



YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #25

23 - 29 September 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,793,049

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.

103,931

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.

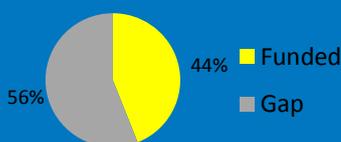
111,017

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](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Yemen:

- The Ministry of Education agreed to facilitate the enrolment of Somali refugee students for the new school year set to begin on 10 October.
- On 28 September, a shipment of 31 containers from the UNHCR Amman stockpile arrived to Aden port, carrying 16,504 sleeping mats, 73,768 blankets, 10,417 kitchen sets, and 35,262 buckets to assist 84,000 IDPs.

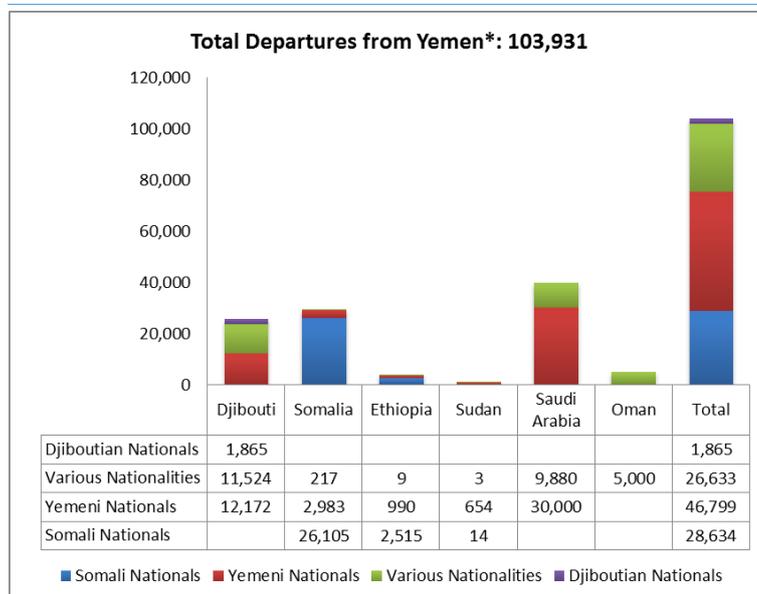
Somalia:

- In the reporting period, two boats with 44 individuals arrived from Yemen: seven to Berbera (Somaliland) and 37 to Bossaso (Puntland). Thirty individuals were registered by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners in Berbera and Bossaso reception centres.
- On 21 September, other two boats arrived to Bossaso and Berbera, carrying nine (eight Somalis and one Yemenis) and 41 (21 Yemenis, 19 Somalis, one Syrian) individuals respectively. These arrivals were not reported in the previous update. 121 Somali returnees from Mogadishu reached Hodan, Howlwadag and Karan districts by their own means: 39 mentioned that they were assisted by UNHCR. Some were given onward transportation assistance in Berbera and Bossaso, while others were supported by the local community.

Djibouti:

- As of 27 September, UNHCR and the Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés (ONARS, the government refugee agency) registered 2,905 refugees of which 2,732 are Yemeni nationals. There are 581 refugees sheltered in Markazi refugee camp. The remaining refugees are living in Obock and Djibouti city.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS



Operational Context

In Yemen, intensified airstrikes continued in Sa'ada, targeting telecom networks, in Hajjah, Al-Hudaydah with damage to a school, in Sana'a, where a presidential palace was bombed, and in Dhamar, Taizz, Al Bayda, Marib and Ibb. Fighting along the border between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia persists, and two Saudi border guards were reportedly killed.

On 28 September, the United Nations Secretary-General condemned the airstrikes that struck a wedding party in Wahijah village, outside of the Red Sea port city of Mokha in Yemen, killing 135 people. This may be the single deadliest incident since the start of the conflict. The Secretary-General repeated that there is no military solution to the conflict in Yemen and again called on all parties involved in the Yemeni conflict, from inside and outside the country, to immediately cease all military activities and resolve all differences through peaceful negotiations facilitated by his Special Envoy.

Speaking at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 29 September, President Hadi appealed for additional relief aid for the beleaguered civilian population in Yemen. The deteriorating public services in various provinces are severely aggravating the situation for the civilians. While President Hadi noted that the United Nations announced an appeal for humanitarian assistance, he added that contributions only covered a portion of what was needed.

In Djibouti, from 22 to 28 September, three boats arrived at the ports of Obock and Djibouti with 117 passengers: 103 Yemenis and 14 Third Country Nationals. When boats arrive, they continue to be directed to Obock. Third Country Nationals and those with passports, visas or tickets to other countries can go to Djibouti-ville. Others (mostly Yemenis) disembark in Obock and some choose to register as refugees and therefore proceed to Markazi camp. If they choose not to register, they are held at the port for the authorities to decide on steps to be taken.

In Somalia, since August 2015, the trend of arrivals from Yemen is decreasing mainly due to: the proximity of the conflict to Mokha and Mukalla (the two main ports of departure for people fleeing from Yemen to Somalia), the lack of cash resources among Somali and Yemenis, the rough weather conditions, and the progressive stabilization of the situation in Aden port. New arrivals report that more people fleeing Northern Yemen are expected to arrive in the next weeks.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND GAPS

Protection

Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR registered 38 refugees and renewed 25 refugee certificates. UNHCR partner InterSos screened persons of concern in detention facilities: in Alaya pre-trial detention centre in Sana'a, InterSos identified 21 refugees and 17 asylum seekers accused of irregular entry or criminal charges, and is providing legal assistance.



Refugee children in Yemen's Kharaz Refugee Camp. ©UNHCR/Yemen 2012

- UNHCR partner International Relief and Development (IRD) assessed 32 new cases and reassessed six cases for additional financial assistance as their situation worsened. IRD provided 250 vulnerable cases with cash assistance to cover basic needs such

as rent, food and water. InterSos psychosocial counsellor referred 34 refugees with specific needs (12 males, and 22 females), many of whom were directly affected by the unrest, to IRD for social assessments and financial assistance.

Djibouti:

- From 22 to 28 September, the UNHCR/ONARS team registered 10 Yemeni families (17 individuals). These are individuals who have chosen to register as refugees whether they arrived in the reporting period or were already self-sufficiently residing in Djibouti and Obock.
- As part of its activities to maintain and restore family ties, the Djibouti Red Crescent offered phone call services for new arrivals and refugees to call family abroad. As at 22 September, 144 refugees at Markazi camp and 35 new arrivals at the Port of Djibouti used the service.

Somalia:

- New arrivals were received at Bossaso port by the immigration authorities and the members of the Puntland New Arrival Task Force. UNHCR provided protection information and IOM transport to vulnerable arrivals from the port to Bossaso reception centre. Once there, UNHCR and the Puntland Ministry of Interior (MOI) teams registered four Yemeni nationals who were then granted *prima facie* refugee status. The total number of registered Yemeni refugees since March is 1730 individuals/637 households.
- Preparations for provision of subsistence allowance to Yemeni refugees - involving verification of beneficiary list and mobilization of beneficiaries through elders in Bossaso, Gardo and Bardan - was completed by UNHCR implementing partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and payment of substance allowances to all Yemeni refugees shall commence shortly.
- The 2nd reception centre in Bossaso, which has been renovated by the DRC with funding from UNHCR and inaugurated in August 2015, was further completed with the installation of rub halls. The centre is fitted with accommodation space, sanitary facilities and kitchen to ensure proper assistance is provided to new arrivals.
- During the reporting period, 13 Yemeni *prima facie* refugees and one Ethiopian asylum seeker were registered by the Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR). A total of 1,957 Yemeni refugees have been registered by MRRR in Hargeisa since March 2015.
- Three individuals from one family who arrived in Bossaso on 14 September and requested to travel to Mogadishu (South Central Somalia) were referred to the IOM-run transit facility in Mogadishu, as they did not have any family members in Mogadishu. They safely arrived in Mogadishu on 27 September and were accommodated at the facility up to three nights, while they receive support to find an alternative housing.

Ethiopia:

- As of 29 September, Ethiopia received 3,514 refugees from Yemen: 2,515 Somalis, 990 Yemenis, five Iraqis and four Eritreans. UNHCR and the Government Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) registered 1,784 persons of concern: 953 Yemeni nationals, 822 Somali nationals, five Iraqis and four Eritreans.
- Following ARRA's decision to waive nationality screening for Yemeni asylum-seekers as all arrivals so far held either national passports or letters from the Yemeni Embassy attesting their Yemeni citizenship, 813 of the registered Yemeni are now recognized as *prima facie* refugees, while 140 remain asylum-seekers. As a result, of the total registered population arrived from Yemen, 145 are asylum-seekers (140 Yemeni and five Iraqis) and 1,639 are refugees (813 Yemenis, 822 Somalis and four Eritreans).

Education

Yemen:

- On 22 September, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education (MoE) agreed to facilitate registration of Somali students whose refugee cards expired and the MoE began informing all education offices and schools across Yemen on its decision. The registration for the new academic year will start on 5 October

and schools will officially resume on 10 October. The start of the school year was delayed due to the deteriorating security and recent intensification of airstrikes in Sana'a and other governorates. Also, many exams centres outside of Yemen completed the testing process for 9th and 12th graders.

Djibouti:

- In the reporting period, the school catch-up programme was concluded with refugee children undergoing final exams that the Ministry of Education will validate. A school registration day for the new school year is being planned for 1 October and 120 children are expected to enroll in grades one to seven. Al Rahma orphanage will set up the school in the afternoons for refugee children.
- Since so far only Yemeni children in Obock and Markazi camp are able to enroll in school, UNHCR and partners of the education working group are advocating with the Government of Djibouti to support the schooling of Yemeni registered or unregistered refugee children in Djibouti-city.

Somalia:

- Two officers from the Yemeni Ministry of Education arrived in Somaliland to conduct the Yemen national school examinations with about 70 Yemeni refugee children within the next two weeks.

Health

Yemen:

- UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) provided medical consultation and essential medicines to 602 persons (369 in the Kharaz refugee Camp clinic, and 233 in the Basaaten clinic in Aden), reproductive healthcare services for 65 pregnant women, and enrolled 40 children with moderate to severe acute malnutrition in the nutritional programme.



In Obock (Djibouti), the Minister of Health delivers a speech in the presence of representatives of Embassy of Saudi Arabia, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, WFP and the Ministry of Health, including chief medical doctor of CMH Obock. Guests are standing in front of the ambulance and essential drugs donated by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre. ©UNICEF/A. Seixas, September 2015.

Djibouti:

- On 23 September, Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) initiated a voluntary HIV testing campaign among youth in Markazi camp. Some 52 young people have been tested and samples are taken to the Centre Médical Hospitalier (CMH) laboratory for analysis.

Somalia:

- The Tadamun Social Society (TASS), with support from UNICEF, provided emergency medical support to two boys aged 11 and 9 at Bossaso reception centre and referred five malnourished children to Daryeel Hospital, in addition to transportation, porridge and baby milk.
- From the group that arrived in Bossaso on 23 September, the IOM medical team attended 32 patients: 20 over 5 years old (14 females and six males) and 12 under 5 years old (eight females and four males). There were three cases of referrals and one of pregnancy.

Djibouti:

- For the Eid El Adha on 23 September, Al Rahma Association undertook a food distribution in Markazi camp with the assistance of UNHCR/ONARS. Some 250 baskets (25 kg of rice, 25 kg of sugar, 25 kg of white flour, and 5 litres of soy oil) as well as 5,000 Djiboutian Francs (equivalent to some 28.5 USD) per family were given as cash assistance to 250 families. Furthermore, on 24 September, Al Rahma distributed: 140 sheep to Yemeni refugees living in Markazi, 60 to those in Obock town, and 100 to the host community in Obock. According to Al Rahma, one sheep was distributed to every four families. In total, the distribution benefitted 800 refugees in addition to 400 families from the local population.
- On 25 September, the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), a Yemeni NGO recently registered in Djibouti, with the Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) distributed 225 sheep to Markazi camp and Obock.
- On 23 September, AHA distributed 126 boxes, each with 14 kg of fortified rice, to Markazi camp. Each box of rice was accompanied by a 900g tin of milk. The 126 represent the number of families and every four singles were grouped as a family unit. This activity will be extended to refugees living in Obock-ville shortly. An additional 200 milk tins and 257 boxes of rice were transported to Obock on 27 September.
- AHA conducted a nutrition screening in Obock with the technical assistance of the National Nutrition Programme (PNN). Thirteen children were screened: three are at risk and five are moderately malnourished. Children under-5 suffering from, or at risk of, severe acute malnutrition continue to receive adequate care and treatment at the CMH Obock through the support of UNICEF.

Somalia:

- WFP continued to provide food assistance at Bossaso reception centre with three cooked meals (cereals, pulses, oil, Corn Soya Blend, and plumpy doz) to all the new arrivals, through its implementing partner Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA), and a weekly total of 26 kg of food was distributed. As at 27 September, the centre had 108 individuals. Registrations are ongoing on the SCOPE platform where the registered households are issued with an e-transfer card to buy food items from WFP's contracted retailers to complement cooked meals. In the reporting period, five individuals received their e-transfer cards.



Water and Sanitation

Djibouti:

- New bacteriological tests will be conducted at household-level to assess the extent to which the jerrycan cleaning operation was effective and to identify the points with high risk of contamination along the water chain. The water treatment process will be redefined accordingly.

Somalia:

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continued provision of sanitation and hygiene awareness campaign through dissemination of hygiene messages to returnees at Bossaso reception centre. The NRC also started construction of two twin latrines with hand washing facilities at Bossaso port and three elevated water tanks with volume of 30 drums each at the second reception centre. Upon completion, this shall ensure better sanitation and hygiene at entry port as well as at the reception centre.



Shelter and NFIs

Yemen:

- From 20 to 27 September, UNHCR dispatched 46 trucks carrying NFIs for 30,100 IDPs in Amran, Hajjah, and Al Hudaydah governorates. UNHCR partners the Yemen Red Crescent (YRC), Relief International (RI) distributed NFIs to 17,500 IDPs in Amran and Hajjah. Additional NFIs are being dispatched to Al Jawf, Hajjah and Al Hudaydah governorates for a further 42,000 IDPs. Since the beginning of the conflict up to 17

September (the most recent distribution), UNHCR delivered NFIs and emergency shelter items (tents and plastic sheets) to 111,017 IDPs in various parts of the country in an impartial and neutral manner.

Djibouti:

- On 26 September, Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) undertook a distribution of clothes for single refugees. UNHCR and ONARS assisted in the distribution which is ongoing.

Somalia:

- UNHCR distributed nine CRI kits to new arrivals (Yemenis and Somali returnees) in Berbera. So far, 660 CRI kits were distributed through DRC Berbera teams.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- Following a meeting on 19 September, the Protection and Shelter Clusters (UNHCR in lead), the Executive Unit (ExU) for IDPs (under the Prime Minister’s Office), the IDP Committee, and the Education and Early Recovery Clusters met to address the issue of IDPs hosted in schools as the coming academic school year was due to begin in October. The parties agreed on a series of action points: The ExU and IDP Committee would begin in Sana’a by preparing a list of the schools accommodating IDPs in Amanat Alasimah (Sana’a) governorate, and the IDPs they are accommodating. For the follow up, the ExU agreed to send a letter to the Ministry of Education to instruct the principals of each school that accommodates IDPs to identify unused building in their areas that could possibly accommodate IDPs. The parties will thereafter conduct a physical assessment of the identified buildings; consult with the IDPs on their views regarding suitability; and finally communicate the list of buildings to the Prime Minister’s office for authorization to make use of them as shelters for the IDPs. The number of IDPs accommodated in collective centres and schools is being confirmed.

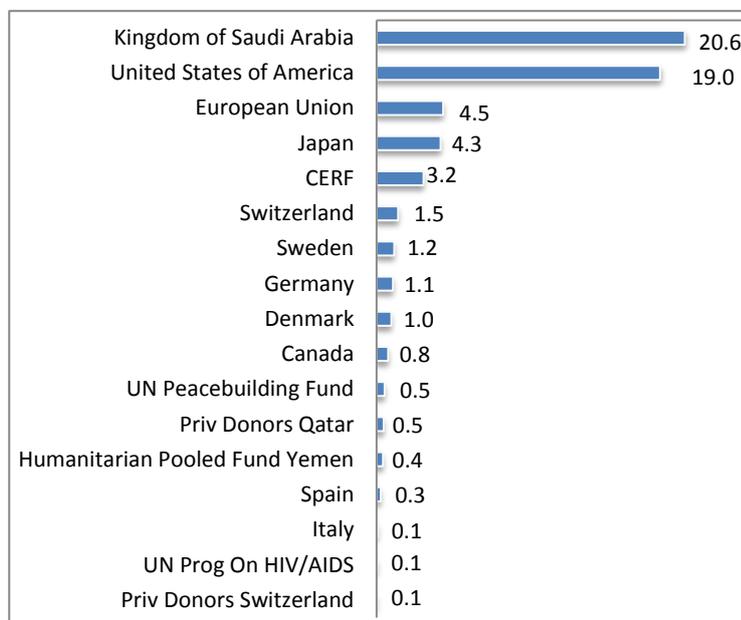
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 29 September amount to some **US\$ 59 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.

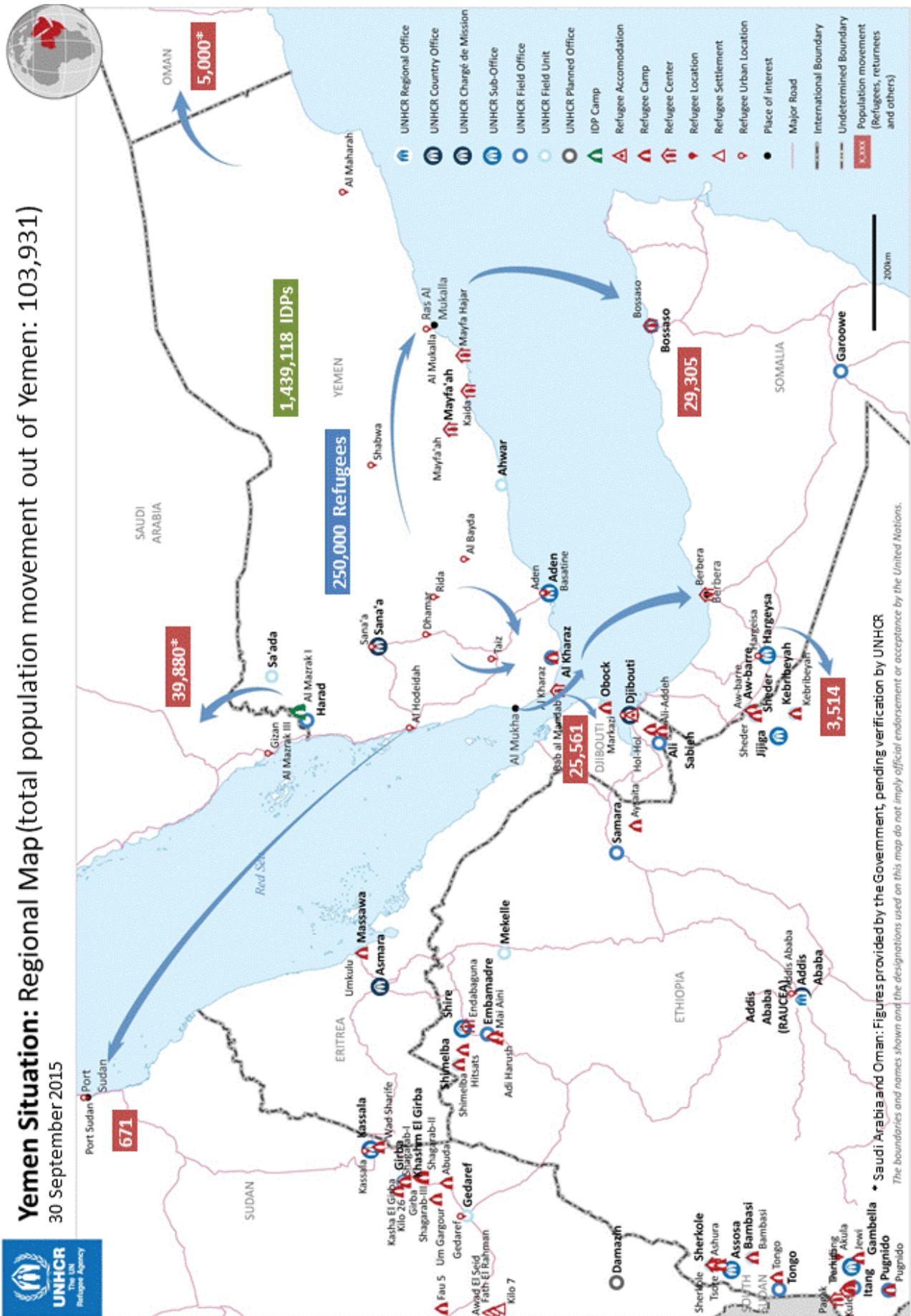
Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2015: United States of America (251 M) | Sweden (80 M) | United Kingdom (53 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Priv Donors Spain (25 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Canada (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Italy (11 M) | Finland (10 M)

Funding received (in million USD)



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