

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR CRISIS UPDATE #5

15 May, 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,058,712

People of concern to UNHCR, including refugees and persons displaced prior to the conflict.

450,000

Newly internally displaced people in Yemen since the onset of the conflict in March.

28,712

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

4,496

People reached in the first three days of the humanitarian pause with life sustaining items and rapid assessments of urgent protection needs.

150

Metric tons of essential life sustaining items to be flown in six plane loads into Sana'a.

194

Metric tons of essential life sustaining items to be flown in from Dubai to Djibouti (and onwards to Sana'a international airport).

HIGHLIGHTS

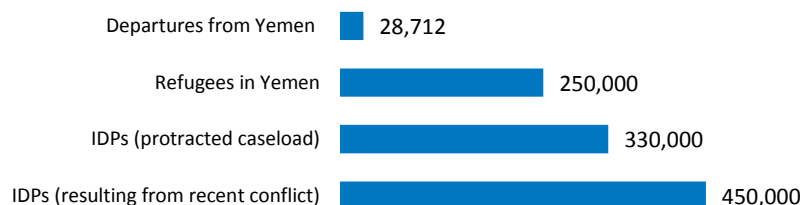
- The humanitarian pause declared by the Saudi-led coalition began on 12 May at 23:00 GMT+3. The first of six UNHCR airplanes bringing urgently needed aid supplies landed safely in Yemen today boosting relief stocks on the third day of the pause. The six flights will bring in 150 metric tons of relief supplies into Sana'a, while more aid is on its way via Djibouti by sea.
- In the north of Yemen, UNHCR's partner YRC distributed emergency aid items in Amran district, providing relief to 374 families (3,148 individuals).
- On 14 May, 248 refugee families (1,348 individuals) were provided with shelter, relief items, and food rations in Kharaz refugee camp by UNHCR's partner.
- A boat arrived to the port of Bossaso, (Puntland, Somalia) on 13 May from Mukalla (Yemen) carrying 1,723 individuals (including 580 women), the single largest arrival since the onset of the conflict. With the humanitarian pause in Yemen, Somali authorities expect an increased number of arrivals.
- UNHCR and the Djibouti authorities registered 1,145 arrivals from Yemen since 27 March; they are currently sheltered in two transit centres and in Markazi camp.



On 10 May, UNHCR's partner Al-Amal provided emergency relief items to 102 displaced families from Sa'ada Governorate. The distribution took place in Abs district, Hajjah Governorate. Assessments of needs are on-going as UNHCR continues to receive reports of families arriving to the area. © Al-Amal/S.Al-Ghashmury

Population of concern

A total of **1,058,712** people of concern



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The humanitarian pause declared by the Saudi-led coalition began on 12 May at 23:00 GMT+3. Reports seem to indicate that although there was no shelling or airstrikes in Sana'a on the first two days (13-14 May), localized fighting in Mareb, Abyan, Aden, and Lahj took place. Prior to the pause, there were continuous airstrikes and heavy shelling in the capital and in Sa'ada and streets remained almost empty due to the lack of transportation means, the fuel crisis, and general insecurity. As of 13 May nevertheless, roads that were previously inaccessible could be used and markets were frequented. Despite this, some clashes have been reported in the south of the country and in Taiz governorate.

The UNHCR Representative participated in a meeting chaired by the Yemeni Vice-Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, which was attended by all relevant line ministries, and in which the heads of UN agencies outlined their preparedness and response during the current five day humanitarian pause. While in his capacity of Humanitarian Coordinator, he provided the meeting with a comprehensive briefing of the envisaged humanitarian activities during the pause; as UNHCR Representative, he presented UNHCR's ongoing support for its refugee programme in Sana'a, Aden/Basateen and Kharaz camp, including the delivery, together with partners, of protection and assistance services. He also referred to UNHCR's continued involvement in the reception and identification of refugees and asylum-seekers amongst new arrivals. Furthermore, he outlined the various ministries of UNHCR's support, as part of the inter-agency cooperation, to new internal displacement by tracking numbers, assessing protection and assistance needs, distributing NFIs and emergency shelter kits, and providing protection services in various governorates affected by the conflict. Finally, he updated the meeting of the latest developments in outflows of Yemeni and mixed nationalities to neighbouring countries – the number now standing at 29,000.



On 9 May, a vessel carrying over 90 metric tons of UNHCR NFIs including blankets, kitchen sets and sleeping mats arrived at Hodeida port. On 12 May, NFIs were transported from Hodeida to Sana'a (3,000 sleeping mats, 14,000 blankets and over 7,000 kitchen sets) and over 2,000 kitchen sets from Hodeida to Haradh © UNHCR

UNHCR is using the humanitarian pause to transport and pre-position aid to Sana'a, Amran, Haradh and Aden for onward distribution to vulnerable populations in surrounding provinces. Medicines and food rations are being sent to the Mayfa'a reception centre in the east, and food, kerosene, and diesel will be transferred to the Kharaz refugee camp near Aden. Meanwhile, over 600 families have been reached since the start of the humanitarian pause with life sustaining items. While the humanitarian pause is an opportunity to deliver much needed humanitarian assistance in an essentially safe environment, UNHCR has been distributing non-food items (NFIs) and providing shelter to internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the beginning of the hostilities and has continued with its services for refugees and other persons of concern. The delivery of much needed aid will also continue after the five day humanitarian pause.

According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the week from 4 to 10 May was the deadliest since fighting began in Yemen on 26 March, with a total of at least 182 civilians reported killed during that period – almost exactly half of them women and children (51 children and 41 women). According to OHCHR, the total number of civilian deaths in Yemen has risen to 828 since 26 March (182 children and 91 women), with 1,511 injured.

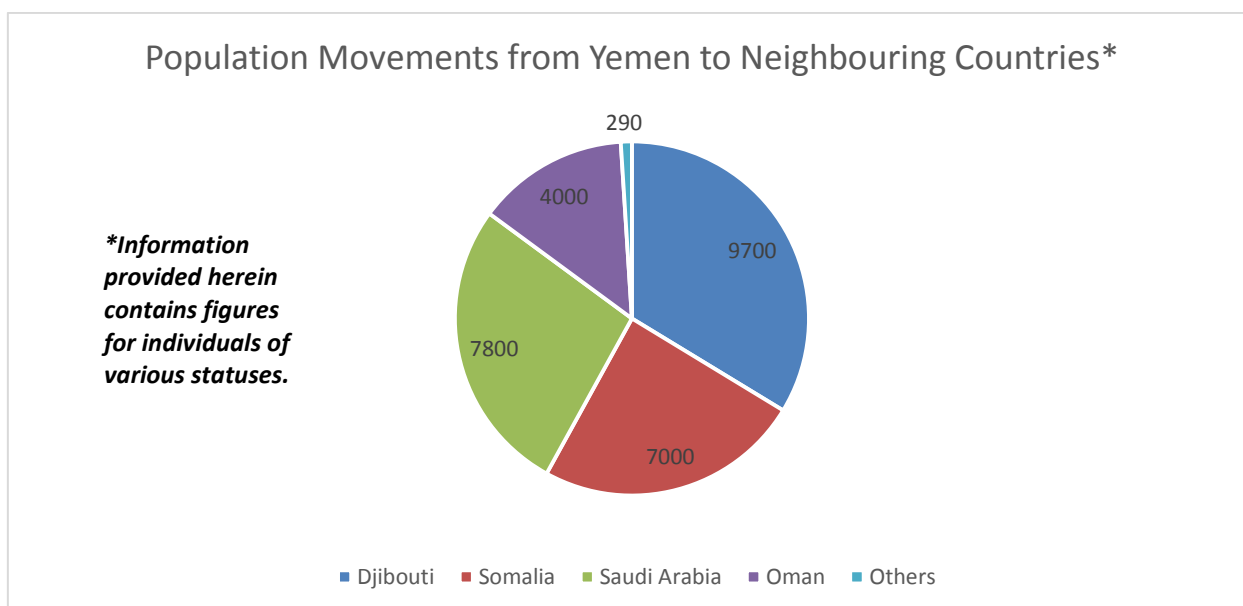
Departures from Yemen

Djibouti: According to statistics from IOM and the Government of Djibouti, 9,703 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 4 May since the onset of the crisis. 3,230 of those are Yemeni nationals. As of 13 May, UNHCR has registered 1,145 refugees of whom 1,098 are Yemeni nationals.

Ethiopia: There are now 139 refugees registered by UNHCR and the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA).

Somalia: The total number of arrivals to Somalia as of 13 May, is 6,949 people, the majority of whom are Somali nationals. Other recent arrivals were recorded on 10 May to Berbera, Somaliland (377 individuals) and on 6 May in Bossaso (26 individuals) and in Elayo (25 individuals), a coastal town 20 km away from Bossaso, Puntland.

Sudan: Thus far 146 registered refugees with UNHCR arriving from Yemen.



Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Around 1,016 Somali refugees fled from Basateen in Aden and some from Kharaz camp to Mukalla after fighting intensified during the first week of May. The newly displaced refugees are accommodated in schools and other public facilities. Basic needs are barely met, however food is provided by local NGOs. A UNHCR doctor visited the refugees to identify health needs, which included chronic diseases and mental illness.
- The conflict in Yemen has posed an additional burden to persons with disabilities who face serious protection concerns with increasing difficulties in meeting their basic needs. Persons, who use wheelchairs, have limited or no access to public or private transport facilities due to fuel shortages and high fuel prices across the country. As a result, many have been unable to flee to safe areas with their families. Persons with disabilities who have fled the violence and have been displaced to bigger cities face risks of isolation and other serious challenges.
- UNHCR community services staff have been meeting with Ethiopian community leaders to jointly resolve concerns of Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Sana'a, who have been gathering at the UNHCR reception centre and the office of International Relief and Development (IRD) in Sana'a asking for financial assistance and resettlement.

UNHCR's Assistant Representative met with refugee leaders while on mission to Sana'a, to review the constraints faced by the refugee community during the crisis.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) have registered 131 refugees during this reporting period. 121 family attestations and 260 ID-Cards for refugees have been distributed. A total of 867 Yemeni refugees are hosted in the temporary transit centre Al-Rahma orphanage and at Markazi refugee camp. UNHCR continues the distribution of refugee attestations at the Markazi camp; by 12 May, 260 refugees received ID cards.
- UNHCR established a presence at the port in Obock and started border monitoring activities. The Field Coordinator is assisted by staff from the UNHCR Djibouti Office to provide legal/protection counselling to people of concern (PoCs). UNHCR started reinforcing the capacity of law enforcement officials (Immigration Police, Navy personnel). This initiative has allowed UNHCR to advocate for protection principles and their implementation in practice (e.g. principle of family unity etc.). Complex protection cases are being reviewed jointly by UNHCR and ONARS; refugees with visas or residence permits in other countries have been allowed to continue to their onward final destinations.
- For protection and safety purposes, ONARS installed a generator with a capacity of 20 KVA at Markazi camp. The capacity of the generator allows lighting in the camp from 7:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. Negotiations are under way for a generator with greater capacity, as well as for charging stations and power extension cables.

Saudi Arabia:

- Protection staff maintains communication with PoCs through the UNHCR call centre. Calls received from 18 families this week were mainly requests for support on emergency visa extension.
- The Kingdom began implementing the royal decree issued on 2 May that called ministries to assist Yemenis to regularize their residency status and the campaign will continue until 7 July. Yemenis will be issued a renewable six-month visit visas called "Alzaeer". The Ministry of Interior, last week designated 49 locations in different cities to receive persons of concern; all locations will have a representative from the Embassy of Yemen to accelerate the procedure. The General Passport Department stated that the status of 474 Yemenis have been regularized during the first two days of the campaign. All Yemenis, granted visitor permits, are allowed to work in all sectors and professions, with the exception of engineering, health, and education; these sectors are subject to special approval.

Somalia:

- In Bossaso, Puntland, Save the Children International (SCI) conducted a Child Protection and Child Rights training for staff at the reception centre. Four cases of protection concerns were identified and are being followed up individually.
- A boat arrived to the port of Bossaso, Puntland, Somalia in the morning of 13 May from Mukalla, Yemen carrying 1,723 individuals (581 women, 379 men and 763 children). Registration for new arrivals at the Bossaso reception centre is currently ongoing. This is the single largest arrival from the beginning of the conflict. With the humanitarian pause in Yemen, Somali authorities expect an increased number of arrivals in the next days. Other recent arrivals were recorded on 10 May to Berbera, Somaliland (377 individuals) and on 6 May in Bossaso (26 individuals) and in Elayo (25 individuals), a coastal town 20 km away from Bossaso, Puntland.
- Unconfirmed report of 25 new arrivals to Mogadishu, on Friday 1 May, was also received. This was reported to IOM by the Immigration Authority at Mogadishu International Airport. Twenty came from Djibouti and five from Hargeisa; they were all Somali nationals from Yemen.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- Recent events have led to the closure of 300 organizations, which previously provided services for persons with disabilities, many of whom require ongoing medical treatment which has been discontinued. Additionally, children who need specialized education, are not able to access those educational institutions or rehabilitation centres.
- On 11 and 12 May, some of parties to the conflict prevented organizations and partners from assessing the conditions of IDPs, who fled from Sa'ada demanding to be involved in the registration process of IDPs. IDPs have been moved by the group from smaller schools and public facilities to a larger educational compound located in close

proximity to a military base, which is an issue of concern to UNHCR. Guards and armed men have filled the compound and are preventing persons and vehicles from entering and meeting the IDPs.

- A marginalized group of 88 IDPs from Sa'ada created spontaneous settlements in Houth and Khamir districts in Amran governorate. They are in desperate need of shelter, but have been refused entry into public shelter by local authorities. UNHCR has identified needs and is negotiating with authorities for access to the marginalized IDPs to provide food, non-food items (NFIs), shelter, and potable water.
- Despite the conflict in Yemen, traffickers continue to operate along the Red and Arabian Sea coasts and in April a significant number of new migrants have reportedly been abducted. The lack of fuel restricts UNHCR's partners such as the Yemen Red Crescent at Bab Al Mandab to conduct patrolling activities, life-saving interventions, and to monitor and register new arrivals along the Yemeni coast. UNHCR's partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) reports that over four thousand arrivals to Yemen were recorded in April 2015.

Djibouti:

- Security concerns in Markazi camp have been raised several times by refugees, who confirmed not feeling safe in the camp as trespassers and animals could easily enter the site. UNHCR is advocating for reinforcement of security perimeters in the camp, as well as access to water bladders and prevent vandalism on infrastructure. Once in place, UNHCR will organize training sessions/awareness raising campaigns amongst security staff specific to the refugee camp context. There is a need for strong generators (100 KVA) to provide public lighting for the entire camp, which would increase the feeling of security in the camp, including prevention of GBV incidents
- As far as departures from Obock are concerned, the movement from Obock to Djibouti and from Obock to Yemen remains a serious concern to UNHCR, even if the nature and scope of the reasons for leaving are difficult to ascertain. Notwithstanding, UNHCR's counselling at the border outlining the risk they might face in case of return, 14 Yemenis reached the port of Obock and made their final decision to return. Local authorities facilitated their travel following an agreement not to take action against those, who wish to join their families reported to be still in Yemen.
- Refugees in Obock are yet to understand the extent of the rights they are accorded by their refugee status. As a first step an information brochure will be developed and distributed by UNHCR. The overall living conditions in Obock are difficult. Obock is a hard-to-reach region that has been severely affected by drought since 2008.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- The UNHCR logistics team stepped up efforts to have life sustaining items ready for transportation and distribution during the humanitarian pause. The first of six UNHCR airplanes bringing urgently needed aid supplies landed safely in Yemen on 15 May boosting relief stocks in the war-ravaged country, on the third day of the humanitarian pause. The plane carrying blankets, kitchen utensils and sleeping mats from stockpiles in Dubai arrived at Sana'a International Airport at 15:45 local time. A second aircraft is expected to arrive later this afternoon. Four more flights will follow over the next two days, provided local security conditions allow.
- On 9 May, a vessel carrying over 90 metric tons of UNHCR NFIs including blankets, kitchen sets and sleeping mats arrived at Hodeida port. On 12 May, NFIs were transported from Hodeida to Sana'a (3,000 sleeping mats, 14,000 blankets and over 7,000 kitchen sets) and over 2,000 kitchen sets from Hodeida to Haradh.
- On 13 May NFIs for 3,000 families in Aden, and for 1,000 families in Haradh, and for 1,000 families in Amran were dispatched to arrive on 14 May.
- Final preparations are being made for additional airlifts of humanitarian aid into Yemen's capital, Sana'a, to take place over the next days assuming the humanitarian truce holds; planes are scheduled to depart Dubai in six (6) rotations. The flights will carry aid from UNHCR stockpiles in Dubai and will include sleeping mats, blankets and kitchen sets – part of a larger aid mobilization to reach a quarter of a million people.
- UNHCR is also planning a further airlift of 194 metric tons from Dubai to Djibouti. Onward transportation by a WFP chartered vessel from Djibouti to Hodeida is planned for next week.

Somalia:

- In Bossaso, Puntland, IOM, in coordination with authorities, is providing transportation of passengers, who require further assistance, to a transit centre; 520 individuals were moved to the transit centre for a maximum three day stay for further verification and onward transportation grants.
- Since the beginning of the Yemen crisis, the Puntland New Arrivals Task Force members have supported approximately 562 vulnerable individuals with onward transportation to areas of origin.

 Education

Achievements and Impact**Yemen:**

- The InterSos Livelihood Coordinator organized a training programme for the Technical Education and Vocational Training students on First Aid and psychosocial support during conflict. The training was delivered to various groups of refugee students over the past month.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR conducted a preliminary education assessment for Yemeni families that will be settled in Markazi camp and met with local authorities and education inspectors.
- UNHCR conducted a partner mapping exercise locally and met with UNICEF about the deployment of Education in Emergencies tents and materials. UNICEF has prepositioned two tents, two school-in-a-box with Early Childhood Education didactic materials for about 100 children over three months. A summary of the assessment and a preliminary plan will be presented to partners during the Education Sector Working Group meeting for discussion, revision and validation.

**Health****Achievements and Impact****Yemen:**

- In Sana'a, Al-Hafy primary healthcare centre (PHC), supported by UNHCR's partner International Medical Corps (IMC) through the refugee programme, continues to provide medical follow-up and medication to mental health care patients and people with chronic diseases. IMC referral focal points also provide necessary assistance for emergency cases. During the last week of April, a total of 119 consultations took place at the PHC, including treatment in 20 mental health cases.
- During the month of April, the health clinic at the Bab Al-Mandab transit centre operated by UNHCR's partner Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) treated 36 refugees (16 Somalis and 20 Ethiopian), 41 migrants, and 124 Yemeni nationals.

Djibouti:

- Waiting for a full-fledged presence of a medical partner, UNHCR and local authorities are handling serious and daily medical requirements on a case-by-case basis with a potential referral system to the existing medical infrastructure in Djibouti city. Refugees with specific medical conditions/chronic diseases have been identified and were given priority along with the older refugees. An evacuation system has been established to provide timely and proper assistance when needed.
- An integrated national vaccination campaign against polio and measles has been launched by the government with the support of WHO. The campaign is targeting children less than 15 years. WHO officials visited Markazi camp to assess the needs and advocated for the inclusion of the refugee population.
- Vitamin A supplementation and review of immunisation status is ongoing for all under-5 refugee children upon arrival.

- WHO provided five mobile clinics to the Ministry of Health with Support of Government of Japan with an approximate cost of 400,000 USD. One mobile will be dedicated to the region of Obock, where it will also be at the service of refugees. The mobile clinics provide amongst others basic preventive and curative health care such as consultations for pregnant women, vaccination, detection and management of malaria, diarrhoea, and HIV testing.

Somalia:

- At the reception centre in Bossaso, Puntland, a WHO-led medical team continues to provide assistance to new arrivals. Médecins du Monde (MDM) provides maternal health care for those identified as in need. Additionally, they transfer mothers in labour to delivery centres, and have one ambulance on call for referral of sick patients in need of transfer. Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) provides first aid volunteers at the Bossaso port, has one ambulance on call for sick patients in need of transfer, and has an Outpatient Medical Department (OPD) team at the reception centre.
- Save the Children International (SCI) referred 24 medical cases to hospitals in Bossaso. 18 returnees/refugees who arrived on 6 May were taken to the hospital for treatment – 14 of the patients were discharged.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Yemen:** Communication with the clinics at Kharaz camp and Basateen in the south has been minimal due to communication, internet, and electric cuts.
- **Djibouti:** Given the high vulnerability of the refugee population, in particular children and women, it is critical to ensure the continuity and quality of healthcare services



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Djibouti:

- Malnutrition screening is ongoing for all under-5 refugee children, pregnant women and lactating mothers upon arrival. Six cases of severe acute malnutrition and 12 cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified among children under-five, and are receiving adequate treatment and care.

Somalia:

- In Bossaso, Puntland, IOM and DRC are providing water and biscuits/dates to new arrivals at the port, while SCI provides milk and biscuits at the reception centre in Bossaso, for children, pregnant and lactating women. WFP and Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA) have partnered together to provide regular meals to individuals at the Bossaso reception centre. ICRC had also provided one month food-ratio and non-food item kits to new arrivals to complement provision of food at the reception centre.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Yemen:** Shortage of food, lack of access to potable water, and fuel scarcity has aggravated and contributed to forcing families to send women and children to fetch water or look for work. Furthermore, families have been forced to share small flats because of high rental fees and lack of sufficient sources of income.
- **Djibouti:** Notwithstanding the referral system of refugees with specific medical needs and their regular follow-up with the doctors, there is a need to develop a feeding program with other partners most importantly for cases suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Somalia:

- In Bossaso, Puntland, Save the Children International (SCI) and other members of the Puntland New Arrivals Task Force conducted a WASH needs assessment at the reception centre. Findings of the assessment will be discussed at the next inter-agency meeting. IOM is taking care of WASH activities in Bossaso.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR staff and partner ADRA conducted MIRA assessments in schools hosting IDPs in three districts in Aden. So far, a total of 470 families have been assessed and verified to be accommodated in schools and public buildings. Of these, 250 families already received NFIs (blankets, sleeping mats, mattresses, plastic water buckets, kitchen sets and plastic sheets) from UNHCR in the past few days. In addition, 349 IDP families either hosted by relatives or renting flats were also assessed and found to be in need of NFIs.
- UNHCR with YRC conducted field visits to spontaneous settlements in Amran governorate.
- On 13 May, UNHCR and InterSos conducted a rapid protection assessment using MIRA assessment tools in two districts in Amanet Al Asimah.
- During the past week, NFIs have been distributed to 374 families (3,148 individuals) in Sana'a, Hajjah, and Khamir district of Amran governorate. These are IDPs, who fled the recent airstrikes on Sa'ada governorate.
- UNHCR transported NFIs for 4,000 families (28,000 individuals) from Sana'a to Haradh district warehouse in Hajjah governorate. UNHCR partners have identified the most vulnerable IDPs in Haradh. Based on the assessment, NFIs and plastic sheeting will be distributed by Al Amal.
- UNHCR with its partner, Al Amal, conducted an assessment in Bani Qais district in Hajjah governorate.
- UNHCR with YRC conducted IDP verification exercises in Khamir district in Amran.
- UNHCR purchased 2,000 litres of fuel from a local supplier to be delivered to Sana'a on 14 May.



UNHCR's partner InterSos receive and distribute life sustaining items to 22 families in Sana'a (Fajj Attan), 10 May, ©UNHCR.

Djibouti:

- Refugees, who have been hosted in the transit centre situated in the sports centre, have all been transferred to Markazi camp. In order to provide shelter to the new arrivals, UNHCR pitched 18 additional tents for a total of 100 tents in the camp; 90 additional tents will be installed progressively in the camp. Refugees staying at the Al Rahma transit centre are expected to move to the camp.

Somalia:

- DRC provided sanitary materials for 200 women and SCI has been distributing NFIs and hygiene kits to the returnees/refugees in Bossaso, Puntland.
- UNHCR provided funds for the construction of a boom gate and a booth for the security guards at the reception centre to improve security; the installation is currently underway. Additionally, UNHCR will set up two solar lights at the reception centre to improve lighting and to further strengthen security.
- UNHCR funded the rehabilitation works implemented by NRC at the Berbera reception centre, Somaliland. The shaded area is completed and construction of additional latrines is being finalized.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- Yemen Red Crescent does not have fuel to transport new arrivals from Bab Al-Mandab transit centre to Kharaz Camp. Moreover, parties to the conflict in the south were preventing migrants travel to Kharaz Camp. Migrants are forced to remain at the Bab Al-Mandab reception centre.

Djibouti:

- At the Markazi camp site, 40 latrines and 10 community kitchens are currently in place. 34 latrines are still subject to additional work and adaptations to meet emergency standards.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR's partner IRD in Sana'a provided capacity building training to Somali community leaders on 7 May and provided 100 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) with financial assistance.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- Cluster coordination meetings for protection and shelter/NFIs were convened regularly throughout the past week in the lead-up to the humanitarian pause to review and follow up on action points generated by the preparedness plan for transportation, delivery, and distribution of aid during the pause.
- Under the coordination of UNHCR, the Protection Cluster is conducting rapid assessments across the country during the humanitarian pause. Operational and implementing partners, as well as UNHCR staff, have begun assessments in the south, particularly in Aden, Abyan and Lahj governorates. Assessments are taking place in schools, hotels and public facilities, where IDPs have taken shelter.

Somalia:

- An inter-agency immediate response plan for 5,000 new arrivals within the month of April was prepared, and UN and NGO partners responded to the critical needs in line with their capacities and mandates. At the same time, a Contingency Plan for 100,000 persons arriving from Yemen (including Yemeni nationals, Somali refugee returnees and migrants, Ethiopian migrants and third country nationals) is being finalized.

Contacts:

Jessica Hyba, Reporting Officer, hyba@unhcr.org, +41 79 446 3790

Wendv Rappoport, Senior External Relations Officer, rappoport@unhcr.org, +41 22 739 8993

Yemen Situation: Regional map

15 May 2015

