



KEY FIGURES

1,791,942

People of concern to UNHCR (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 in Yemen prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

102,838

Total number of arrivals to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sudan mainly by sea or overland.

250,000

Refugees in Yemen to be supported with protection assistance and life sustaining items.

105,240

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 #23

9-15 September 2015

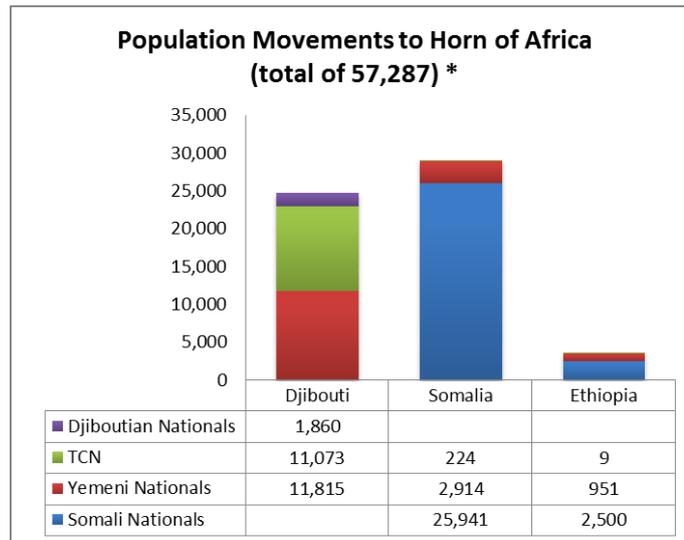
HIGHLIGHTS

Yemen: On September 15, the UNHCR Representative as Humanitarian Coordinator, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (RHC), and the UNHCR Head of Sub Office Aden, conducted a mission to Aden to follow up on the establishment of the operational hub.

UNHCR and partners observed IDP returns and the vacating of some schools in Aden; this coincides with the start of the school year on 1 October. UNHCR and partners are ascertaining shelter needs and will provide core relief items.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Departures from Yemen



Receiving Countries

Djibouti:	24,748
Somalia:	29,079
Ethiopia:	3,460
Sudan:	671
Saudi Arabia:	39,880
Oman:	5,000
Total:	102,838

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

Arrivals to Yemen

Yemen is an historic destination and transit and route from the Horn of Africa for individuals seeking safety, protection, and better opportunities. Immediately after the conflict escalated in March, the number of new arrivals to Yemen decreased. However, since late April the number of new arrivals to Yemen of various nationalities continues to increase. During the reporting period, 25 boats carrying some 2,000 individuals landed along Yemen's Arabian Coast. In addition to the verified statistics as at 31 July, 4,725 arrivals were recorded in August and 4,112 in September (as at 14 September). Since the beginning of the year (until present), 50,156 new arrivals have been recorded by UNHCR and partners along the Red Sea and Arabian Sea coasts.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

This week the security situation deteriorated in Yemen. Airstrikes targeted locations in Sa'ada, Marib, Hajjah, Ibb, Taizz, Shabwah and intensified in Sana'a. Ground fighting continued in Hudaydah, Hajjah, Al Bayda, Ibb and Taizz. On 13 September, a major offensive was undertaken in Marib where casualties were reported. Should the situation further deteriorate in Sana'a, the operational environment could become more restrictive for humanitarian interventions. Ongoing clashes near the Saudi Arabian border are intensifying and airstrikes along the country's coastline reportedly hit a boat close to Hudaydah with 20 Indian nationals aboard. On 9 September, a spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said that 13 crew members survived; seven remain missing. Further south in Yemen, several airstrikes took place near Bab-al-Mandab, an important entry point for new arrivals by sea.

Despite this grim context, on 10 September, the United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, announced that the Yemeni government, the Houthis, and the General People's Congress headed by former president and Houthi aligned Ali Abdullah Saleh, agreed to participate in peace talks. However, on 13 September, President Hadi released a statement that there would be no talks until the Houthis accept to unconditionally implement UNSC resolution 2216, which instructs them to withdraw from areas they have seized and surrender weapons taken from state institutions.

Despite serious challenges and security risks posed by criminality, lack of law enforcement and clear lines of authority, the UNHCR-led mission to Aden (26 August-10 September) found that the situation improved since July. While severe restrictions remain, movement within and to Aden is possible, access to electricity, water and communication networks are intermittently available, as well as availability of some basic commodities in the markets. In the south, IDPs are beginning to return to Tawahi, Basateen and Crater, and some to Khormakser, mainly from Mansoura, Bureiqa and Sheikh Othman districts in Aden and from Hadramaut.

In Aden, the Sub Office's reception area and interview rooms were rehabilitated and will soon receive refugees, pending security conditions. Internet at the Aden sub-office is being repaired. At Kharaz refugee camp, the mobile and landline network is currently down, disrupting communication, although internet is functioning.

In Somalia, the number of new arrivals continues to decrease in comparison with previous months. New arrivals reported that this may be a consequence of the proximity of the conflict to Mokha and Mukalla, the two main ports of departure for people fleeing Yemen, or for lack of financial means to afford the fees of the journey. There are indications that more arrivals from northern Yemen are expected. Additionally, it was reported that some Yemeni arrivals in Somalia intend to return to Yemen, particularly to Aden.



Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Between 8 and 13 September, 17 individuals renewed their asylum seeker/refugee certificates in Sana'a and three new birth registrations were issued. 34 new arrivals were registered; of them, two minors were referred to UNHCR partner Millennium Development Foundation (MDF) for financial assistance.
- In Sana'a, UNHCR partner MDF provided counselling to six unaccompanied minors (four Ethiopian males, one Somali female, one female Congolese from DRC) and conducted best interest assessments for three others (2 male Ethiopians, 1 female Somali). One time financial assistance was provided to two urgent cases (Ethiopian males) and emergency relief items were provided to three urgent cases (Ethiopian males). The GBV counsellor received five cases of sexual abuse and provided necessary medical response and psychosocial counselling. Four cases of physical assault were counselled and referred to lawyers for legal action and follow up.
- In Sana'a, the InterSos psychosocial counsellor referred 21 cases for vulnerability assessments to UNHCR partner International Relief and Development (IRD) and provided counselling. All individuals reported being unable to cover their families' basic needs. IRD conducted 70 new vulnerability assessments and 13 reassessments for refugees and asylum-seekers.
- In order to find alternative shelter solutions for IDPs residing in schools, a meeting was held on 12 September in Sana'a with representatives from the Ministry of Education and other governmental agencies, including the Executive Unit for IDPs, as well as members of the Education Cluster, Shelter Cluster, Protection and Early Recovery Clusters. UNHCR Aden plans to meet with the Office of Education and the Governor Liaison Officer for Humanitarian Organizations to address this issue.
- On 9 and 10 September a participatory assessment led by UNHCR began in Aden after a two-day training for participants. The Assessment included visits in the Aden area (schools, Basateen, Sheikh Othman, mosques, collective centres and community centres) to assess the refugees' living conditions, their needs, return intentions, services in places and critical gaps in the response. Over 50 participants were involved including UNHCR staff, UN agencies, and partner staff. Preliminary results show that families returned from their locations of displacement – some voluntarily, and others as a consequence of being vacated

from collective centres in Aden and Mukalla. There are valid concerns as to the presence of land mines and the challenges ahead with regards to re-establishment of livelihoods and income.

- UNHCR partner InterSos' Community Development Program provided 46 refugees with financial support.
- This week, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted a mission to Mayfa'a to enhance identification of vulnerable individuals upon arrival to improve screening and counseling efficiency. A separate counseling room dedicated to women was identified at the premises, and a new female medical nurse was appointed by the Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS).

Ethiopia:

- Some 116 individuals were recognized as refugees; 39 Yemenis that had previously arrived in Jijiga are pending registration under the Urban Programme upon transportation to Addis Ababa. An additional 1,063 Yemenis were already registered with the Government Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs in Somalia ARRA and UNHCR (151 before the outbreak of the conflict, and 912 Yemenis after) leading to a total of 1,102 Yemeni refugees in Ethiopia. In June, ARRA decided to grant *prima facie* status to Yemeni refugees, upon registration and nationality screening interviews. However, since all Yemenis arriving to Ethiopia have valid passports, ARRA recently decided to waive the nationality screening interview and authorized Yemenis holding valid passports to be immediately registered as refugees. Those who arrived before ARRA's decision will have their status converted in UNHCR and governmental databases, and provided with Refugee ID cards. The decision is expected to be implemented in the coming days.

Somalia:

- UNHCR Bossaso registered seven Yemeni nationals, bringing the total to 1,655 Yemeni nationals registered in Bossaso since March. Some 45 Yemeni refugees have been registered by Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR). A total of 1,595 Yemeni refugees were registered by MRRR in Hargeisa since 28 March. Prima Facie Refugee Certificates will be distributed in September. UNHCR and MRRR are providing proof of registration documents to all new arrivals in Berbera reception centre.
- Due to the increase of identified vulnerable new arrivals in Hargeisa, UNHCR and local partner the Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland (CCBRs) provided emergency financial assistance and a temporary monthly subsistence allowance to vulnerable Yemeni refugees. Livelihoods support to Yemeni refugees is also provided by UNHCR partner Action Africa Help International (AAH-I).
- Some 17 Somali returnee families from Yemen were included into the ongoing cash for work (CFW) reintegration project in Baidoa, implemented by UNHCR through its partner DRC. The project seeks to increase the purchasing power of the beneficiaries and enhance peaceful co-existence between returnees, IDPs and the host community.

Djibouti:

- From 8 to 14 September, the UNHCR and the government refugee entity in Djibouti (ONARS) registered 25 individuals hosted by the community in Djibouti city or Obock.
- On 13 September, UNHCR Obock facilitated the transit through Djibouti City of 16 Yemeni students to Sudan, who were leaving Yemen to undertake university studies in Sudan. The students did not have permission to transit through Djibouti City on their own.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- The resumption of the school year on 1 October correlates with IDPs moving out of collective centres (schools), sometimes at short notice. This trend was confirmed in two districts of Aden (Bureiqa and Sheikh Othman). UNHCR and partners are in discussions with the Ministry of Education to identify solutions.
- Refugee leaders in Sana'a reported that up to 90 percent of refugees in the capital lost their source of income and are in dire need of financial assistance. Criteria for emergency assistance were extended until 30 September.
- Refugees from urban areas in Taizz are arriving to Kharaz refugee camp as a result of fighting in the governorate. On 9 September six refugees arrived and it is expected that the number will increase in the coming days.

Somalia

- During a monitoring visit, UNHCR was informed that several Somali returnee families are living in IDP settlements in Hargeisa. UNHCR and partners are conducting an assessment of the living conditions of Yemeni refugees and Somali returnees in Hargeisa. The results will be compiled and shared in October.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Officials report that the school year should resume on 1 October. The government is making preparation towards this in all districts (north and south).

- In Kharaz refugee camp, 72 students attend daily English courses provided by UNHCR's partner InterSos.

Health

Achievements and Impact

Somalia

- UNHCR, through its local partner the Horn Youth Development Association (HYDA), provided Yemeni refugees with access to primary health care services in Hargeisa. On 11 September, the IOM medical team in Berbera attended to seven people.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Somalia:

- The kitchen in Berbera reception centre (Somaliland) is operational and new arrivals are provided with cooked rations by WFP.

Djibouti:

- On 12 and 13 September, UNHCR distributed 132 cooking stoves and 132 kitchen sets in Markazi camp. Distribution of kerosene for cooking is ongoing.
- UNHCR's Partner Johanniter holds weekly training sessions on nutrition and health practices for the Women Refugee Committee (WRC) to raise awareness on infant and young child nutrition practices. The training session on 7 September allowed the WRC to communicate with their community and share key messages on essential practices like exclusive breastfeeding and adequate and timely complementary feeding. The WRC will coach ten mothers with malnourished children or children at risk of malnutrition.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- In Mukalla, UNHCR partner InterSos' child protection team conducted awareness sessions on hygiene promotion in three schools, involving 74 participants.

Somalia:

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continued its water, sanitation and hygiene campaign at Bossaso reception centre (Puntland) and began the construction of two twin latrines with hand washing facilities at the Bossaso port. NRC also began the construction of elevated water tanks for the second reception centre in Bossaso and is training 1,600 new arrivals on nutrition and hygiene who will also benefit from reinstallation cash assistance provided by NRC. Additional toilets and the connection to water pipes in Berbera reception centre (Somaliland) were finalized by NRC, and laundry facilities will be operational soon.

Djibouti:

- In Markazi camp, following the Aquatab sensitisation campaign, 150 out of 200 refugee families are now using the tablets to treat water. Efforts are now focused on the remaining families to ensure they adopt the same behavior.
- Johanniter's waste management committee and their community service workers collect waste in the camp twice a week. The committee is provided with the necessary equipment on a regular basis.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- Electricity in Basateen is still inadequate and residents rely solely on generators, which negatively impacts water pumping. Officials began repairs on the electrical wiring although work is delayed by landmine clearance. According to the Water and Sanitation Department, 80 per cent of the population has access to fresh water; the main obstacle for the remaining 20 per cent is the presence of landmines. Authorities expect that it will take about two months for electricity and water to return to the area. The authorities highlighted gaps in their own capacity in terms of human resources, fuel, spare parts and wires, which are regularly looted. On 9 September, UNHCR visited the Electricity, Water and Sanitation Department in Basateen for the swift resumption and rehabilitation of services, and is advocating with local authorities on landmine clearance and public services.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR, through partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), assisted 53 IDP families (258 individuals) with NFIs in Bani Al Harith, As Sabain, Atthawrah, Shaub, Ma'ain and Sana'a Old City districts in Amanat Al Asimah and Sana'a governorates.

- On 13 September, UNHCR through its partner YRC distributed NFI kits, hygiene kits and food packages to 200 families (1,184 individuals) in Dhi As Sufal district (Ibb governorate) as part of the inter-agency convoy. The packages were contributed by UNHCR, IOM and WFP.

Somalia:

- UNHCR distributed 17 non-food items (NFI) kits to new arrivals in Bossaso and 65 CRI kits to Yemeni refugees in Somaliland.

Djibouti:

- On 9 September, UNHCR and NRC conducted an initial focus discussion with the Markazi Refugee Committee on the design and layout of future family kitchens designed for two families.
- UNHCR re-constructed the shading area for the water bladder in Sector Two after it was destroyed in the July storms.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Through an interagency convoy to Taizz and Ibb, UNHCR arranged transportation of NFIs for 200 IDP families in Ibb, Al Qahira and Maafer. On 12 September the convoy reached Ibb and negotiations continue for access to Taizz.
- A WFP chartered vessel docked at Hudaydah port, which was carrying medical supplies and solar panels for UNHCR. The items are undergoing customs clearance. A vessel transporting NFIs for 12,600 families from the Amman stock pile is *en route* to the Aden port and is scheduled to arrive in the coming days.

Somalia:

- UNHCR, through its partner IOM, provided onward transport assistance to 44 Somali returnees to Mogadishu, Borama, Hargeisa, Kismayo, Galkayo and Baidoa.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- Due to the ongoing conflict in the area, 20 trucks with NFI kits for 1,866 IDP families initially destined for Marib were rerouted to the new Hudaydah warehouse. An additional 1,134 NFI kits were moved to Hudaydah to reach a planned stock of 3,000 kits.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- On 8 September, a first IDP Protection meeting in Aden was held with UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs and civil society organizations for the first time since the start of the conflict, to introduce participants to the cluster architecture and UNHCR's role, take stock of the Protection response in place and agency plans. The needs to coordinate and share information, and to conduct new assessments were noted as returns are taking place at a rapid pace. Issues of IDPs living in schools soon to be vacated, IDP trauma, the living and protection situation of those who did not flee, child protection and landmines were also discussed.

Regional Refugee Coordinator Activities

- During her visit to Mogadishu from 2 to 3 September, the RRC highlighted the importance to strengthen the sub-group co-led by UNHCR and UNDP on durable solutions as a unique opportunity to formally engage UNDP and other development actors to facilitate the reintegration of Somali refugees coming from abroad. The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster held discussions with UNDP's Early Recovery and Poverty Reduction Division on the protracted IDP situation.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 21 September amount to some

US\$ 58.4 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 (160 M) | Sweden (80 M) | United Kingdom (53 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Priv Donors Spain (25 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Canada (11 M) | Priv Donors Italy (11 M)

Funding received (in million USD)

