

DJIBOUTI

INTER-AGENCY UPDATE ON THE RESPONSE TO THE YEMENI SITUATION #13

26 July 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Djibouti Response Plan for the Yemen crisis was launched on 22 July.
- Mr Paul Ndaitouroum has assumed responsibility as new UNHCR Representative in Djibouti.
- Ms Claire Bourgeois has taken up her function as Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Yemen situation.
- As of 23 July, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) had registered 2,319 refugees, thereof 2,198 Yemeni nationals. According to the provisional statistics, 1,701 refugees are registered in Obock and are mainly hosted at Markazi camp. According to the latest available statistics from IOM and the Djibouti government, 20,832 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 30 June. Of those, 9,511 persons (45.7%) are Yemeni nationals, 9,531 (45.8%) are transiting TCNs and 1,790 persons (8.6%) are Djiboutian returnees.

Population of concern

A total of **2,319** people of concern

Nationality	0-4 yrs		5-11 yrs		12-17 yrs		18-59 yrs		60 yrs+		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Yemen	92	93	14	14	13	12	874	46	47	68	2,198
Syria							3				3
Iraq							1				1
Palestine			1			1	1	2			5
Somalia	1	3	7	9	4	3	12	26	2	4	71
Eritrea	4		2	2	5	3	13	7		1	37
Pakistan		1					1	2			4
Grand Total	97	97	15	15	14	13	905	50	49	73	2,319

All figures are provisional and still subject to change.

KEY FIGURES

2,319

Refugees registered since the outbreak of the crisis

786

Registered children and adolescents.

PRIORITIES

- Ensure protection of refugees and provide assistance.
- Provide documents to refugees.
- Work with the government to ensure access to the territory and freedom of movement..
- Continue to develop the infrastructure at the Markazi camp.
- Continue border monitoring activities.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Tuesday 21 July 2015 saw the launch, in Djibouti, of the Djibouti Response Plan for the Yemen crisis. It brought together the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, ONARS, UNHCR, partners, diplomats and donors. Co-chairing the event were the Djiboutian Minister for the Interior and the outgoing Representative of UNHCR.

The Plan spells out the strategy and priorities that the partners will use in carrying out activities to meet the needs of the vulnerable population groups in Djibouti, including refugees, migrants and third country nationals, who have fled the fighting in Yemen. It focuses on their protection, the provision of food, health and nutrition, material assistance, shelter, water and sanitation.

Spearheaded by UNHCR, the coordinated inter-agency Response Plan is the outcome of field assessments and analyses of the situation of the target population. It is scheduled to run for six months, ending in September 2015, and seeks to mobilize **USD 26,389,334** required to carry out the activities.

The Djibouti Response Plan was well received and provided an opportunity for participants to pose the minister questions about the plight of refugees, including those bearing the brunt of extreme weather conditions in Obock.

Ms Honorine Sommet-Lange completed her tour of duty as Representative and handed over to the new Representative, Mr Paul Ndaitouroum.

Ms Claire Bourgeois, UNHCR's Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Yemen situation has arrived in Djibouti to take up her function.

Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- According to statistics from IOM and the Djiboutian government as of 20 July, 21,204 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti since 26 March. Of those, 9,782 persons (46.1%) are Yemeni nationals, 9,607 (45.3%) are transiting Third Country Nationals and 1,815 persons (8.6%) are Djiboutian returnees.
- From 15 to 21 July, 2 boats arrived at Obock port with 111 passengers aboard. Of these, 79 Yemenis with visas to neighbouring countries proceeded to Djibouti. Additionally on 25 July 278 migrants, including one Djiboutian, arrived in Obock. The Djiboutian was reunited with his family after a four-year stay in Yemen. The remaining evacuees, 277 Ethiopians, are being accommodated and assisted at the MRC and documented, pending the delivery of travel documents by the Ethiopian embassy for their onward transportation back to Ethiopia.
- As of 23 July, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) registered 2,319 refugees, thereof 2,198 Yemeni nationals in Djibouti (since 31 March). A total of 1,652 Yemenis are registered in Obock.
- On 7 July, UNHCR organized a training course on International Protection and Camp Management Standards. A total of 27 participants from UNHCR, ONARS, AHA, WFP, IOM, Johanniter, Djiboutian Red Crescent and the World Federation attended the event.
- From 15 to 21 July, a total of 26 refugee attestations and 37 individual refugee cards have been distributed to Yemeni refugees. To date, 780 attestations and 858 refugee cards were distributed to persons of concern.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR continues to provide assistance on a humanitarian basis to Yemenis sheltered in Markazi but not registered with UNHCR.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- The "summer" programme with Caritas is up and running and proving to be a great success among the refugees and providing some much needed change from the conditions in the camp. There are currently 52 children going to the school 4 days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday). UNHCR and Caritas host an informal playtime in Markazi camp on Sundays Al-Rahma Association has installed a child friendly space with swings in Markazi camp.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Al-Rahma Association will continue to provide hot meals to refugees in Markazi camp for another month. UNHCR continues to support with ad hoc in-kind donations, transportation and the distribution of meals.
- Johanniter conducted nutrition screening in Markazi camp.
- As part of the celebration of Eid El Fitr, Al-Rahma distributed new clothes to all refugee children in Obock. Cash assistance (5000 Djiboutian Francs per family) was given to 350 families.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNICEF, in coordination with the National Nutrition Programme, is addressing a local shortage in supplies of Plumpy'Nut at the Obock medical centre. Plumpy'Nut is a peanut-based paste specifically formulated to the nutritional rehabilitation of severely acute malnourished children.



Markazi, 16 July 2015: Refugees and UNHCR and Johanniter staff face the elements during distribution of NFIs.

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Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR assisted in the Johanniter distribution of Aquatabs to purify water at household level in the camp. A stock of Aquatabs is available at the health post in the camp and AHA will make them available to the camp population. This short-term measure is implemented while a partner is identified to ensure the systematic cleaning of bladders and confirmation of water quality available in Markazi. UNHCR noted during the distribution that many jerricans were dirty and that refugees were using a variety of containers (different sizes) to store water. In order to ensure the proper use of Aquatabs, a mass clean-up campaign for jerricans may be useful along with systematic monitoring of water storage capacity at household level.
- Al Rahma has installed a fresh water machine in Markazi camp in order to give refugees access to fresh water and help them cope with the high temperatures in the camp. In addition 2 others were recently installed by a Sudanese NGO “Sudanese Association for Rescue and Assistance”. UNHCR ensures that these water machines are replenished on regular basis.
- UNHCR has installed 5 temporary garbage points in Markazi whilst waiting for longer-term measures to dispose of waste. Waste management continues to be a challenge Markazi as no formal waste management system exists in Obock
- UNICEF partner Johanniter has distributed Family Dignity Kits to 168 households. Further hygiene kits will be distributed by UNHCR to new arrivals as they reach at the camp.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- Al-Rahma Association worked recently on the electrification of the camp to protect refugees from the dark and to increase their living conditions in Markazi. The central area of the camp is now fully lit and efforts to ensure street lighting are ongoing.
- Following the damages incurred by the harsh weather conditions (powerful sandstorms), UNHCR is progressively correcting the damaged tents that were not permanently destroyed and replacing those that cannot be salvaged with Sahara desert tents donated by the Bahrain Charity to ONARS. As of 21 July 55 Sahara tents out of 96 had been erected IOM increased the capacities of the Migrant Response Centre (MRC) in Obock, notably in terms of accommodation and storage. It allows IOM to continue strengthening its response capabilities to two simultaneous migration fluxes (from Yemen to Djibouti; from Ethiopia to Yemen via Djibouti). In addition, a guardhouse was built and the septic tank was dislodged with a specialized truck brought from Djibouti capital to Obock. Additionally the septic tanks of the main mosque and the hospital of Obock were dislodged. Maintenance and repair of the generator was conducted.
- As of 23 July, IOM Djibouti has provided emergency shelter, food, NFIs, medical assistance and referrals as well as onward transportation to country of origin/destination to 1,826 individuals of 27 nationalities who fled the violence in Yemen and to 448 Ethiopians migrants stranded in Obock as they tried to reach Yemen. Since 26 March a total of 2,274 people (69% men, 16% women, 15% children mainly boys) have received assistance. Of the 1,826 TCNs who arrived in Djibouti from Yemen, 864 did so on IOM chartered boats.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A violent sandstorm on 17 July severely affected Markazi camp. UNHCR/ONARS are progressively correcting tents Following the violent sandstorm on 17 July, a group of refugees protested in front of the UNHCR Obock Office expressing their frustrations of the harsh weather conditions. As an exceptional measure, a group of the most vulnerable population (children, women, and elderly) was hosted within the UNHCR compound overnight, nevertheless all have returned to Markazi.

Working in partnership

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The weekly women's committee discussion focused on the most pressing issues and needs in Markazi; namely the need for more support to babies and young infants such as milk, clothes and diapers, mattresses and more resistant shelters.
- On 15 July, Mrs Ann Encontre, Deputy Director for East and Horn of Africa visited the UNHCR Obock Office and Markazi Camp. There she saw the conditions on the ground and reiterated them to the Minister of Interior upon her return. Following her visit, the Minister was open to the idea of relocating refugees from Markazi to other places in Obock. ONARS is currently assessing new areas and an inter-agency committee will assess once it is selected.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- The Djibouti Response Plan for the Yemen Crisis (April - September 2015) was released on 4 June and shared with donors, governments, partners and agencies. 11 UN agencies and NGOs submitted their inputs. The Djibouti Response Plan can be accessed via <http://www.unhcr.org/557066809.html>
- Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.

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