

SOMALIA TASK FORCE ON YEMEN SITUATION

WEEKLY INTER-AGENCY UPDATE #27

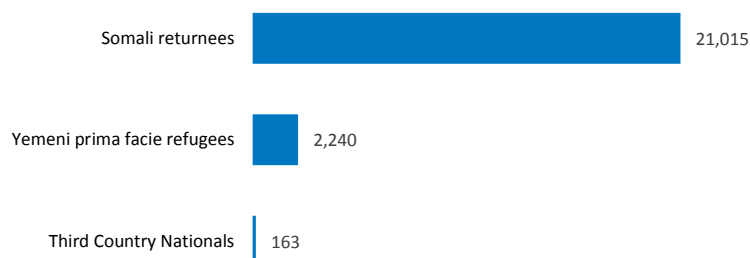
1 – 7 July 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the reporting period, a total of 4,922 individuals arrived in Somalia from Yemen to Berbera, Somaliland (1,356 persons) and Bossaso, Puntland (3,566 persons). Out of them, 2,976 individuals were registered by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners in Berbera and Bossaso Reception Centers. UNHCR is putting in place a system to strengthen registration of new arrivals.
- In Berbera, there were two new arrivals: a boat carrying 288 individuals (171 Somalis, 112 Yemenis and 5 Ethiopians – 97 families) on 3 July and a boat carrying 1,068 individuals (1,041 Somalis, 26 Yemenis and 1 Ethiopian) on 6 July.
- In Bossaso, there were two new arrivals: a ship carrying 3,502 individuals (3,067 Somalis, 419 Yemenis, 14 Ethiopians and 2 British-Somalis) on 2 July, which is the single largest arrival so far in Somalia; and a small boat carrying 64 individuals (46 Somalis, 15 Yemenis, 2 US-Somali citizens and 1 Sudanese) on 6 July.
- A Level 3 Emergency for Yemen was declared by IASC on 1 July. Accordingly, UNHCR immediately appointed a Regional Refugee Coordinator, based in Djibouti. In line with this development, UNHCR Somalia is in the process of establishing a refugee coordination mechanism to effectively respond to the humanitarian needs and ensure timely information sharing on operational issues.
- The Federal Government of Somalia announced on 30 June that Yemeni nationals arriving in Somalia will be granted prima facie refugee status, in line with the statements already issued since the beginning of the crisis by Somaliland and Puntland authorities.

Population of concern

A total of **23,418** people of concern



KEY FIGURES

23,418

Arrivals from Yemen since 27 March

861

Yemeni prima facie refugees registered in Somalia since 27 March 2015 at the early onset of the crisis

13,900

Arrivals registered at Reception Centers in Berbera, Bossaso and Mogadishu since 27 March

53%

Registered arrivals expressing intention to return to Mogadishu

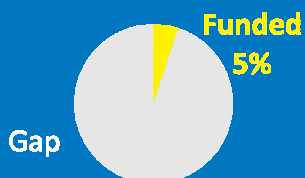
6,000

Somali returnees provided with onward transportation assistance since 27 March

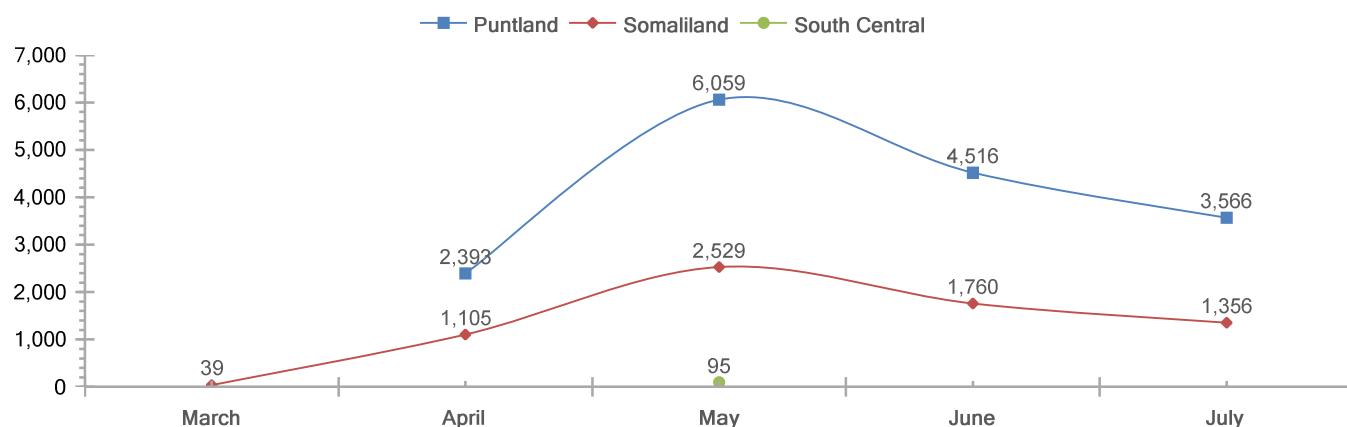
FUNDING

USD 64 million

requested for the **Somalia Response Plan for Yemen Crisis (April-September 2015)**



ARRIVALS PER MONTH



ARRIVALS PER NATIONALITY AND GENDER/AGE

Nationality	Arrived to			Total	
	Puntland	Somaliland	South Central		
Djibouti	6			6	0 %
England	3			3	0 %
Ethiopia	56	73		129	1 %
Kenya	6			6	0 %
Libya		2		2	0 %
Pakistan		1		1	0 %
Palestine		2		2	0 %
Somalia	15,355	5,565	95	21,015	90 %
Sudan	1			1	0 %
Syria		8		8	0 %
Tanzania		1		1	0 %
USA	2	2		4	0 %
Yemen	1,105	1,135		2,240	10 %
Total	16,534	6,789	95	23,418	100 %
	70.60 %	28.99 %	0.41 %		

G/A	Arrived to			Total	
	PL	SL	SC		
Children	7,089	2,973	23	10,085	44 %
Females	4,924	1,873	23	6,820	30 %
Males	4,401	1,673	16	6,090	26 %
Total	16,414	6,519	62	22,995	100
	71.38 %	28.35 %	0.27 %		

INTENDED AREAS OF RETURN OF REGISTERED ARRIVALS

Areas of Intended Return	Point of Entry			Total	
	Puntland	Somaliland	South Central		
Mogadishu	4,002	3,401	0	7,403	53 %
Hargeisa	215	1,417	0	1,632	12 %
Bossaso	454	201	0	655	5 %
Baidoa	316	93	0	409	3 %
Kismayo	289	79	0	368	3 %
Garowe	211	77	0	288	2 %
Other locations	1,616	1,467	62	3,145	18 %
Total Registered Arrivals	7,103	6,735	62	13,900	100 %

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Since the escalation of the Yemen crisis in late March 2015, over 3,260 people have been killed in Yemen and almost 1.3 million have been internally displaced. On July 1, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, convened an ad-hoc Principals meeting of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and a system-wide Level 3 emergency response for Yemen was activated for a period of six months, with an interim review planned for September. On the same day, the High Commissioner for Refugees declared the internal Level 3 Emergency and appointed a Regional Refugee Coordinator to be based in Djibouti to address the regional refugee dimension. The L3 activation will translate into increased staff being deployed to Yemen.

A second humanitarian pause should start on 10 July until the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan (the last five-day humanitarian pause in Yemen was on 12-17 May, when UNHCR was able to fly in 6 planes with emergency aid as part of a plan to reach 50,000 people).

The crisis in Yemen has forced over 51,000 people to flee in neighboring countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Somalia mainly) and caused a reversal of historic dynamics of mixed migration movements from Somalia. Yemen used to be the main mixed migration route towards Europe for Somali nationals, as well as country of asylum for about 1 million Somalis, who were granted prima facie refugee status by the Yemeni Government. Out of the total number of Somalis hosted in Yemen, about 240,000 were Somali registered refugees, living mainly in Al Kharaz refugee camp and Basateen district in urban setting.

Achievements



PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- Of the 3,502 new arrivals on 2 July, 1,587 were registered at the Bossaso Reception Centre by UNHCR and the Puntland Ministry of Interior (MOI). Among those registered, there were 1,151 (432 households) Somali nationals, 428 (108 households) Yemeni nationals, and 8 (4 households) Ethiopian nationals. On 6 July, a smaller boat reached Bossaso carrying 64 individuals, 33 of whom were registered at the Reception Centre, including 23 Somali nationals (9 households) and 10 Yemeni nationals (5 households). Out of the total number of arrivals during the reporting period, approximately 920 individuals reported to be Somali registered refugees in Yemen.
- Between 1 and 7 July, UNHCR Bossaso registered 115 Yemeni individuals (41 households) as prima facie refugees. The total number of Yemeni nationals registered in Bossaso is currently 573 persons (224 households).
- Save the Children International (SCI) identifies and supports separated and unaccompanied minors as well as family tracing. Currently, through the assistance of SCI, three children are under temporary foster care.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The capacity of the registration team is stretched and, as more Yemenis reach Bossaso, the backlog will increase.
- DRC identified lack of privacy, especially for women and girls at the Reception Centre as a serious protection concern and potential risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- Identification capacity of persons with special needs and vulnerabilities needs to be strengthened.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- The arrivals of 3 July docked the Port of Berbera after two and a half hours as they were initially rejected due to lack of harbor space to unload passengers. New arrivals reported that they had been provided with food and water onboard. At the Reception Centers they were registered and provided with accommodation for three nights. On exceptional basis, registration was conducted by UNHCR's implementing partners DRC, due to limited movements of UNHCR staff for security alert and ongoing

recruitment of registration staff by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Reconstruction (MRRR), which has the lead of the registration process.

- Vulnerability assessments were conducted by UNHCR’s partner Comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation Somaliland (CCBRS), in line with the vulnerability assessment tool developed by the inter-agency Task Force members. A review was done with UNHCR and other partners to ensure that all cases in need of assistance were included.
- The arrivals of 6 July were all registered refugees by UNHCR in Yemen, coming from Al Kharaz refugee camp.
- All new arrivals receive a ‘proof of registration form’ since 1 July.
- Coast guard trainings were planned during the reporting period, including overview of international protection, international refugee law, Somaliland’s obligations under the 1951 Convention and Rescue at sea.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Majority of new arrivals are Somali returnees (registered refugees in Yemen) and increasing numbers of vulnerable returnees are identified through the vulnerability assessments. There is urgent need for additional resources to provide identified vulnerable returnees with onward transportation assistance to reach their area of origin/return.
- Most of new arrivals reportedly worked as casual laborers in Yemen and had neither income, nor any financial support since the last months before departure from Yemen, due to lack of electricity, petrol, water and security. To avoid heavy dependency on international assistance, UNHCR is developing livelihoods projects for the entire refugee caseload in Somaliland to include the newly arrived Yemeni refugees. Funding for livelihood support is required.
- New arrivals reported that many of their family members remained in Yemen and they had lost contact due to the deterioration of communication networks. For the moment, new arrivals in need of family reunification have been able to re-establish contacts with their remaining family members in Yemen.
- The arrival on 6 July of 1,068 individuals highlighted again the need for strengthened reception capacity. UNHCR, with IOM, DRC and NRC, is now assessing a third reception facility identified by the Mayor of Berbera and approved by the Minister of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Reconstruction (MRRR). Construction gaps remain a challenge at the 1st Reception Center, while the 2nd Reception Center is a school and will be handed over to the Government by 1 September for the beginning of the school year.
- UNHCR biometric registration equipment has not yet been received in Berbera to strengthen registration system.
- The Berbera Port Authorities are still retaining the luggage of new arrivals, which often delays departure towards their areas of origin and creates additional logistical challenges for partners.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONS

Achievements and Impact

- 3 Yemeni refugee heads of household contacted UNHCR in Mogadishu (through the hotline) for support on documentation. UNHCR will receive and counsel Yemeni refugees at the IOM Transit Center in Mogadishu and will provide them with substance allowance, in line with SOPs applied in Hargeisa and Bossaso for refugees.
- Accurate figures are not available on Somali returnees from Yemen who have arrived in Mogadishu from Berbera and Bossaso. 115 Somali returnees were identified by UNHCR’s partners in IDP settlements in Deynile and Kaahda district on the outskirts of Mogadishu. 64 Somali returnees have arrived in Baidoa between 1 and 6 July, travelling by road from Bossaso/Berbera via Galkayo and Mogadishu to Baidoa.
- In terms of reception capacity, IOM’s plan on expanding its Reception Center is ongoing, while UNHCR has conducted a second site visit – a joint engineering/security mission – to assess the facility proposed by the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) as new larger reception center in Mogadishu. A final decision on suitability of the facility will be taken in the next days.
- UNHCR shared the proposed Registration Strategy for the Yemen response with the Inter-agency Task Force members for comments. Once feedback is consolidated, the agreed Strategy will be shared. As a living document, it can be revised and

updated to reflect the protection and operational requirements of the operation. On 12 July, UNHCR plans to conduct one day registration training with IOM and NCRI in Mogadishu.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- High security risk alert in Mogadishu has not yet allowed UNHCR staff to provide counseling to Yemeni refugees and discussion is also pending with NCRI on establishing an immigration screening facility at Mogadishu Sea Port, before referral of arrivals to the Reception Centre takes place. Two sites are under consideration by NCRI.



Health

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- Since the beginning of July, Save the Children International (SCI) provided 45 individuals with emergency medical referrals. 22 of these individuals are still recuperating at Daryeel Hospital and Bossaso General Hospital, while the rest have been treated and discharged. 22 Yemeni refugees in Gardo also benefitted from emergency medical services through SCI.
- SCI provides structured psychosocial support to new arrivals in need of assistance. This support has concluded in Gardo and services will resume at the Reception Centre in Bossaso.
- During the reporting period, DRC distributed 320 sanitary pads for 160 vulnerable women and girls.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- 35 new arrivals were medicated by IOM clinic at Berbera Reception Center, most of them for headaches and dizziness due to sea travel and hot weather. 6 of the patients were provided IV fluids. IOM continues to provide financial contribution to the Somaliland Ministry of Health for medicines, medical checks, referrals and fitness to travel assessments.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONS

Achievements and Impact

- Through IOM and the Ministry of Health, health screening capacity and medical assistance is in place at the Mogadishu International Airport and the IOM Reception facility at KM4.



Food Security and Nutrition

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- DRC provided refreshments, in the form of water and high-energy biscuits, at both the Bossaso Port and Reception Centre to all new arrivals.
- WFP, through its implementing partner PSA, continued to provide three hot meals a day to all individuals at the Reception Centre (Wet Feeding Programme). PSA reported that even during the month of Ramadan, the cooking schedule remains the same in order to accommodate those who are not fasting.
- SCI continued to provide ready to drink cold milk and biscuits for children at the Reception Centre.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During field visits by DRC staff, it was reported that some individuals, especially women, children and those with special needs, miss meals due to competition and overcrowding at meal times. This was addressed at the Puntland New Arrivals Task Force meeting on 7 July and WFP, with PSA, will take steps to rectify the issue.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- Three meals and water four times per day were provided by DRC to new arrivals at the Berbera Reception Center. Food quality and nutritional value was improved, including snacks for children and adults, following an inter-agency food survey.



Water and Sanitation

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- NRC has expended to July the hygiene awareness and garbage collection campaign at the Bossaso Reception Centre initiated in June.
- On 6 July, NRC distributed 500 hygiene kits and 500 hand-washing kettles to 500 households at the Reception Centre.
- DRC provided a water tank for the Yemeni refugees currently located in Gardo.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Cleanliness and sanitation remains an issue at the Reception Centre, especially during overcrowding due to arrival of large groups.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- In both the 1st and 2nd Reception Centers new arrivals have access to two water tanks and toilets (separate for males and females).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is still not enough shade/roofing and toilet access at Berbera Port for arrivals during immigration procedures. UNHCR and IOM proposed the installation of emergency temporary toilets, but no agreement was yet reached with the authorities.



Shelter and NFIs

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- The procurement process for the 2nd Reception Centre is currently underway, and work on the following is expected to begin during the course of the week: site leveling, construction of latrines, arrangement for portable water tanks, plywood structure to provide shade before the arrivals of the rub-hall tents, kitchen, and child friendly space.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Identifying shelter for those individuals (both Yemeni refugees and Somali returnees) who wish to remain in Bossaso is a challenge. A recent assessment by the Bossaso Protection Cluster indicates that some returnees have joined the IDP settlements.
- The 1st Reception Centre in Bossaso is overcrowded and until the 2nd Centre is functional, this will continue to be an issue. UNHCR will continue to negotiate with authorities on the establishment of a third Reception Center in preparation for increase in the rate of new arrivals.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- DRC conducted five dialogue sessions targeting host community, returnees, refugees and migrants in Bossaso with the aim of strengthening the protection of these populations. Four similar dialogue sessions were also conducted in Gardo targeting the same populations. In the two locations, there was a total of 143 female participants and 177 male participants.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- DRC identified the lack of complaint and feedback mechanisms for those at the Bossaso Reception Centre, and is currently working for incorporating this service in the Centre's management.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR had a meeting with a potential partner to discuss livelihoods/self-reliance and return monitoring projects to be implemented for Somali returnees and Yemeni refugees. In the meantime, Yemeni new arrivals continue to have access to all services available to refugees and asylum seekers at Hargeisa level, including livelihoods support.



Logistics

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- On 6 and 7 July, IOM provided onward transportation assistance to 372 and 150 individuals respectively, traveling to regions in South Central Somalia. DRC provided onward transportation assistance to 63 individuals (22 households). Cumulatively, the Puntland New Arrivals Task Force has assisted approximately 4,036 individuals with onward transportation to return to their areas of origin.
- The local community has also been very supportive in terms of providing this type of assistance and during the reporting period, they have assisted 558 individuals, bringing their total contribution to approximately 2,110 individuals assisted with onward transportation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Without biometrics in place as part of the registration procedure, it remains very difficult to track assistance provided causing risk of duplication of the provision of assistance.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- As of 1 July, IOM is providing transportation grants to all vulnerable returnees in need of assistance to travel to Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia.

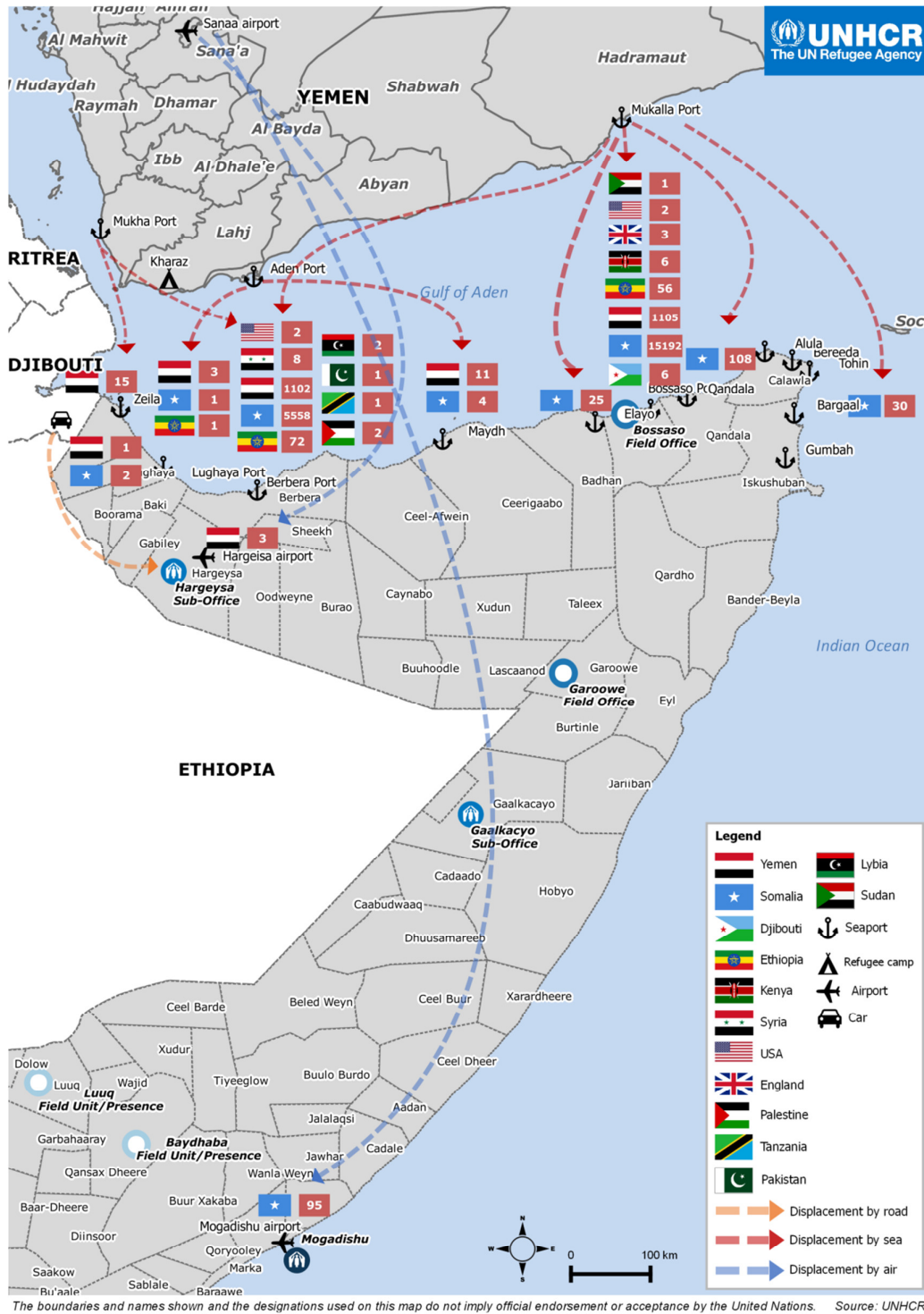
Working in partnership

- UNHCR staff in Bossaso, Puntland, met with the newly formed Yemeni Refugee Committee on 6 July to discuss issues, needs and concerns that have arisen with this population.
- Members of the Bossaso Protection Cluster met on 6 July to validate the recent assessment on new arrivals that have joined IDP settlements in the city. The report will be shared with Protection Cluster members as well as Task Force members. The Protection Cluster in Bossaso will continue to support the Task Force in monitoring the situation of new arrivals in Bossaso.
- A Puntland New Arrivals Task Force meeting was held on 7 July at UNHCR Office in Bossaso. The main agenda point was to take stock of available resources (including assistance and services) per agency and to review the return package to ensure coordinated provision of assistance. A blank matrix has been circulated to Task Force members to complete with available resources. Lessons learned from reception of the largest arrival to Somalia to date, were also discussed.
- UNHCR Hargeisa/Berbera continued to work closely with Somaliland New Arrival Task Force members through daily follow up and communication with partners. Hargeisa Task Force still meets twice a month and a weekly Reception Center coordination meeting is conducted in Berbera.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Somalia Response Plan for Yemen Crisis (April – September 2015) was released on 4 June and shared with donors, governments and partners. 11 UN agencies and NGOs participate in the inter-agency response. The Response Plan can be accessed at <http://goo.gl/pVH7da>

Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the situation: [European Union](#) | [Italy](#) | [Japan](#) | [Sweden](#) | [United Kingdom](#)



Contacts:

UNHCR Somalia

Carlotta Wolf, Associate External Relations Officer, wolf@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 734 628 053 (Kenya), +252 617 340 259 (Somalia)
 Alexandra Strand Holm, Communication Specialist, holm@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 733 12 11 47 (Kenya) **[MEDIA focal point]**

IOM Somalia

Public Information Unit, IOMSomaliaPIUnit@iom.int, Tel. +254 728 586 589 (Kenya)
 Feisal Mohamud, Movement and Operations coordinator, famuhamud@iom.int Tel +252 616 967 435 (Somalia) +254 721 290 074 (Kenya)