



KEY FIGURES

1,809,827

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.

106,776

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

263,933

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

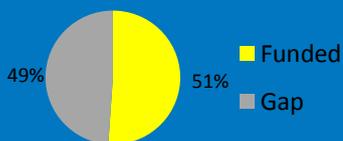
111,017

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](#)

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #26

28 September – 6 October 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Yemen:

- On 30 September, a boat from Puntland en route to Yemen carrying 68 migrants and refugees capsized in the Arabian Sea. Only 33 survived: 32 were rescued by a passing boat and one managed to swim to shore.
- On 4 October, schools in Aden have officially reopened and students started the new school year.
- On 5 October, the Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, UNHCR Head of Sub-Office Aden and UNHCR and DSS Field Safety Advisors arrived on mission in Aden to meet authorities and institute the security arrangements required to support deployment of UN international personnel in the south.

Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) Office:

- On 5 October, the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RRMRP) for the Yemen Situation was presented at a regional donor briefing in Nairobi.

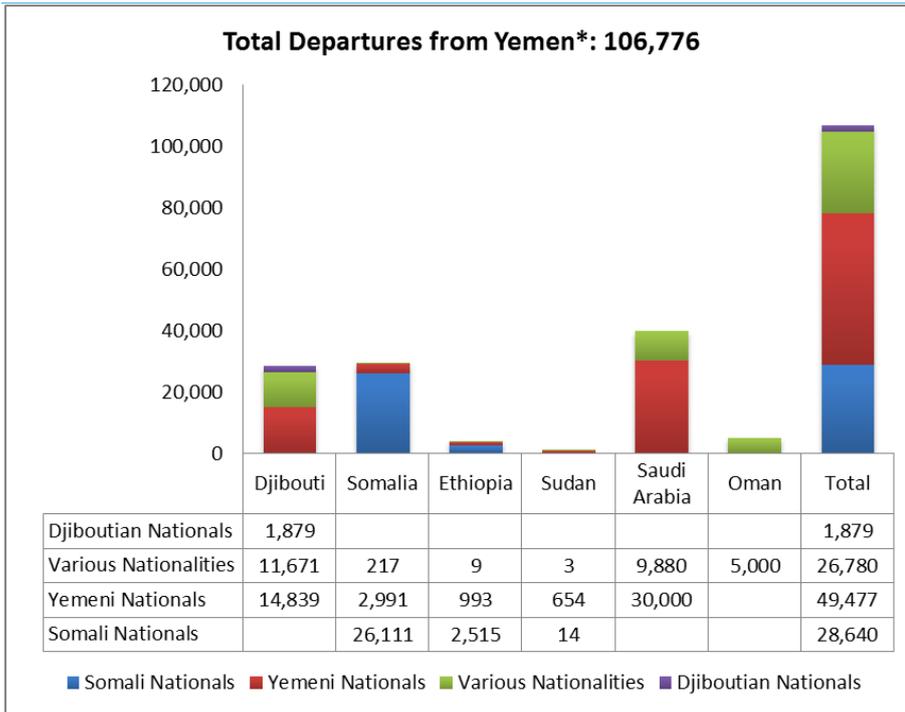
Somalia:

- Two boats with nine individuals arrived from Mokha (Yemen) to Berbera (Somaliland): out of them, UNHCR registered three individuals in collaboration with local authorities and partners in Berbera reception centres, while the others re-joined directly their families and were not in need of assistance. On 30 September, a boat named Al Hamsa arrived with three Yemeni refugees. On 5 October, a boat called Asaladiin arrived with six individuals (five Yemeni and one Somali nationals).

Djibouti:

- Following heavy airstrikes on Bab Al Mandab and Dubab (Yemen), 1,222 individuals arrived to Obock port and various transit points of Obock town, namely Kor Hangar, Moulhoul and Siyan. They could not reach Obock port due to fuel shortages.
- As of 5 October, UNHCR and the Office National d'Assistance de Réfugié et Sinistré (ONARS, the government refugee agency) registered 4,096 refugees of which 3,915 are Yemeni nationals; the majority were registered at Obock. There are currently over 1,540 refugees sheltered in Markazi camp and the numbers continue to rise. The remaining refugees live in Obock and Djibouti city.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS



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

New Arrivals to Yemen

On 30 September, a boat with migrants and refugees capsized in the Arabian Sea en route to Yemen. Of the 68 passengers, only 33 survived; 32 were rescued by a passing boat and one managed to swim to shore. Once receiving news of the tragedy, UNHCR's partner, the Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) arrived to take the survivors to their clinic in Mayfa'a for treatment. Since the beginning of January 2015, over 58,000 people arrived along the Arabian and Red Sea coasts of Yemen, with 88 deaths at sea. Over the last two weeks, 5,032 new arrivals (524 Somalis and 4,508 Ethiopians, of whom 699 female) were recorded along the Arabian Sea coast of Yemen.



In Yemen, SHS assists survivors of the boat tragedy. ©SHS, 2015

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND GAPS

Operational Context

The situation in Yemen is dramatic with no respite in sight for the population: airstrikes continue unabated in Sana'a, Sa'ada, Hajjah, Marib, Al-Hudaydah, Al-Bayda governorates, security incidents are increasing in number and severity, while cross border shelling and intensified armed clashes persist in Marib, Taizz and Lahj. Over the last week, airstrikes continued in Sa'ada, Hajjah, Marib, Al-Hudaydah, Al-Bayda (where a sports stadium was hit) and Taizz governorates. Cross border shelling also occurred in Sa'ada and Hajjah, while armed clashes continued in Marib, Taiz, and Lahj.

Alongside the population, whose casualties among wounded and deaths have now surpassed 7,000, humanitarian workers are also in collateral damage. On 28 September, the same day airstrikes hit a wedding party in Al Mukha killing 151 people, two Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) staff were killed as a result of airstrikes: a medical assistant and

a Somali refugee, working as an interpreter. The Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement has lost eight staff and volunteers in Yemen since the conflict began. While no damage was reported to the UNHCR transit centre, located in Al-Suwaida, many buildings and infrastructure in the vicinity were damaged. On 6 October, the al-Qasr Hotel in Aden where the Yemeni Prime Minister, Vice President, and members of the government are based was hit by a blast with casualties reported among coalition troops guarding the building.

On 2 October, the UN Human Rights Council called upon all parties in Yemen to immediately stop attacks on civilians and to ensure humanitarian access to the affected population and end the recruitment and use of children, as well as release those, who have already been recruited. The Council requested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to identify additional areas of technical assistance to Yemen and to present a progress report to the Human Rights Council. UNDP together with UNWOMEN and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights started training Yemeni civil society organizations to independently document human rights violations and provide psychosocial support to survivors of the ongoing conflict. On 5 October, King Salman bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia received Yemeni President Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi in Jeddah where they discussed the latest developments in Yemen.

On 5 October, the Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, UNHCR Head of Sub-Office Aden and UNHCR and DSS Field Safety Advisors arrived on mission in Aden to meet authorities and institute the security arrangements required to support deployment of UN international staff in the south.

In Somalia, the number of Yemenis and Somali returnees significantly reduced between August and beginning of October 2015 and the current average of new arrivals is of 20-150 individuals per week. As reported by new arrivals, this decrease may be a consequence of the proximity of the conflict to Mokha and Mukalla, the two main ports of departure for people fleeing from Yemen to Somalia, which may prevent people from reaching the ports to travel, or because potential travelers cannot afford to pay for their journeys due to lack of resources. Additionally, some Yemenis, who have previously arrived in Somalia, now intend to return to Yemen, and particularly to Aden, which has been recovered by the coalition forces.

In Djibouti, following heavy airstrikes in Bab Al Mandab and Dubab, an influx of persons fleeing Yemen have arrived to Djibouti by sea. In order to provide necessary and timely assistance to the new arrivals and refugees, the Djiboutian authorities and ONARS have increased their presence in Obock to speed up the screening and registration of new arrivals. UNHCR has also deployed staff to Obock from its Djibouti and Ali Sabieh offices. The border monitoring conducted by UNHCR and port authorities from 29 September to 5 October revealed that boats continue to arrive at the port of Obock and the nearby coastline. From 29 September to 5 October, commercial and smaller fishing boats with 1,222 passengers (1,199 Yemenis and 23 migrants in transit) have made it to the shores of Obock. Upon arrival at the port, UNHCR provides new arrivals with water and food, and non-food items once settled in Markazi camp.

Protection

Yemen:

- The first instance of refugees relocating from Sana'a to Aden from the onset of the conflict has been reported. Due to increasing insecurity in Sana'a, seven Eritrean refugees with specific needs (medical and psycho-social) relocated themselves to Aden. UNHCR, in coordination with InterSOS, provided them with counselling, referrals, and one-off cash assistance.

Ethiopia:

- UNHCR and the Government Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) registered 1,785 persons of concern: 954 Yemeni nationals, 822 Somali nationals, five Iraqis and four Eritreans.
- Following ARRA's decision to waive nationality screening for Yemeni asylum-seekers considering that all arrivals so far held either national passports or letters from the Yemeni Embassy attesting to their Yemeni citizenship, 814 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 1,640 are refugees (814 Yemenis, 822 Somalis and four Eritreans).

Somalia:

- In Puntland, UNHCR, through its partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), provided 100 Yemeni refugee families with monthly subsistence allowance aimed to support their accommodation and utility costs, and distribution of cash assistance is continuing to cover some 500 families.
- In the reporting period, 38 Yemeni refugees (26 cases) were registered by the Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR). A total of 1,995 Yemeni refugees have been registered by MRRR in Hargeisa since 28 March 2015.
- Sixty-two Yemeni refugees (23 cases) were transferred from UNHCR Bossaso to UNHCR Hargeisa database as they spontaneously moved to Hargeisa. Some of the Yemenis refugees reported that they prefer to live in Hargeisa due to better climate conditions. A total of 2,060 Yemeni prima facie refugees (1,036 cases) are now registered with UNHCR Hargeisa. Planning is underway by UNHCR and partners to address the shelter and emergency needs of Yemeni new arrivals in Hargeisa.
- The weekly case management panel related to assistance given to Yemeni refugees took place during the reporting period, and seven cases were approved for emergency financial assistance (three-month subsistence allowance). They were also referred to UNHCR partner Action Africa Help International (AAH-I) for livelihoods projects. Members of the panel are: UNHCR, AAH for livelihoods, Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland (CCBR) for special needs, Horn Youth Development Association (HYDA) for health, and Legal Clinic for legal cases' follow up.

Djibouti:

- From 29 September to 5 October, the UNHCR/ONARS team registered 1,083 Yemeni individuals, a considerable increase given that the average registration in July and August ranged from 10 to 20 individuals a week.
- As part of its activities to maintain and restore family links, the Djibouti Red Crescent (CRD) continued to offer phone call services for new arrivals and refugees to call family abroad. From 28 September to 5 October, 344 refugees at the port of Obock and Markazi camp were able to call their families.

Education

Yemen:

- On 4 October, schools in Aden have officially reopened and students started the new school year. Teaching resumed in 43 primary and secondary schools, while rehabilitation is ongoing at other schools in the area.

Somalia:

- In Somaliland, the national examination for Yemeni students conducted by officers from the Yemeni Ministry of Education is ongoing. The mission was extended for one additional week and 50 students have been registered.

Health

Yemen:

- In Basateen, the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) provided medical care and essential medicines for 99 persons, and reproductive healthcare services for 28 pregnant women. CSSW also referred a pregnant refugee, hit by a stray bullet, to Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and Sadaqa hospital.

Djibouti:

- Children are vaccinated (polio, measles, vitamin A supplementation) upon arrival to the port of Obock. Since 29 September, under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, 40 children have been vaccinated.

Food Security and Nutrition

Djibouti:

- WFP arranged for a new food distribution to cover 20 days to accommodate the new refugees until the new distribution cycle scheduled for 16 and 17 October 2015.

Special Feature on Assistance to IDPs in Yemen



Displaced kids in a school in Aden, southern Yemen. © S. Aranda for UNHCR, 2013

New Guidelines for Cash Assistance: On 1 October, UNHCR presented draft guidelines to Protection Cluster members and key partners on new cash assistance criteria for IDPs. To-date, cash assistance for IDPs and the host community is based on standard vulnerability criteria, such as women-at-risk and older persons. The new guidelines instead focus on shelter, health and basic needs to meet direct and immediate lifesaving needs so as to avoid their development into greater protection concerns. A broad consensus was reached on the objective, pay-scale and vulnerability criteria, and UNHCR and Protection Cluster members also engaged in cash assistance are reviewing identification methodology practices.

Strategy and Policy: The Humanitarian Country Team maintains a no-camp/alternative to camps policy in Yemen in

response to internal displacement. UNHCR distributed only a limited number of tents after carefully assessing needs as no agreement exists between humanitarian partners and the government to provide basic services like WASH in a camp-like situation.

IDPs in Aden Governorate: In order to vacate schools for the start of the new school year where many IDPs were accommodated, UNHCR and partners coordinated with the Office of Education in Aden to ensure dignified shelter solutions including transportation and rental subsidies. Most of the IDPs that were being sheltered in schools either returned to their homes, or are being hosted by relatives or friends.

Assessments: UNHCR and partners completed an assessment in Abs district in Hajjah governorate, and designed a plan to distribute NFIs and emergency shelter assistance to 21,290 IDPs. UNHCR and partners are conducting assessments in Sahar, Sa'ada and Asfra districts in Sa'ada governorate, and in Al-Zaidiah district in Al-Hudaydah governorate to identify NFI and shelter needs. UNHCR partner CSSW conducted an assessment of 29 IDP families and 87 Somali and 24 Ethiopian displaced refugee families in the Basateen neighbourhood in Aden. Based on the results of the assessment, CSSW distributed hygiene kits and conducted awareness sessions on personal hygiene and hand washing, vector-borne diseases control, food poisoning, and sanitary practises for the home environment.

IDP Community Centres: The IDP community centre in Sa'ada run by Al-Bena, an NGO, reopened after it was closed in April due to insecurity, to provide protection services and assist IDPs with urgent humanitarian needs in Sa'ada and surrounding districts. The IDP community centre in Hajjah continues to provide protection services such as monitoring, awareness sessions, psychosocial counselling, developing community-based protection networks, protection assessments, and distributes one-off cash assistance.

Shelter Kits & NFIs: Based on the "alternative to camps" policy in Yemen, UNHCR procured components of emergency shelter kits to assist 175,000 individuals living in inadequate shelter conditions like caves, severely damaged or unfinished buildings, and informal settlements. UNHCR received half of the stock in its warehouse in Sana'a, while the rest will arrive in the next two weeks, after which UNHCR and partners will commence distributions. UNHCR Sub-Office Aden opened a third warehouse in Aden thus increasing the total storage space to hold NFIs for 175,000 IDPs. In addition, through partners, UNHCR is assisting over 40,000 IDPs in the North from its warehouses in Al-Hudaydah and Sana'a.

Djibouti:

- The construction of new latrines, garbage collection points and bladders are priority activities to be implemented to accommodate the new camp residents. UNHCR is liaising with its WASH partner, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), to set up the facilities as soon as possible.

 Shelter and NFIs

Djibouti:

- From 29 September to 5 October, UNHCR distributed standard NFIs for 1,100 individuals (250 households) and set up 124 new Sahara tents in Markazi camp to accommodate the heavy influx of the past week. In the same reporting period, the Djibouti Red Crescent distributed hygiene kits to 172 households thus benefitting 771 persons (331 females, 396 males and 44 babies).
- Based on the rise of influx of Yemenis, there is an urgent need for tents. UNHCR tents will be established until the Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) are cleared from customs and transported to Markazi camp.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- On 5 October, a joint UN (UNICEF, WHO, IOM, UNHCR, OCHA, WFP and DSS) two-week mission to Al-Hudaydah commenced, to confirm that mitigation measures are met to restore UN international presence. UNHCR international staff on mission is assisting colleagues to ensure timely distribution of NFIs dispatched to northern governorates.
- On 6 October, UNHCR and IOM, as co-chairs of the Refugee and Migrant Multi-Sector, met with partners to review the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).

Somalia:

- In Hargeisa, UNHCR, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the NRC met to re-launch the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF), scheduled to take place on 18 October 2015. The agenda of the next meeting includes: 1) revision of the Terms of Reference, particularly on data collection and monitoring mechanisms; 2) clarification of the respective roles and competencies of the inter-agency MMTF and the inter-ministerial MMTF, including information sharing mechanisms between both groups; 3) establishment of an activity plan, focusing on urgent issues such as trafficking and information campaign; 4) identification of focal points to participate in forums and teleconferences at Geneva and Nairobi levels.

Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) Office

Meeting to launch the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response

The Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RRMRP) for the Yemen Situation was presented at a regional donor briefing on 5 October in Nairobi. The meeting was convened jointly by the RRC Office, the IOM Regional Office, and the OCHA Regional Office for Eastern Africa, and was attended by 40 participants. The RRMRP is the outcome of an inter-agency planning process that took place in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, following a regional planning workshop held in Djibouti in August 2015. Covering the period of October-December 2015, the RRMRP presents the requirements for the delivery of protection and humanitarian assistance to people fleeing the conflict into countries around Yemen: an estimated 103,000 by the end of 2015 which could rise to 202,000 by the end of 2016. The RRMRP also provides preliminary estimates for 2016, including population planning figures and an indicative budget. The 2016 plan will be revised and updated later in the year.

The Portal for the RRMRP can be found on this link <http://data.unhcr.org/yemen/regional.php>

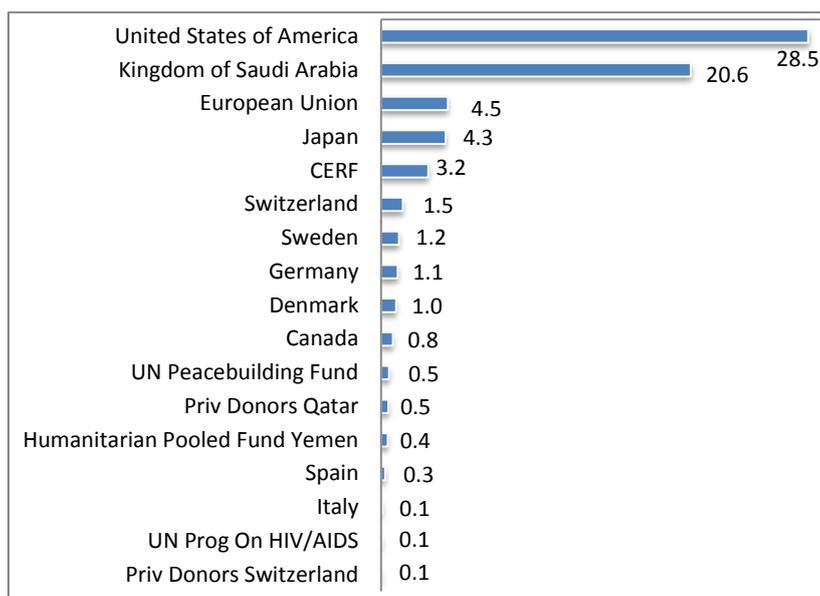
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 06 October 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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