

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #18

6 – 12 August 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,617,205

People of concern to UNHCR (in Yemen and surrounding countries), including refugees and persons internally displaced in Yemen prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

1,267,590

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

99,615

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

250,000

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

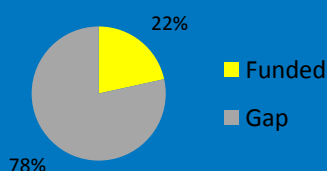
79,786

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

FUNDING

USD 134.1 Million

Requested by UNHCR for the situation



HIGHLIGHTS

■ Yemen:

From 5 to 7 August, UNHCR led a joint mission with UNDSS and WFP to Aden to assess the feasibility of re-establishing UN offices in Aden.

Upon conclusion of his visit to Sa'ada governorate on 8 August, the Humanitarian Coordinator issued a statement emphasizing the importance from all parties to protect civilian lives and civilian infrastructure. He also highlighted the lack of funds received for the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP), which remains severely underfunded. On 9 August, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Stephen O'Brien, began a 5-day mission to Yemen, where he met with key officials in Sana'a and Aden to discuss ways of strengthening humanitarian operations.

WFP delivered a 2-month ration in Kharaz camp but without wheat flour, which has led to objections and concerns among the refugee population in the camp.

■ Somalia:

As part of the Mass Information Campaign, UNHCR, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Action Africa Help International (AAH-I) drafted awareness messages on the dangers of crossing into Yemen. Posters and boards will be displayed in eight locations in Somaliland; radio messages, leaflets and phone sms messaging are being developed jointly with partners of UNHCR-funded Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) and Somaliland New Arrivals Task Force.

Departures from Yemen

Somalia: During the reporting period, some 163 individuals arrived in Somalia from Yemen: 131 persons to Berbera (Somaliland) and 32 persons to Bossaso (Puntland). According to data collection by the authorities at the Ports of entry, 28,596 persons have arrived in Somalia from Yemen as of 27 March 2015. Out of those, 17,265 were registered by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners in Berbera, Bossaso and Mogadishu Reception Centers.

Ethiopia: Since the onset of the conflict, Ethiopia received 3,313 refugees: 805 Yemeni nationals; 2,500 Somali nationals; 4 Eritreans and 4 Iraqis. Amongst this group, 1,653 were registered by UNHCR and the Government.

Djibouti: According to statistics from IOM and the Djiboutian government, 22,555 persons of different nationalities arrived in Djibouti as of 11 August since the onset of the conflict in Yemen: 10,402 (46%) Yemeni nationals, 10,314 (46%) transiting Third Country Nationals (TCNs), and 1,839 (8%) Djiboutian returnees. As of 11 August, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) registered 2,522 refugees, thereof 2,381 Yemeni nationals. Some 1,858 refugees, of whom 1,809 Yemeni nationals, are registered in Obock and are mainly hosted at Markazi camp. From 6 to 11 August, 2 boats arrived at Obock port carrying 104 passengers: 53 Yemeni nationals, and 51 TCNs. None sought asylum.

New Arrivals to Yemen

Some 789 people (21 Somalis, and 768 Ethiopians of which 97 were women) arrived along the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea coast of Yemen. When screening new arrivals, UNHCR and its partners identified 28 unaccompanied minors and 32 asylum-seekers. New arrivals are provided with health care or counselling as needed, and all are informed about the situation in Yemen. Asylum seekers receive asylum-seeker documentation that enables them to move to Aden, Kharaz refugee camp or Sana'a to register. Some 6 unaccompanied minors arrived to Kharaz refugee camp from the coast. UNHCR assessed for any protection risks or health concerns, and provided necessary assistance and asylum-seeker documentation.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

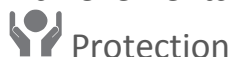
From 5 to 7 August, UNHCR led a joint mission with UNDSS and WFP to Aden to assess the feasibility of the re-opening of UN offices and the gradual return of international UN staff to Aden. The delegation visited the UN offices and also identified possible accommodations for international staff. While most of the offices can be restored over time, the UNDP office was completely destroyed. UNHCR will lead the initiative to resume presence in Aden, with plans to provide common temporary UN office space to agencies whose offices were damaged, while other agencies will coordinate the setup of operational hubs in Taizz/Ibb, Sana'a, Sa'ada, Mukalla and Hodeidah. The authorities in Aden have been supportive of the UN's efforts to resume an effective international presence in Aden, although there is a notable degree of anti-UN sentiment in the city for a perceived lack of humanitarian response while the city was under siege.

From 7 to 8 August, the HC visited Sa'ada where he witnessed severe destruction of civilian infrastructure in the city, including markets and schools. He met with displaced communities, as well as local authorities.

While airstrikes in Sana'a have significantly decreased, tensions remain high with concerns of ground fighting. Heavy fighting continues in Abyan, Lahj and Al Dhale governorates. Coalition forces have reportedly deployed dozens of armoured vehicles and troops into Yemen. MSF reports treating 55,577 emergency room patients including 9,095 wounded people, and performing 4,303 surgeries since the start of the conflict in March. Sana'a and other cities in central and north of the country are faced with a petrol crisis upon reports that ships delivering fuel will no longer be arriving at the main commercial port in Hodeidah. This has led to an increase in costs and long queues stretching from petrol stations, with many vehicles left immobilized.

On 12 August, the UN adopted an expansion of the number of UN international staff in Yemen, resulting in an increase in the staff ceiling for in-country international staff from 70 to 110 individuals. For UNHCR this will mean an increase up to 19.

Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Since the reopening of the UNHCR Registration office in Sana'a in June, some 228 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered, and 239 renewed refugee registrations.
- UNHCR's partner InterSos is following up on 36 cases of detainees charged with irregular entry and other acts. The InterSos's Gender Based Violence (GBV) counsellor provided counselling and referrals to the GBV lawyer and International Medical Corp (IMC) for medical assessments to 2 cases of rape and 1 case of domestic violence in Sana'a. The InterSos psychosocial counsellor referred 8 cases to International Relief and Development (IRD) to assess assistance needs as all cases have medical issues and report suffering from the precarious socio-economic situation in Sana'a.
- In Kharaz camp, InterSos provided counselling to 93 vulnerable individuals with specific needs. Some 229 refugees approached the office seeking financial assistance.
- Islamic Help (IH) reported that it had conducted a multi-cluster needs assessment in 5 areas of the Al Mokha and Bab al Mandab districts in Taiz governorate covering lack of livelihood opportunities, difficulty in accessing water and food, lack of shelter, with malnutrition and malaria among the greatest health concerns.



Yemeni boat proceeds to Djibouti following a first screening of arrivals in Obock port. ©UNHCR/S. Malaguti, August 2015.

Somalia:

- UNHCR and the Puntland and Somaliland authorities registered 285 Yemeni refugees. Upon registration, three months of subsistence allowance is given to Yemeni refugees. UNHCR distributed subsistence allowance to 81 families in Gardo to assist them in vacating the East Africa University, which they had been using for accommodation. The subsistence allowance has been increased in order to facilitate the refugees to rent their own houses.
- UNHCR advocates for an out-of-camp approach, which was also supported by the DSRSG/HC/RC, Mr. Peter de Clercq, during his visit to Berbera and Bossaso. UNHCR is strengthening its solutions and livelihoods-oriented projects for Yemeni refugees. UNHCR has already included 100 most vulnerable Yemenis in its partner Action Africa Help International (AAH-I)'s livelihood project in Hargeisa and is reviewing with AAH-I to increase the number of beneficiaries to 300. Larger projects are foreseen in 2016.

- UNHCR, and the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI), is setting up a Reception Center/Way Station in Mogadishu for reception, registration/verification and assistance to Somali returnees from Yemen and Kenya. In the next two weeks, UNHCR will install rub halls and toilet facilities. Ad interim, returnees are being accommodated at IOM manned reception facility in Mogadishu.

Djibouti:

- From 6 to 11 August, UNHCR distributed 13 refugee attestations and 16 individual refugee cards to Yemeni refugees.

Saudi Arabia:

- Some 444,376 Yemeni nationals regularized their status and were granted visas as at 11 August 2015.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Djibouti:

- Individuals identified with protection needs and who are not in a position to stay in Markazi camp, are provided with special shelter in Obock city. Nevertheless, there is a need to find an alternative or refer these cases to Djibouti city.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR's partner the Millennium Development Foundation (MDF) counselled 2 Ethiopian families with children with specific needs and 4 Ethiopian unaccompanied minors. The MDF family centre offers daily educational and recreational activities for children including games, stories, drawing and classes in English and Arabic.

Djibouti:

- Some 30 young adults from Markazi attend weekly English language classes at the Obock Community Centre. The classes are given by the American Military Humanitarian branch. UNHCR supports with the transport of individuals.
- The Summer Programme for children aged 5-11 continues at the CARITAS school in Obock as well as the informal playtime sessions held on Sundays in Markazi.
- On 6 August, UNHCR and partners (Al-Rahma, LWF, UNICEF and UNESCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of an Education in Emergency Programme for Yemeni refugees in Obock. The Government of Yemen in exile, through the Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs, agreed to provide Yemeni certification to children attending an extra month of schooling in August and September before the school year begins to catch up on the missing month of education when they had to flee Yemen in April.

Health

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- As a result of UNHCR advocacy effort, IDPs and refugees in Kharaz camp and in urban areas will be included in the forthcoming national Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) for infants and children from 0-15 year olds for polio, measles and rubella from 15-20 August.

Djibouti:

- Obock health staff members have reported a high prevalence of diarrheal diseases among refugee children.
- A refrigerator has been installed in the vaccination department of CMH Obock with WHO support. A second refrigerator and hospital bed have been installed in the health centre at Markazi refugee camp.



UNHCR & ONARS staff provide fresh water to new arrivals. ©UNHCR/S. Malaguti, August 2015

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- WFP delivered a 2-month ration of rice, sugar, pulses and oil for two months to Kharaz camp. However, wheat flour, which is part of the standard ration, did not arrive as trucks are still held in Bab el Mandab. UNHCR and WFP are working to find a timely solution.

Somalia:

- DRC provided emergency water and biscuits to 19 arrivals at the Port and at the Reception Center in Bossaso.
- WFP provides three daily hot meals to new arrivals at the Bossaso Reception Center and registers arrivals in order to issue smart cards to purchase food. During the reporting period, WFP topped up 34 smart cards with money for food assistance and registered 133 individuals/29 households in their system.
- The kitchen construction at Berbera Reception Center has been finalized.

Djibouti:

- Seven community workers from Johanniter were trained by UNICEF on the screening and prevention of malnutrition, and on simple family practices which are essential to promote child and mother's health. Communication materials, both in Arabic and French, have been shared by UNICEF and will be used to raise awareness both in Markazi camp and Obock city.

Saudi Arabia:

- On 9 August, the sixth Saudi relief plane arrived to Aden International Airport with 11 tons of foods, accompanied by a team from King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Somalia:

- During the reporting period, at Bossaso Reception Center, TASS/UNICEF's partner distributed five sanitary kits to young girls, while DRC distributed 254 sanitary pads (2 sanitary pads containing 10 pieces each) to 127 individual vulnerable women and girls.
- NRC is implementing a garbage collection programme and hygiene awareness campaign, and undertook a de-sludge campaign by unloading solid waste from latrines in Bossaso Reception Center.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Djibouti:

- The WASH Working Group conducted a joint mission to Markazi camp to assess water quality and needs for immediate actions were identified: the development of a communication plan to sensitise Yemeni refugees on the utilisation of water treatment products and of a protocol for cleaning water truck and bladders.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Since the start of the conflict in March, UNHCR has reached 12,545 families/79,786 individuals with humanitarian aid. On 8 August, UNHCR's partner Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) distributed emergency relief items to 104 families (822 individuals) in Amran. On 9 August, UNHCR's partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) distributed emergency relief items to 73 families (526 individuals) in Sana'a.

Somalia:

- UNHCR distributed 38 NFI kits to Yemeni refugees in Gardo and NRC provided 200 mattresses to new arrivals at the Bossaso Reception Center.
- UNHCR's implementing partner DRC has neared completion of the second Reception Center in Bossaso. In addition to the rehabilitation of 10 existing latrines, 12 latrines were constructed. UNHCR has provided four rub halls and two of them have been erected, while the remaining two are to be installed in the coming days. All construction is expected to be completed shortly.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR is working with the Al Rahma Association to expand the child friendly area in Markazi camp.
- The refugee population is currently concentrated in sectors 1, 2 and 3 of Markazi camp with individuals mainly originating from Aden and Sana'a. Refugees from Bab Al Mandab are progressively returning to Markazi.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Somalia:

- UNHCR Hargeisa received reports that Yemeni refugees are struggling to find and afford accommodation in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Discussions to resolve this issue are ongoing with authorities and partners.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- 60,000 mattresses of a total order of 327,000 pcs arrived.

Somalia:

- Among the 131 persons recently arrived on 8 August in Berbera, UNHCR, in partnership with IOM, provided 120 Somali returnees with onward transportation assistance mainly to South Central districts (114 persons) including Baidoa, Belet Hawa, Marka and Mogadishu, with the vast majority (80 persons) having as final destination Mogadishu.

Working in partnership

Somalia:

- UNHCR met with Somaliland Senior Government officials, including Police, Immigration and Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR) to discuss about protection principles, especially the principle of non refoulement and the right to seek asylum. It was agreed that UNHCR's partner Legal Clinic will conduct detention screening in order to identify any asylum-seeker/refugee and UNHCR will recruit a staff member to train coast guards, immigration and authorities in Somaliland.
- On 10 August 2015, the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Yemen Situation, Dr. Claire Bourgeois, met with the country-level inter-agency Somalia Task Force on the Yemen Situation in Nairobi to present the consultation process on the Response Plan for the Yemen crisis beyond September 2015, which will be agreed in a regional workshop in Djibouti on 18-19 August, and exchanged views about the coordination mechanism for the Yemen response in Somalia.

Djibouti:

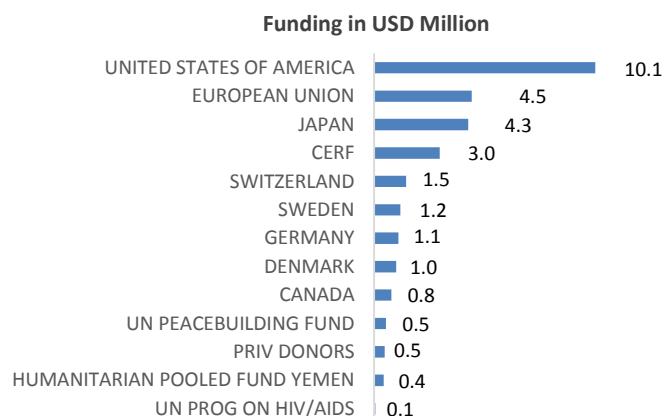
- On 9 August a delegation from the Qatari Red Crescent visited Markazi Camp. On 10 August a delegation from the World Bank visited Markazi Camp. Both delegations visited the camp in order to understand the current situation of Yemeni refugees in Obock.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 28.9 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 un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Major donors of unrestricted and regional contributions in 2015: United States of America (133 M) | Sweden (80 M) | United Kingdom (53 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Private Donors Spain (22 M) | Japan (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Canada (11 M) | Germany (11 M).



Contacts:

Astrid Callegaro, Reporting Officer, Middle East and North Africa Bureau, callegar@unhcr.org, +41 (0)22 739 8781

Géraldine Boezio, Reporting Officer, Africa Bureau, boezio@unhcr.org, +41 (0)22 739 8003

Yemen Situation: Regional Map (total population movement out of Yemen: 99,615)

13 August 2015

