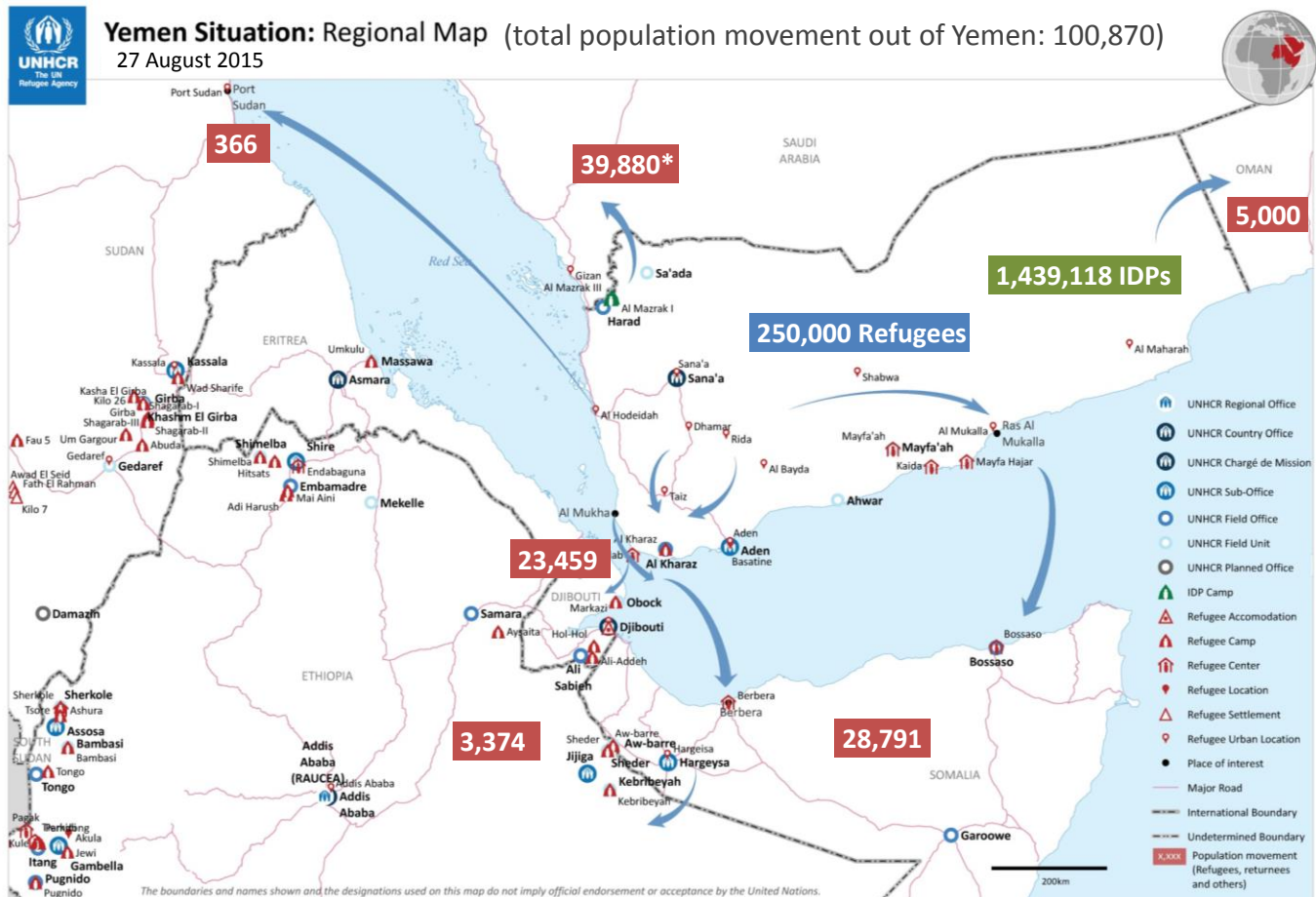
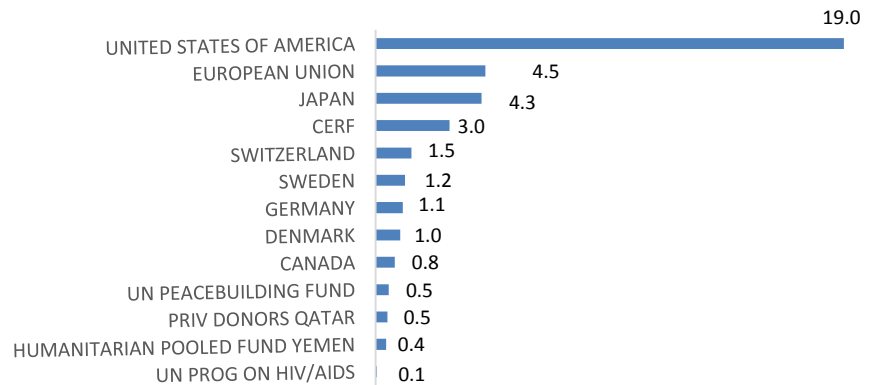
Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 37.8 million**.

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 unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Major donors of unrestricted and regional contributions in 2015:

United States of America (133 M) | Sweden (80 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | Private Donors Spain (15 M) | France (14 M) | Canada (11 M)

### Funding received (in million USD)



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