

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #22

2 – 8 September 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,791,604

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 prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

102,488

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](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Yemen:

- On 1 September, schools in Kharaz refugee camp began the academic year.
- The two-week joint UN mission in Aden is ongoing, exploring the re-establishment of its operational hub.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Departures from Yemen

Djibouti: According to statistics from IOM and the Djiboutian government, from 26 March to 1 September, some 24,501 persons arrived from Yemen: 11,604 Yemeni nationals, 11,041 transiting Third Country Nationals (TCNs) and 1,856 Djiboutian returnees. As of 8 September, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee agency) registered 2,817 refugees, among whom 2,658 are Yemeni nationals and 2,061 are refugees; 2,012 are Yemeni nationals and are registered in Obock; approximately 600 are hosted in Markazi camp.

Somalia: According to cumulative statistics by UNHCR, the government, IOM and NGOs, some 29,020 individuals arrived from Yemen: 25,914 Somali returnees, 2,893 Yemeni, and 213 TCNs. Two boats carrying 133 individuals arrived from Yemen: 60 persons arrived in Berbera (Somaliland) and 73 persons in Bossaso (Puntland). Among them, some 89 individuals were registered by UNHCR, local authorities



New arrivals from Yemen disembark at Bossaso port (Puntland) from the vessel 'Fatul Khayr'. © UNHCR 2 September 2015

and partners in Berbera and Bossaso reception centres. From 1 to 6 September, some 80 Somali returnees reached south central regions of Somalia and received return assistance packages.

New Arrivals to Yemen

In August, over 6,600 new arrivals reached Yemeni shores along the Arabian Sea Coast only, bringing the total of new arrivals to Yemen to 47,919 individuals. This represents a 50 per cent increase from July. At the Red Sea, approximately one hundred individuals were encountered, including migrants who are moving towards Saudi Arabia or in fewer numbers to Oman. Between 1 and 7 September, some 2,363 Ethiopians and 142 Somalis arrived along the Arabian Sea coast of Yemen. Activities of patrolling at the Red Sea Coast remain suspended due to the security conditions. In Sana'a, UNHCR interviewed 38 newly arrived asylum-seekers. Among them there were two unaccompanied minors, who were referred by UNHCR Community Services staff to partners for further assistance.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The situation in Yemen remains dynamic, with an escalation in fighting including airstrikes, ground-fighting and shelling that resulted in the death of 60 individuals on 4 September. King Salman of Saudi Arabia held talks with President Barack Obama in Washington, including the situation in Yemen and the urgent need to relieve the humanitarian crisis gripping the country.

Movement to and from Yemen continues. However, a decrease in the number of people departing from Yemen to Somalia was significant. As reported by new arrivals to Somalia, the authorities and partners, this reduction may be due to the evolving situation in Aden, difficult maritime weather conditions, lack of financial means to flee Yemen, and ongoing airstrikes in other ports. Arrivals in Berbera (Somaliland) informed UNHCR that the number of arrivals may soon increase, as weather conditions improve with the end of the monsoon season.



Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR renewed 38 refugee certificates and registered two newborns.
- UNHCR and partners in Sana'a reviewed the financial needs of 405 cases for assistance. Since the beginning of the conflict, in Sana'a, the number of cases needing financial assistance increased due to lack of work and loss of livelihood opportunities. International Relief for Development (IRD) conducted home visits and found that some families do not have access to basic services such as food and water, and were threatened with eviction since they can no longer afford rent. InterSos lawyers intervened and assisted in negotiations with landlords to find a solution. IRD assessed 51 cases for financial assistance and conducted reassessment for 20 cases that received assistance previously and renewed vulnerabilities.
- On 30 August, Sub-Office Aden resumed protection activities following a suspension of activities since June due to the conflict. The team is currently preparing a participatory assessment exercise for the coming week involving partners and government officials in Kharaz camp and the Basateen neighbourhood in Aden to develop a quick overview on the situation and identify those refugees who were displaced and returned to Aden from displacement during the war and to ascertain their needs and numbers. The UNHCR Protection unit is looking for alternative safe locations to counsel refugees that are requiring urgent attention, such as unaccompanied minors and survivors.
- On 1 September, UNHCR Aden registration team met the Head of the government registration centre in Basateen to discuss how and when the centre can resume its activities. During the conflict the centre was looted and destroyed, but the database was saved.

Djibouti:

- During the month of August, there was an increase in the numbers of Yemeni arrivals registering as refugees with UNHCR with 340 individuals in comparison to 221 individuals in July. The numbers are expected to further increase given the improved conditions in the camp and the beginning of the school year for children. There are approximately 600 people in Markazi camp.
- From 2 to 7 September, nine boats arrived at Obock and Djibouti ports carrying 632 passengers (513 Yemeni and 119 TCNs). The UNHCR and the ONARS team registered 37 individuals as refugees.

Ethiopia:

- UNHCR Ethiopia is temporarily using the premises of partner Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (DICAC), on reception days, until a new building is identified. Since the distribution of cash assistance takes place on the first week of every month by DICAC, to avoid overcrowding, UNHCR's partner does not allow reception to happen in that week.
- Recently interviewed Yemeni asylum-seekers informed that the Embassy of Ethiopia in Yemen is no longer issuing visas to Yemenis. Only Yemenis of Ethiopian origin are being granted visas. Asylum-seekers who arrived recently reported that some of them are granted visas while others from the same family are not. UNHCR is advocating for open humanitarian space for Yemeni refugees.
- UNHCR is waiting for ARRA to inform on the timeline and details of the relocation of Somalis to Dollo Ado where they will be registered.

Somalia:

- On 2 September, the Puntland Department of Immigration registered 66 Somalis and seven Yemenis including 30 men, 20 women and 23 children (11 male and 12 female) at the Port of Bossaso: 29 arrivals requested support from the Puntland New Arrivals Task Force and were transported by IOM to the Bossaso Reception Centre, where they were registered and assisted. The total number of Yemeni refugees registered by UNHCR Bossaso to date is 1,641 individuals (608 families).
- From 31 August to 6 September, some 235 Yemeni refugees were registered with the Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (MRRR) in Hargeisa. Since 28 March 2015, some 1,550 Yemeni refugees were registered in

Hargeisa. Few inconsistencies were noted in MRRR's registration database and UNHCR is following up with the MRRR on the erroneous registration of Somalis-Yemenis with dual nationality. UNHCR is planning a case verification exercise to reconcile the registration data with MRRR.

- Some 100 identified Yemeni vulnerable refugees are currently being assessed by UNHCR's partner Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland (CCBR) to be included in the monthly subsistence allowance programme. Moreover, 200 identified Yemeni vulnerable individuals are also being assessed to be included in UNHCR's livelihoods projects implemented by Action Africa Help International (AAH-I).

Education

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- The Ministry of Education in Yemen appointed a committee of two people to travel to Hargeisa (Somaliland) to supervise the Yemeni national exams for 9th and 12th grade Yemeni refugees.

Health

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- From 2 to 3 September, UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) implemented an emergency cleaning campaign in the Basateen neighbourhood, drawing volunteers from the community to remove solid waste that piled up due to an absence of services as a result of months of conflict. The campaign led to an improvement in hygiene conditions to facilitate the return of refugees to the area.
- On 5 September, UNHCR donated anti-malaria medicine (10,800 tablets, 450 ampules), intravenous fluid (285 bottles), anti-diabetics (39,000 tablets), analgesics (2,000 tablets) and medical supplies (10,000 syringes) to Al Sadaqa Hospital in Aden.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR partner Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) provides primary healthcare at Markazi Health Centre to 25-30 refugees per day.
- From 27 to 29 August, a mental health training for community health workers and AHA clinical staff working in Markazi camp and Obock took place in Obock. Community Health Workers and clinical staff in Obock (through AHA) are now better equipped to identify cases in need of psychotherapy support. One incidence of domestic violence was reported in the period from 31 August to 6 September and parties involved received psychotherapy sessions in the camp.
- AHA conducted various distributions in Markazi camp: 153 water purifiers (capacity of 2400 litres each) were distributed to households with children under 5 years old. From 23 August to 8 September, 135 eyeglasses were provided at the health centre. Some 612 bags of fortified rice and soy protein meals were delivered to families with malnourished children.

Somalia:

- The Puntland Ministry of Health medical team, supported by IOM, received nine patients (seven males and three females) at Bossaso Reception Centre (Puntland). In Berbera (Somaliland), the IOM medical team attended to 26 children.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Somalia:

- Presence of night medical staff needs to be strengthened in Puntland's hospitals, with the appointment of a focal person at Bossaso reception centre to help identify and facilitate the transfer to the hospital of persons requiring emergency services. UNHCR is discussing solutions with Médecins du Monde (MDM), the Ministry of Health, Save the Children and IOM.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- In the month of August, UNHCR distributed food assistance to 15,434 Kharaz refugee camp residents and 3,003 new arrivals.

Djibouti:

- Al-Rahma NGO, which provides three meals a day to refugees in Markazi camp, will withdraw their food assistance as of 15 September and WFP will commence delivery of food rations. Sensitization campaigns in coordination with WFP and ONARS are being held for a smooth transition to WFP rations.

Somalia:

- At the Reception Centre in Bossaso (Puntland), WFP, through the implementing partner Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA), provided wet food three times per day to 140 individuals. WFP provided food assistance to 477 individuals in Gardo: each family member received 21 USD, with a limit of six family members (126 USD). At the Reception Centre in Berbera (Somaliland) WFP distributed food rations prepared by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to new arrivals. The food ration consists of: 375 gm of CSB, 27 gm of pulse, 30gm of oil and 40 gm of porridge per day per person.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Djibouti:

- On 6 September in Markazi camp, UNHCR partner Johanniter distributed hygiene baby kits to 45 children aged 0 to 36 months. The baby kits contain shampoos, lotions, a baby toilet seat and diapers.
- On 2 September in Markazi camp, Johanniter developed a waste management committee among Yemeni refugees. Refugees from each sector in the camp were assigned as volunteers to work with Johanniter and their community workers to ensure garbage collection twice a week, and sensitize community members on waste management for hygiene purposes.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Djibouti:

- During the first week of September, UNHCR partner the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) completed the cleaning of the three water bladders in Markazi camp and conducted a new analysis of the quality of water at bladder and household levels. The results of the analysis revealed that, despite the cleaning process, the quality of the water consumed at household level is still below standards. This is most probably linked to a low utilization of water treatment products (Aquatabs) and inadequate cleaning of jerry cans and similar water storage materials at household level. There is a need to reinforce hygiene promotion activities to encourage refugee families to adopt simple household level practices.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- On 1 September, UNHCR partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) distributed NFIs to 100 families (640 individuals) in Sana'a. Sub-Office Aden also completed the distribution of NFIs for 1,965 vulnerable families in Lahj governorate through partner SHS to benefit IDPs in collective centres. Since the beginning of the conflict in March, UNHCR distributed NFIs to 16,223 families (105,240 individuals).

Djibouti:

- From 2 to 3 September, a team from UNHCR HQ and the Swedish NGO "Better Shelter" conducted a Refugee Housing Unit (RHU) Training of Trainers in Markazi camp to UNHCR staff, refugees, the local community, ONARS and partner NRC. Two RHU prototypes were set up within the health post of Markazi camp. One of the units will be used by UNHCR health partner AHA and the other as a women's health centre. Further training will be held for the broader construction of the RHUs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Djibouti:

- The Markazi Refugee Committee was formed to be a communication and information sharing channel for any issues related to the camp and future projects. The committee is composed of three women and three men; each of the three sectors of Markazi camp is represented by a woman and a man.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Sub-Office Aden is awaiting the arrival of an NFI shipment to the Aden port, which will allow the office to extend NFI distributions for IDPs. Delays incurred at the port were due to overcrowding.

Somalia:

- Following registration and vulnerability assessments in Puntland, UNHCR, through its implementing partner IOM, provided onward transportation to 32 individuals departing for South Central Somalia.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- On 6 September UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the King Salman Centre of Saudi Arabia for USD 31 million to support lifesustaining activities particularly in terms of Shelter and NFI for internally displaced Yemenis.
- The UN joint mission to Aden consisting of six international staff (UNDSS, UNICEF, UNHCR and a member of the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster) continues with the goal of determining if the resumption of an international UN presence in the south can take place. The Sub-Office in Aden resumed protection activities on 30 August following a suspension of activities in June due to the conflict. The mission, led by UNHCR, is primarily focused on security and communication matters although UNHCR held some bilateral meetings with partners, national and international NGOs, national staff of other UN agencies and a delegation of the High Relief Committee Aden. On 30 August, Sub-Office in Aden met with partners to update them on UNHCR efforts to resume activities. The partners provided a briefing on the status of projects and activities in particular on support to refugees displaced in Aden, other governorates and refugees returning to Aden. The partners noted that displaced Yemenis and refugees returned to Aden although conditions conducive to return are not yet established.

RRC Activities:

- On 31 August, the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) met the Regional Migration and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Swiss Partnership Coordinator, to discuss areas of information exchange and opportunities for improving the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. The forthcoming conference of the Regional Mixed Migration Committee, organized by IOM on 15-17 September in Djibouti, was identified as an opportunity to assess challenges of mixed migration from different perspectives in the region. IGAD is organizing the Regional Consultative Process on Migration conference in the last week of October 2015 where Arab States are invited. The meeting aims to discuss and recommend actions on labour migration and fight against smugglers and traffickers.
- On 7 September, the RRC met with the IOM Regional Office and the Coordinator of the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS), to discuss further engagement of the RMMS in analysis and trends of movements of civilian out or/to Yemen.
- From 2 to 3 September, the RRC spent two days in Mogadishu and met with the Minister of Interior, the UNHCR team, the UN Mission and some Yemeni refugees, as well as Somali returnees from Yemen. This provided the opportunity to understand the complex situation in which the returnees and the refugees are living including difficulties in accessing the labour market and lack of employment opportunities.

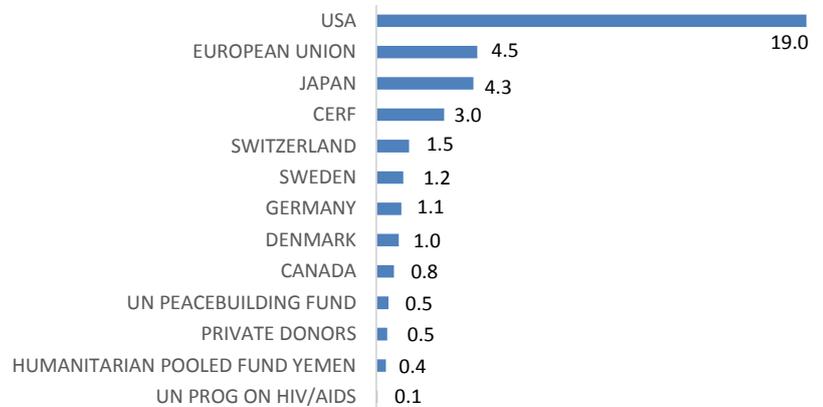
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 37.9 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 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)



Note: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center and UNHCR signed an agreement for US\$ 31 M on 6 September

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