

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #29

21-27 October 2015

KEY FIGURES

2,691,464

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.

2,305,048

Persons internally displaced prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

121,801

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

264,615

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

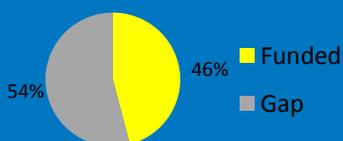
147,386

Individuals reached in Yemen with emergency relief items since the onset of the crisis.

FUNDING

USD 153 Million

Requested by UNHCR for the situation



UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for the Yemen Situation Emergency Response, April – December 2015 (16 October 2015), is available [here](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Yemen:

- On 22 October, two families (6 individuals) departed from Yemen to Sweden as part of UNHCR's Resettlement program, in addition to the 113 individuals who were already resettled as of 30 September.
- On 26 October, UNHCR Sub-Office Aden participated in the re-opening ceremony of the InterSoS community centre in Basateen, which offers child friendly spaces and informal education to refugee children.

Djibouti:

- As of 26 October, UNHCR and the Office National d'Assistance de Réfugié et Sinistré (ONARS) registered 5,337 refugees of which 5,150 are Yemeni nationals; the majority was registered in Obock. Some 2,617 refugees are sheltered in Markazi refugee camp, while the others live in Obock and Djibouti city.



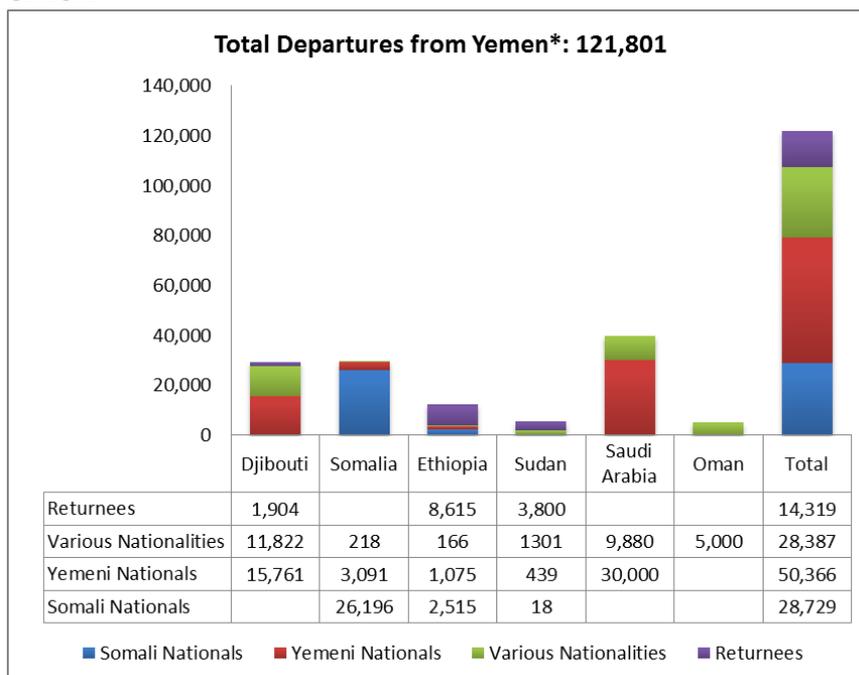
New arrival girls from Yemen refresh with popsicles after undertaking registration at Bossaso reception centre (Somalia). ©UNHCR, October 2015

Somalia:

- Two boats carrying 139 individuals arrived from Yemen: nine in Berbera (Somaliland) and 130 in Bossaso (Puntland). Out of them, 133 individuals were registered by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners in Berbera and Bossaso reception centres.
- Forty-two Somali returnees from Yemen reached South Central regions of Somalia through Berbera and Bossaso: 27 individuals arrived in Mogadishu, nine individuals in Baidoa, and six individuals in Luuq; the were verified against the list of returnees who received onward transportation assistance in Berbera and Bossaso.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Departures from Yemen



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

New Arrivals to Yemen

Since the beginning of October, there have been 10,937 new arrivals from the Horn of Africa along the Arabian Sea coast. In Sana'a, UNHCR registered 89 newly arrived asylum seekers. From the beginning of the year there have been over 59,000 arrivals to Yemen.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND GAPS

Operational Context

In **Yemen**, airstrikes persist in Hajjah, Sa'ada, Marib, Sana'a, Al-Bayda, Shabwa and Taizz. Clashes were reported in Ibb, Lahij, Al-Jawf, and Marib, as well as along the border with Saudi Arabia. In Taizz, the situation remains grave.

The Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed briefed the Security Council on 23 October, citing the worsening humanitarian crisis, emphasizing the obstructions in delivering aid in Taizz. The Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator, Johannes Van Der Klaauw, called for unfettered access to Taizz to provide urgently needed life-saving assistance. On 25 October, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) issued a statement that it was prevented from delivering essential medical supplies to two hospitals in an area of intense fighting in the city.

In **Djibouti**, the pace of arrivals decreased, with only 57 new refugees registered. UNHCR and ONARS increased are engaging staff on a daily basis at the ONARS registration unit to ensure timely and efficient registration in Djibouti city, and to provide information on assistance and protection. Markazi camp was re-mapped according to the new master map allocating 150 square meters per refugee family.

Refugee Response



Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR renewed certificates for 117 refugees and registered 30 newborns. The Bureau for Refugee Affairs (BRA) began resumption of registration and renewal of ID cards for Somali refugees.

- On 26 October, UNHCR Sub Office Aden participated in the re-opening ceremony of the InterSoS community centre in Basateen, which was closed since April due to the conflict. The centre first opened in 2014 as part of the Special Project for Child Protection, and offers child-friendly spaces, recreational activities for children at risk and informal education for refugee children.

Djibouti

- From 29 September to 26 October, UNHCR Obock registered 2,036 individuals (553 families) which brings the total of refugees at Markazi camp to 2,617 individuals (717 families).
- Since the decision of the Government to facilitate the registration of Yemenis residing in Djibouti-city on 27 September, 385 refugees (189 families) were registered in Djibouti city as of 25 October.

Sudan:

- Since the beginning of the conflict in Yemen, 439 Yemeni nationals have been registered in the UNHCR database. This represents the number of Yemeni nationals who have approached the UNHCR office for assistance and as such differs from the previously reported figure of 654, which was provided as an estimate by the Government's Commissioner for Refugees (COR). An exact number of new arrivals from Yemen is still not available, as a larger scale joint registration exercise is pending. As they are Arab nationals, Yemenis are granted free access to Sudanese territory and are not required to undergo Refugee Status Determination (RSD) with the Government of Sudan. A high number are either born in Sudan, married with Sudanese nationals. Some are hosted by Sudanese relatives or acquaintances that have been living in Sudan for a long time. UNHCR continues to support extremely vulnerable cases with counselling and emergency cash assistance.
- UNHCR and COR have not identified any Yemeni new arrivals in the East. UNHCR's informal connections with the Yemeni community in Port Sudan and Suakin reported that four Yemeni fishermen were recently arrested for irregular entry by sea, and were released after paying court fines. The four Yemenis are currently living in Port Sudan and have not registered themselves with COR.



Yemeni refugees take a group picture with UNHCR registration staff after the biometric verification exercise conducted in Gardo, Puntland (Somalia) © UNHCR/S. B. Omar, October 2015

Ethiopia:

- UNHCR and the Government Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) registered 1,847 persons of concern: 1,016 Yemenis, 822 Somalis, 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 their Yemeni citizenship, 911 of the registered Yemeni are now recognized as *prima facie* refugees, while 203 remain asylum-seekers. As a result, of the total registered population arrived from Yemen, 213 are asylum-seekers (208 Yemeni and five Iraqis) and 1,772 are refugees (935 Yemenis, 822 Somalis and four Eritreans).

- In UNHCR's latest meeting with ARRA on 21 October 2015, instructions were issued for ARRA Jijiga to immediately start working on a plan to transport 77 Yemenis and 822 Somali refugees registered in Jijiga to Dollo Ado. UNHCR is coordinating with IOM the transportation plan for the relocation, which is expected to start shortly. Registration and assistance of Somalis who already arrived in Dollo Ado was also approved by ARRA. Information leaflets on registration and assistance were developed to be distributed to new arrivals in Jijiga and Dollo Ado at UNHCR and ARRA Offices. The first draft will be submitted to ARRA for approval. At a later time, copies of the leaflets will also be given to Immigration Officials at the border areas.

Somalia:

- During the reporting period, UNHCR registered 62 Yemeni individuals (24 households) as *prima facie* refugees. To date, 1,843 Yemeni refugees (704 households) have been registered in Bossaso. UNHCR conducted a Yemeni refugee verification and biometric registration exercise of 294 individuals (113 households) in Gardo.
- The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) Restoring Family Links (RFL) team assisted 37 Somali returnees with free phone calls to contact their relatives.
- UNHCR's implementing partner, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), distributed subsistence allowance to 202 Yemeni households.
- Twenty Yemeni refugees (eight cases) have been registered in Hargeisa by the Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (MRRR): 2,056 Yemeni refugees (1,046 cases) have been registered in Hargeisa from 28 March to 26 October 2015.
- The weekly case management panel – comprising of UNHCR, Action Africa Help International (AAH-I), Comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation Somaliland (CCBRS), and Horn Youth Development Association (HYDA) – met on 25 October and approved 12 cases for emergency financial assistance and three-month subsistence allowance. These cases were referred to UNHCR's partner AAH-I for livelihoods projects.
- In South Central regions, UNHCR and DRC are planning to support 600 households of Somali returnees from Yemen, who are currently in Mogadishu. Assistance will comprise one-time unconditional cash transfer of USD 600 per family to be provided to returnees and also vulnerable host community members such as persons with special needs including pregnant and lactating women, persons with disabilities and elderly, and labor-poor households including single-headed households.

Education

Yemen:

- On 22 October, UNHCR partner Millennium Development Foundation in Aden conducted a field visit to monitor the completion of the ministerial exams for Grade 9 (transitional level exams) for 200 primary school students (74 girls and 123 boys) in Kharaz refugee camp.

Health

Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR partner International Medical Corps (IMC) provided medical care and essential medicines for 206 refugees and 130 local Yemenis, psychiatric and psychological support to 30 refugees,



UNHCR partner CSSW conducts measles vaccination campaign in Basateen. ©CSSW 2015

GBV services for 3 new cases, and referral care services for 78 refugees. IMC conducted outreach awareness sessions to 15 refugee families.

- UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW)'s health centre in the Basateen neighbourhood in Aden received eight suspected cases of measles. CSSW has intensified surveillance, outreach and has activated case finding and case management. UNHCR and CSSW prepared a measles vaccination campaign for children 9 months to 15 years (14,501 children). In Kharaz camp clinic CSSW is intensifying outreach on measles vaccination for non-vaccinated children.

Djibouti:

- From 20 to 26 October, 225 patients were treated at the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) health center in Markazi camp. A total of 49 newly arrived children were vaccinated by the Obock public hospital immunization team against standard childhood diseases as per routine vaccination to new arrivals.
- As the cold season in Djibouti begins, there is a high risk of vector-related diseases such as malaria. At a coordination meeting, the need to conduct a disinfestation of Markazi camp and implement other vector control interventions to protect the health of the refugee population has been identified by UNHCR and partners, particularly regarding children and pregnant women who are among the most vulnerable.



Children at Attadamon Kindergarten. © SAD, 2015

The reopening of the Attadamon Kindergarten (Aden, Yemen)

Although the security situation in Aden, Yemen, remains precarious, life is slowly going back to normal. The Attadamon Kindergarten recently opened and this week, UNHCR's partner the Solidarity Foundation for Development (SAD), also known as Attadamon, enrolled 68 new students bringing the total number of children attending the community-managed kindergarten for refugees to 170. Children received uniforms and will be provided transportation to and from the kindergarten.



Food Security and Nutrition

Djibouti:

- Out of a total of 468 children under 5 years old living in Markazi camp, some 213 children from 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition from 15 to 19 October: the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate in the camp is 22.3 per cent, and the severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate is 7.8 per cent for new arrivals. Since 7 October nutrition activities have been conducted by AHA. Children under 5 years old suffering from, or at risk of, SAM continue to receive adequate care and treatment at Obock Regional Medical Centre with UNICEF support. There are currently 34 refugee children under 5 years of age suffering from acute malnutrition: 12 cases of SAM and 22 of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). In order to meet the needs of malnutrition, the stock of ready-to-use therapeutic food in Obock Regional Medical Centre has been reinforced. On 25 October, the National Nutrition Programme (PNN) through the support of UNICEF shipped 40 cartons of PlumpyNut to Obock. WFP also supports the nutrition center in Obock with specialized food for MAM treatment (for children 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing mothers), and provided extra stock.
- On 21 October, UNHCR and WFP distributed dry food rations to 2,501 refugees (700 households) both in Markazi camp and in Obock. UNHCR monitored the process and assisted vulnerable refugees.

Somalia:

- DRC distributed dry food provided by the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society to 105 households at the second reception centre in Bossaso.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) distributed 0.68 metric tons of food in the form of three wet meals per day at Bossaso reception centre.

Water and Sanitation

Djibouti:

- On 24 October, AHA community health workers started a hand washing campaign in Markazi camp to sensitize households on disease prevention through hand washing and hygiene.
- Clean water needs of beneficiaries in Markazi camp are met: from 20 to 26 October, the daily average water supply in Markazi was at 60,000 litres per day.

Shelter and NFIs

Djibouti:

- UNHCR, ONARS, NRC and implementing partners in Markazi camp have erected 170 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs), with the assistance of the community in Markazi in setting them up.

Somalia:

- SCI distributed (CRI) kits and hygiene kits to 35 families at Bossaso reception centre.

IDP Response in Yemen

Protection

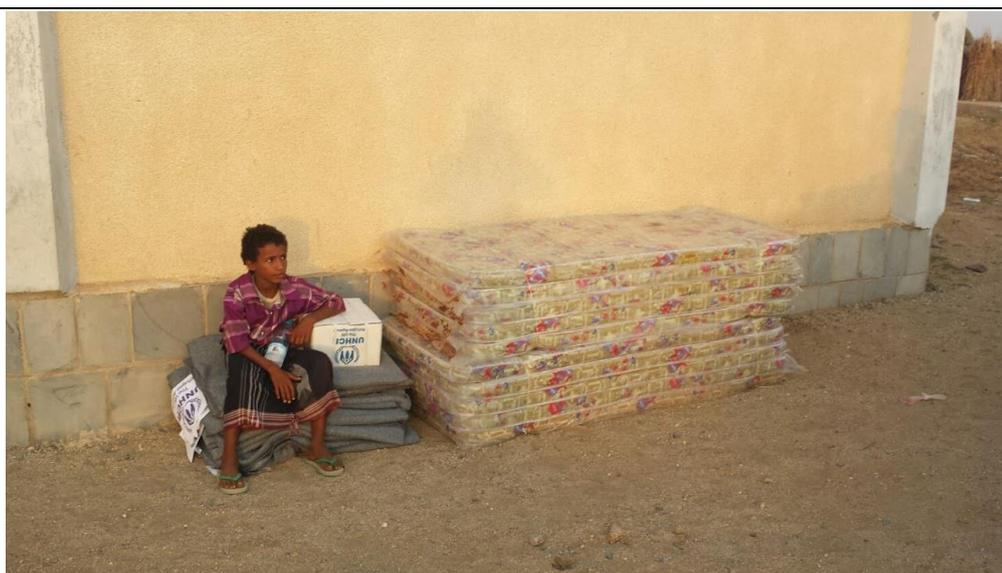
Yemen:

- UNHCR partner Attadamon's microcredit team continued field visits in the Basateen neighbourhood in Aden to assess the status of microcredit loan recipients and projects in Basateen, identify ways to re-start income-generating activities to meet their daily needs. The initial visit found 36 clients still working. The business of a further 21 clients were closed owing to the destruction and/or looting of their homes and businesses.

Shelter and NFIs

Yemen:

- UNHCR partner ADRA distributed Core Relief Items (CRIs) to 272 IDPs in Sana'a (Amant Al-Asimah). UNHCR has distributed CRIs to 147,386 IDPs since the escalation in conflict.
- On 21 October, Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) conducted a quick assessment of 919 IDP families recently displaced to Al Dhale. SHS found that around 80% of the IDP families were in need of CRIs.



Distribution of CRIs in Hajjah, Yemen. ©Al-Amal-Naif Alsharafy, 2015

The families were sheltered in empty houses and did not have basic needs like mattresses, blankets or hygiene materials. Many of them are low-income and had depended on daily wages they used to earn. UNHCR and SHS are considering conducting a more multi-sectorial assessment in Ad Dhale.

- From 22 to 24 October, UNHCR transported 14 trucks of CRIs for 5,474 IDPs to Al Jawf, 10 trucks of CRIs for 7,000 IDPs to Dhamar, and 5 trucks of CRIs for 2,086 IDPs to Al Mahwit for upcoming distributions.
- On 26 October, the UNHCR Sana'a warehouse received five trucks of CRIs from UNHCR stock in Dubai, with a further 16 trucks *en route* for a total of 21,336 buckets, 12,347 kitchen sets, and 55,807 blankets.

Working in partnership

Somalia:

- The IDP working group meeting took place on 26 October 2015 at Somaliland MRRR in Hargeisa to discuss the progress in the assistance provided to the Somali returnees from Yemen. UNHCR's partner Finn Church Aid (FCA) is finalizing the identification of the Somali returnees living in Hargeisa. So far, 270 Somali returnees have been identified and will be included under FCA assistance programme.
- UNHCR met with the international NGO SPARK, specialized in higher education and entrepreneurship to empower the youth, and UNHCR, to discuss their activities in Somaliland and to explore possible partnership to cover the gaps in terms of livelihoods support to new arrivals from Yemen in Hargeisa. The organization is present in 25 different countries and is operating in Somaliland since April 2014 through different projects, including incubators projects and migrant entrepreneurship programme. A follow up meeting will be held in a few weeks to confirm the potential collaboration.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation as

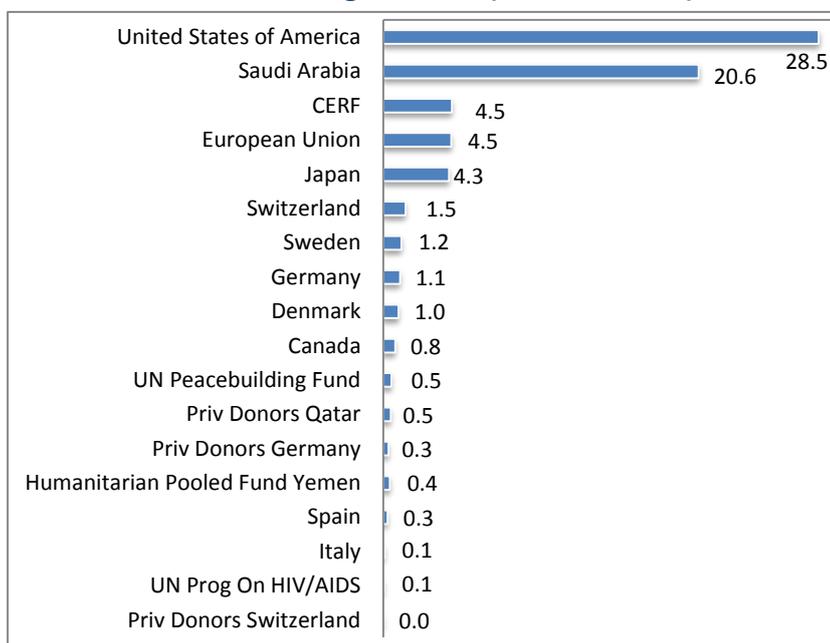
at 6 October amount to some

US\$ 70.2 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) | Priv Donors Spain (29 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Canada (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Italy (13 M) | Priv Donors Sweden (12 M) | Finland (10 M)

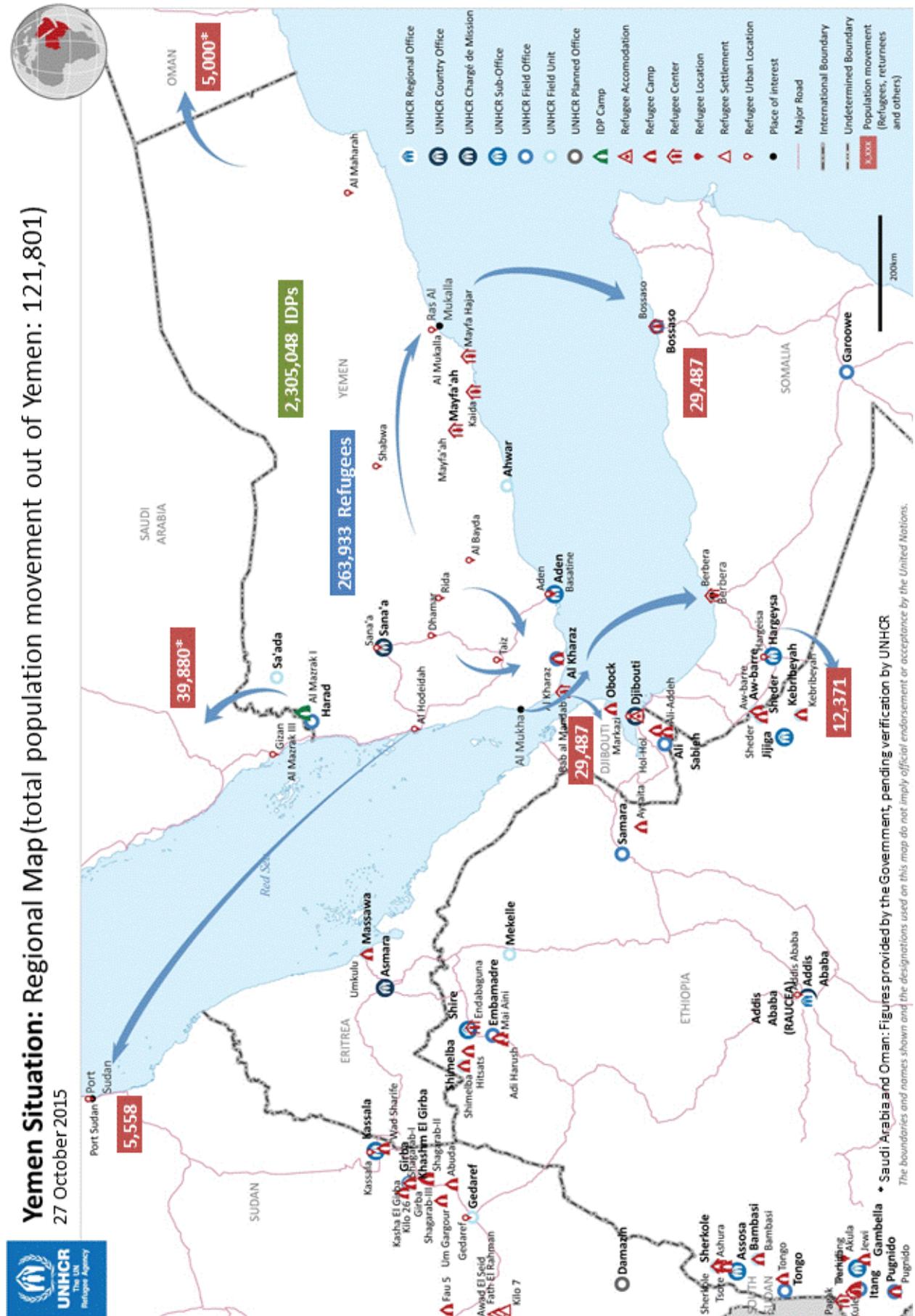
Funding received (in million USD)



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