

# YEMEN SITUATION

## UNHCR CRISIS UPDATE #6

22 May, 2015

### KEY FIGURES

**1,157,269**

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

**545,719**

People newly displaced in Yemen as a result of the conflict (since 27 March).

**31,550**

Arrivals to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sudan mainly by sea or overland.

**250,000**

People in Yemen to be assisted with protection assistance and life sustaining items.

**40**

Protection assessments conducted in Yemen in hard to reach locations during the humanitarian pause.

**35,741**

People immediately receiving essential life sustaining items flown into Yemen during the humanitarian pause.

### HIGHLIGHTS

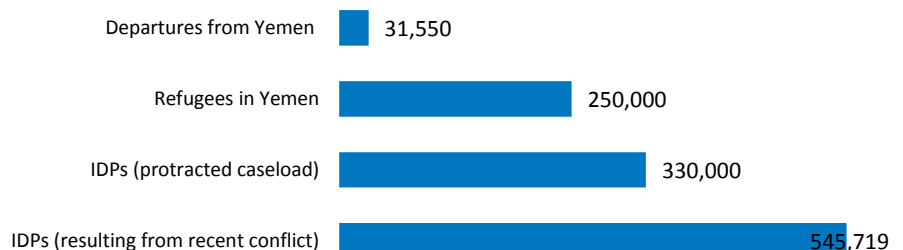
- During the five day humanitarian pause, six airplanes chartered by UNHCR brought urgently needed aid supplies to Yemen. Each flight carried 23 metric tonnes of relief items including 9,480 blankets, 925 kitchen sets, and 2,350 sleeping mats). UNHCR and partners also prepositioned emergency shelter materials and NFIs for 5,104 families (35,728 individuals).
- Thus far 1,616 families (11,325 individuals) already benefited from shelter and NFI materials; supplies for the remaining 3,488 families are expected to be distributed in the coming days.
- UNHCR and partners conducted 40 rapid assessments that reached more than 6,000 individuals in previously hard to reach areas including Sa'ada, Hajjah, Amran, Sana'a, Aden, Lahj, Abyan. The assessments were carried out through visits to communities and spontaneous settlements using IDP verification exercises and vulnerability criteria.
- The three-day conference in Riyadh entitled 'Saving Yemen and Building a Federal State' took place from 17 to 19 May concluding with the adoption of the Riyadh Declaration.



**NFIs distribution in Amran city with UNHCR's partner Yemen Red Crescent; 184 families (1,495 individuals) received emergency aid. © UNHCR/A.Al-Hadi**

### Population of concern

A total of **1,157,269** people of concern



# UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

## Operational Context

The five-day humanitarian pause officially ended on 17 May at 23:00 GMT. UNHCR and partner organizations continued distributing emergency relief items and operating in the north and south of Yemen throughout and after the pause.

The three-day conference in Riyadh entitled “Saving Yemen and Building a Federal State” took place from 17 to 19 May. The conference hosted 400 delegates from Yemeni political parties without the presence of the Al Houthis. The UN Special Envoy to the Secretary General for Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, called for an extension of the humanitarian pause and for the creation of conditions for a permanent ceasefire. He also appealed to all parties involved in the conflict to facilitate humanitarian access and emphasized that there would be no solution to the current crisis without inclusive negotiations. However, hostilities resumed after the five-day humanitarian pause, which officially ended at 11pm on 17 May. The conference concluded by adopting the Riyadh Declaration that calls for humanitarian action to end the suffering of the Yemenis (including IDPs), refugees, and stranded citizens abroad.



**UNHCR staff conducting rapid protection assessments during the humanitarian pause with the community in Bani Hushaish, Sana'a @UNHCR/B.Mousa**

Prior to the commencement of the humanitarian pause, 14 international staff from seven UN agencies, including UNHCR, returned to Yemen; all fourteen staff are currently in Yemen.

The current situation for newly displaced persons, estimated at over 545,000, is deteriorating and requires a response to their immediate needs as well as plan for chronic and medium to longer term risks and needs.

The Chairman of the Yemeni Civil Aviation Authority confirmed on 19 May that the Sana'a International Airport had reopened for commercial flights for the first time since the start of the Saudi-led military operation. The goal is to assist hundreds of Yemeni civilians who have been stranded abroad to return home, he said. A Yemeni airplane reportedly landed at the Sana'a airport on 19 May, carrying 190 Yemeni passengers from Cairo. The airport is expected to receive two flights a day from 20 May onwards to transport nearly 6,000 stranded Yemenis from the Egyptian capital.

The three UNHCR vehicles which were confiscated by parties to the conflict were returned.

The deterioration of the situation continues to affect the safety and security of national staff and their family members and continues to significantly impact their welfare as a result of the degrading economy and shortage of food supplies, medical services, utilities, fuel and gas. However, since the arrival of the international staff to Sana'a, national staff members in Sana'a have felt more supported and encouraged to report to the office. National staff members in Aden feel increasingly isolated, and suffer from restriction of movement as well as of lack of basic commodities.

## Departures from Yemen

**Djibouti:** According to the latest available statistics from IOM and the Djibouti government, 11,183 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 12 May (since 27 March); 4,265 of those are Yemeni nationals. As of 20 May UNHCR has registered 1,340 refugees of which 1,283 are Yemeni nationals.

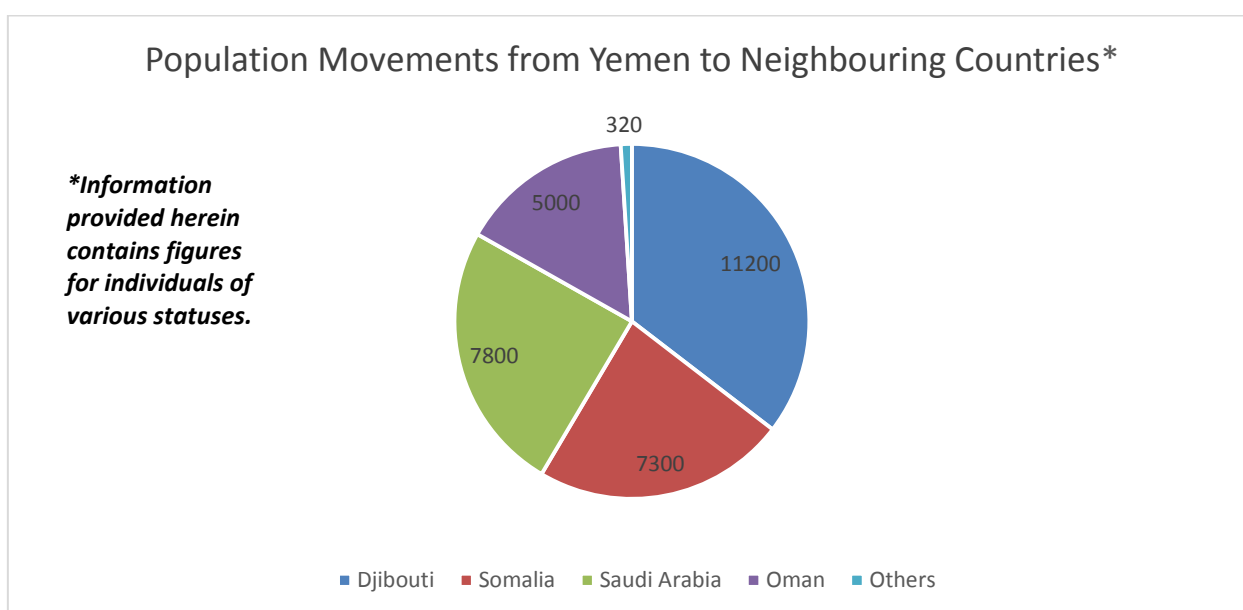
**Oman:** Government authorities in Oman reported to UNHCR that over 5,000 individuals of various nationalities have arrived to Oman since the onset of the crisis in Yemen.

**Saudi Arabia:** In addition to the previously reported 7,800 Syrian and Iraq arrivals to the Kingdom from Yemen, 8,033 Yemenis have had their status regularized. However, the actual number of Yemenis in Saudi Arabia is estimated by the government to be much greater.

**Somalia:** As of 19 May 2015, and with the arrival of a boat from Mukalla port in Yemen to Bossaso port in Puntland, carrying 234 individuals (229 Somalis and five Yemenis), there are now 7,278 arrivals to Somalia since the onset of the crisis at the end of March.



*UNHCR and partners greet new arrivals at the port in Berbera, Somaliland. After receiving medical treatment and other immediate needs, registration is provided for those requesting UNHCR assistance at the reception centre. May 2015 © UNHCR*



## Achievements



Protection

### Achievements and Impact

#### Yemen:

- During the five day humanitarian pause, UNHCR, leading the Protection and Shelter/CCCM/NFIs clusters, and its partners conducted rapid protection needs assessments, visits to communities and spontaneous settlements, IDP verification exercises and vulnerability assessments in several governorates (e.g., Sa'ada, Hajjah, Amran, Sana'a, Aden, Lahj, Abyan). Specifically, 40 rapid protection assessments reached more than 6,000 individuals. The data collected is currently being analyzed. Initial results show that individuals who were economically vulnerable prior to

the crisis are now coping with soaring prices for food, fuel and bottled or trucked water and collapse of the labour market. Access to health care and transport options are scarce. Based on the results, partners will continue to deliver NFIs/emergency shelter to the families assessed and found to be in need.

- On 18 May, UNHCR in Sana'a organized a meeting with Ethiopian refugee community leaders. Several protection concerns were discussed from cash assistance eligibility, resettlement procedures, the health hotline and an agreement for bi-weekly meetings to continue ongoing dialogue with refugee community members.
- Eight female refugees (two Somalis and six Ethiopians) were released from the central prison in Sana'a on Thursday, 14 May with the assistance of InterSOS lawyers.
- On 17 May, UNHCR reopened registration and renewal activities in Sana'a; UNHCR registered six new cases (four Eritreans and two Ethiopians) and renewed 10 UNHCR asylum-seekers certificates.
- At the Bab-al-Mandab transit centre along the Red Sea Coast no new arrivals were encountered. Due to the ongoing fuel shortage, the Yemeni Red Crescent (YRC) is unable to patrol the coast. YRC reported to UNHCR that check points are preventing new arrivals from reaching the centre. However, ten spontaneous arrivals were registered at Kharaz camp. The Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) continues to patrol the Arabian Coast. 181 Ethiopian migrants were screened by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) at the Mayfa'a reception centre. Up to 18 May, there have been 1,000 new arrivals registered.

#### Djibouti:

- UNHCR and ONARS, (the government refugee entity) registered 104 new arrivals this week, bringing the total to 1,340.
- As of 20 May, UNHCR reinforced its capacity at the port of Djibouti to liaise with immigration authorities present at the port; obtain information on announced boat arrivals; coordinate with registration staff and the UNHCR Offices in Djibouti and Obock; and, inform new arrivals on the possibility to seek asylum in Djibouti, the respective registration procedures as well as on rights and responsibilities that come with the refugee status.
- On 18 May, UNHCR reopened its Field Office in Obock. The office also serves as registration centre for new arrivals before they are transferred to Markazi camp, about three kilometres away.
- Together with ONARS, UNHCR assessed the cases in need of protection assistance and ensured that persons with visa or residence permits in other countries could continue their onward travel.
- The questionnaire on Rapid Child Protection Assessment was validated by the Protection Working Group and will be launched at the end of May by UNICEF and UNHCR in partnership with DRC, UNFD and the Association for the Promotion of Children Rights.

#### Saudi Arabia:

- Protection staff maintain communication with people of concern (PoCs) through the UNHCR hotline. Most calls received from over 21 families this week were requests for advice and support with regard to their emergency visa extension and the legal status of their sponsors.



***Medina and her husband fled with her six children from Yemen to Djibouti. They are being displaced for the second time. Twenty years ago they fled their home in Eritrea and found safety in Yemen. They have received their refugee documents and are sheltered in Markazi refugee camp. May 2015 © UNHCR / M-C. Sowinetz***



- The border guards (at border points with Yemen) are responsible for registering new arrivals from Yemen, and coordinate closely with respective embassies for transit and departure arrangements. Upon arrival at border points, the military provides hot meals, water, and medical services. The Saudi Red Crescent is reportedly present at the borders providing urgent medical services.
- According to the recent royal decree, Yemenis who arrived in the Kingdom before 10 May can regularize their status. Thus far the residency status for 8,033 Yemenis has been regularized.
- Makkah detention centre released 1,100 Yemenis who had been detained for violation of residency law after ensuring they met the requirements to correct their status. It is uncertain if these people are included in the 8,033 people whose status was regularized.
- The Saudi authorities have asked UNHCR and IOM to assist in the relocation of Yemenis stranded in different countries to Yemen via Saudi Arabia. UNHCR shared its readiness to support the relocation process and other operations.

### **Somalia:**

- The first evacuation flight organized by IOM arrived from Sana'a to Mogadishu on 18 May, bringing 95 Somali nationals fleeing the conflict in Yemen. WHO and UNICEF teams assisted with health screening. UNHCR was on the ground in Puntland and Somaliland to support returnees, and was present at Mogadishu airport to assist in the reception and ensure the proper registration of new arrivals.
- UNHCR's partner, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is rehabilitating the Berbera reception centre. Work continues on the accommodation hall currently occupied by women, which includes installation of windows and additional doors, and the construction of a partition wall.
- Approximately 464 individuals registered at the Bossaso reception centre and they have been supported with onward transportation to their areas of origin. IOM transport has benefitted 128 returnees, GOLIS Telecommunications Company supported 300 returnees, and members of the local business community have assisted 36 people to travel home. Approximately 22 individuals departed from the centre by their own accord. The local business community plans to support a further 300 individuals with onward transportation, leaving 172 individuals remaining in the centre. Of those remaining in the centre, UNHCR is assessing the Somali refugee returnees who are of concern to UNHCR in order to facilitate assistance.
- NRC distributed cash grants to eligible new arrivals who wished to return to south central Somalia. While the reception centre is empty, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and other partners are cleaning and preparing it for new arrivals.

### **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

#### **Djibouti:**

- The urgent need for an enclosure (fence) around the camp and the need for more robust generators to ensure a maximum of security to refugees living in the camp are pressing issues. UNHCR continues advocating for the reinforcement of security personnel in Markazi camp.
- Children are in need of urgent psychosocial support to cope with the traumatic events they survived. A joint mission with members from the Protection and Education Working Groups will be conducted next week to organise child-friendly spaces where children can be provided with the necessary support.



### **Logistics**

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Yemen:**

- Six airplanes chartered by UNHCR brought urgently needed aid supplies to Yemen. Each flight carried 23 metric tonnes of relief items (in each flight: 9480 blankets, 925 kitchen sets, 2350 sleeping mats). These flights were part of a larger aid effort for 250,000 people.

- During the five day humanitarian pause, UNHCR and partners prepositioned emergency shelter materials and NFIs for 5,104 families (35,728 individuals). While 1,616 families (11,325 individuals) already benefited from the shelter and NFI materials, supplies for the remaining 3,488 families are expected to be distributed in the coming days. Transport and distribution reached Sana'a, Amran, Hajjah, Aden, and Al-Hudaydah governorates.
- Ten trucks loaded with NFIs/emergency shelter kits and one solar panel station arrived to Aden. The trucks will reach approximately 3,000 families in need. This is the first humanitarian shipment to reach Aden from Sana'a since the start of the hostilities.



**Distributions of emergency relief items in Al-Qa'is district, Hajjah Governorate provided 88 families with plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, buckets, mattresses, blankets and mats. 15 May 2015 © Al-Amal/S.Al-Shogurdy**

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

### Yemen:

- Major constraints concerning transportation included poor road conditions, lack of access to beneficiaries, and ongoing insecurity. Difficult, albeit successful, negotiations for safe passage of the ten UNHCR trucks from Sana'a to Aden took place.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- **Djibouti:** UNHCR met with government authorities, embassy counterparts and representatives of local schools using the Yemeni curriculum to advocate for the access of Yemeni refugee children to the end-of-cycle examination. The Yemeni curriculum of Djibouti is identical to the curriculum in Yemen. However, the exams in Djibouti also contain some portions in French that ideally should be adapted for Yemeni students.

## Health

### Achievements and Impact

#### Yemen:

- The Al Hafy Public Health Clinic in Sana'a and UNHCR's partner International Medical Corps (IMC) continue providing basic healthcare and emergency referral services.
- The Basateen clinic in Aden has gradually reactivated delivery of full primary health care services, including preventive and basic curative health services. On 19 May, the health services were interrupted due to shelling around the clinic and a missile targeting the adjacent building. No casualties or injuries were reported and the clinic reopened in the afternoon after damage was assessed.
- During the humanitarian pause, UNHCR's partner the Charitable Society of Social Welfare (CSSW) was able to send some medicine and medical supplies including tuberculosis vaccines to the Kharaz refugee camp clinic. In addition, two CSSW medical doctors arrived to Kharaz and resume their work.
- UNHCR's partner the Association for Development of Persons with Specific Needs (ADPSN) is working with 36 children; however, physiotherapy is no longer available due to the lack of electricity at the Refugee Health Centre in Kharaz camp.

#### Djibouti:

- Updating of the immunisation status is ongoing for all under-5 refugee children upon arrival. With support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Health is ensuring the necessary healthcare to all children in need, including the provision of oral rehydration salts and zinc for all children with diarrheal diseases, and antibiotic treatment for those affected by pneumonia.
- Refugee children benefited from the integrated Campaign against Polio and Measles organised by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and support from UNICEF and WHO. Children aged nine months to 15 years were targeted for measles vaccinations and those aged 0 to 59 months for polio vaccinations.

#### Somalia:

- UNHCR's local NGO partner Integrated Services for Displaced People (ISDP) in Bossaso provides maternal health care for women and children in need, including the transfer of women in labour to delivery centres. One ambulance is on standby for the referral of patients. The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) has an outpatient medical department (OPD) at the reception centre.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Somalia:** At the Berbera port, the IOM clinic is currently used though only one ceiling is constructed and a temporary synthetic carpet is covering the floor. NRC plans to improve the room by constructing a new ceiling, more ceiling fans, more windows and vents, and completing wall plastering and painting.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

#### Djibouti:

- As of 19 May, ONARS and UNHCR have changed the regime for food distribution from hot meals, which were distributed three times per day, to WFP food rations. A total of 1,000 refugees received their food rations from WFP. The food rations comprise of wheat, peas, oil, sugar and wheat soya blend.
- Malnutrition screening is ongoing for all under-5 refugee children, pregnant women and lactating mothers upon arrival; and from now on will be conducted on a weekly basis in the refugee camp and on a monthly basis in the host community. A nutritionist from Johanniter joined the team in Obock on 19 May and will work closely with the National Nutrition Programme to support the response for new arrivals. The Nutrition Sub-Working Group established in Obock is operational and follows the situation very closely.
- Refugee children aged 6-59 months received vitamin A Supplementation during the integrated national campaign against Polio and Measles. Vitamin A supplementation is ongoing for all newly arrived children from this age group.
- According to the last screening conducted in Obock (18 May), there are seven cases of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 16 cases of children affected by moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). All of them are receiving adequate treatment and care at Obock Regional Hospital.

#### Somalia:

- WFP, through its partner Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA), continues to provide meals for people hosted at the Bossaso reception centre. WFP is further exploring the possibility of a 2-3 month food integration package for returnees. Additionally, WFP will start registering individuals at the centre using biometric technology, and people will be issued with a 'smart card' that will be credited with a one-time allowance of USD 45



**Boats with Yemeni refugees arriving at the port of Obock, in the north of Djibouti. Some of the new arrivals came from Bab al Mandeb, a fishing village in Yemen. They left Yemen with their own boats. 2015 © UNHCR / G. Cyriaque**

per individual in each household. This is intended to allow individuals to purchase items of their choice at designated stores to supplement the food provided at the centre. This smart card will follow the returnees to their areas of origin and will be used as verification to receive the return package and enroll returnees in ongoing WFP reintegration projects.

- DRC has been working to improve the quality of food available at the Berbera reception centre to enhance its nutritional value. Fruit will be provided to children, and special food will be provided for lactating mothers.
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### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Yemen:** WFP planned to transport food for refugees to the Kharaz camp during the humanitarian pause. However, the quantities necessary were not available; a one month supply remains in the camp.
- **Djibouti:** The prevalence of global acute malnutrition among Yemen refugee children continues to be around 20 per cent, largely surpassing the WHO emergency threshold of 15 per cent.



## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and Impact

- **Djibouti:** The WASH working group conducted an assessment mission to Obock and stressed the need of better maintenance of the water bladders in place to ensure the quality of the water provided.
- **Somalia:** At the Berbera reception centre, the male toilet unit has been completed. The female toilet unit should be completed around 20 May. Water supply to the toilets is connected and the facilities are functional. Construction of two elevated tanks is expected to commence by 19 May to increase water storage and boost water pressure. Garbage bins have been purchased for the centre by DRC and were delivered on 16 May 2015. DRC is also providing hygiene promotion sessions at the reception centre.



## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

#### Yemen:

- During the reporting period, UNHCR and partner organizations distributed emergency aid items such as mattresses, blankets, sleeping mats, buckets, plastic sheeting, and kitchen sets to 2,631 families (10,724 individuals) in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Amran, Amanat Al Asimah and Aden governorates.
- The security situation around Kharaz camp is generally stable, which prompted urban refugees to relocate to the camp. UNHCR's partner SHS installed around 295 tents for 1,385 refugees from urban areas.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Somalia:** At the Berbera reception centre, the rehabilitation of the existing perimeter wall needs improvement and a new entrance gate is required to enhance security.



## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Yemen:** During the humanitarian pause, UNHCR and its partner SHS was unable to transfer fuel to Kharaz camp since it was not possible to obtain passage on the road between Aden and Kharaz. The situation remains tense with little



***Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) sets up additional tents in the Kharaz camp to receive refugees displaced from urban areas inside Aden to the camp. 17 May 2015 © SHS***



access to fuel across the country; the risk of theft remains high. The remaining fuel for running the water supply and electricity in the camp will last for approximately one month.

## Working in partnership

### Yemen:

- The Representative and the Assistant Representative (Protection) participated in a meeting at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) on the morning of 17 May and discussed the humanitarian response for Sa'ada and areas affected by internal displacement from Sa'ada. The Governor of Sa'ada indicated the significant damage to Sa'ada and the break-down in public services.

### Djibouti:

- On 19 May, the UNHCR Representative visited Obock and Markazi camp to hold talks with refugees to assess the current situation. In her meeting with the Prefect of Obock, the Representative thanked him for his support and discussed the latest developments and the upcoming transfer of refugees from the temporary transit centre, the Al Rahma orphanage to the camp.

### Somalia:

- A Puntland New Arrivals Task Force meeting was held on 14 May at UNHCR office in Bossaso to discuss the use of biometric systems, the possibility of setting-up a second reception centre, identification documents for those who have received assistance, and assessing vulnerability of new arrivals to determine assistance needs.
- Puntland President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gas met with Yemeni Ambassador to Somalia, Mansur Ali Rayash Al-Imrani, in Garowe on 17 May 2015. The President briefed Al Imrani on the efforts of receiving highest influx of refugees from Yemen, disclosing the reception centre facility in Bossaso, and that government installed coordination mechanism is on standby for the reception of Yemenis fleeing from conflict.

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# Yemen Situation: Regional map

22 May 2015

