

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #16

23-29 July 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Yemen:** The UNHCR Representative in his capacity as the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) undertook a day mission to Aden on 26 July where he witnessed the devastation caused by the conflict.



Refugee children in UNHCR's compound, where they were given temporary shelter when violent sandstorms damaged Markazi refugee camp in Obock, Djibouti. ©UNHCR/S.Malaguti, 18 July 2015.

KEY FIGURES

1,572,873

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.

1,267,590

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

55,283

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.

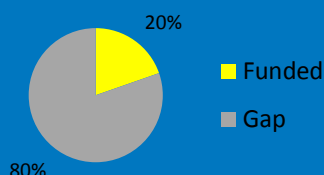
74,195

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



UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for the Yemen Situation Emergency Response, April – September 2015 (12 June 2015), is available [here](#)

Departures from Yemen

Djibouti: According to statistics from IOM and the Djiboutian government, 21,204 persons of different nationalities arrived since 26 March: 9,782 Yemeni nationals, 9,607 Third Country Nationals (TCNs) and 1,815 Djiboutian returnees. As at 27 July, some 2,371 persons of concern were registered with UNHCR: 1,741 refugees registered in Obock, of which 1,692 Yemeni refugees. Some 368 new arrivals were recorded at Obock.

Somalia: IOM's second evacuation flight from Yemen arrived in Mogadishu on 27 July with 272 Somali passengers: 196 requested further assistance and were taken to the IOM Transit/Reception Centre in Mogadishu.

New Arrivals to Yemen

Seven boats with 614 new arrivals have landed along the Arabian Sea Coast. Some 107 Ethiopians were screened (97 males, 10 females) and five asylum-seekers were identified along with three unaccompanied minors. The remaining 507 new arrivals are in the process of being screened. On 28 July, the Danish Refugee Council office in Kharaz refugee camp received 25 Ethiopian new arrivals (9 male, 16 female), among them four female asylum-seekers were identified.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia declared a unilateral five-day humanitarian pause on 26 July. Despite the agreement, airstrikes and fighting were reported in Taiz, Lahj, Marib, and Aden with shelling across the border. Entering the fifth month of conflict, the death toll in Yemen exceeds 3,200 people since the end of March 2015; 21 of the 22 governorates are affected.

Heavy confrontations continue in the Aden, Lahj, Al Dhale and Abyan governorates. On the same day, four missiles targeted a residential area in the Al Makha district in Taiz governorate where some 2,800 IDP households live; over 140 people were killed with many people missing, over 100 injured and thousands internally displaced. Human Rights Watch visited the site after the airstrikes and reported no signs that either of the two residential compounds targeted were being used for military purposes. In Taiz, a Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) ambulance suffered a gunfire attack while transporting an injured patient, his companion and two YRCS volunteers: the patient and his companion were killed.

The UNHCR Representative in his capacity as Humanitarian Coordinator undertook a mission to Aden on 26 July, the first International staff to return there since the end of March. The damage to infrastructure is severe, and partners urgently need support in providing health, food, water and sanitation, NFIs, electricity, and managing waste disposal. The HC met with Governmental officials, as well as with UN national staff and Implementing Partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Partners are concerned by the lack of security, which is a major challenge in delivering humanitarian assistance, and the impact on civilians. One of the main recommendations was the need to re-establish international presence subject to security risk assessment and the establishment of necessary security measures. In the meantime, the HCT will scale up its response efforts, including the distribution of assistance currently stored in Aden.

According to WFP, prices of most essential commodities have further increased in areas where the conflict is ongoing and has intensified, particularly in the southern governorates. Prices of wheat rose by 112% in Aden and 97% in Al Dhale, compared to the pre-crisis period. National average fuel prices increased four-fold, with Aden at 800%. UNICEF reported that more than 3,600 schools have been forced to close, and at least 248 schools have been directly damaged, while 270 schools are hosting IDPs, and 68

schools are occupied by armed groups. Additionally, a total of 1.8 million children have been out-of-school for two months or more. According to IOM, the number of IDPs from the Aden governorate has increased rapidly during the last three days, as 400 families fled Dar Saad district because of intense clashes.

Easing stress through sport in Kharaz Refugee Camp, Yemen



Award ceremony for the Sports Committee @Intersos

Kharaz refugee camp, located in Lahj governorate was opened in 2000 and hosts some 20,000 refugees, mainly from the Horn of Africa. Inter-Sos continues to be active in the camp, providing respite through positive activities such as the Football club and providing counselling consultations. On 25 July, Intersos marked the final game with a grand finale of thanks and certificates given to the hard working sport committee. On that day, refugees at Kharaz camp had the opportunity to escape the realities of the on-going conflict.

During the Holy Month of Ramadan, UNHCR's partner InterSos spear-headed several activities for the refugee community in Kharaz refugee camp in Yemen. One of the most popular activities was the formation of a Champions Football Club. Refugees of all ages came together for a match, cherishing the opportunity to have fun and forget the stress they face with the insecurity, scarce basic services and lack of livelihood opportunities. UNHCR and partners have had little access to the refugee camp and providing lifesaving aid to the camp has been extremely difficult.



Bystanders watching the last game of the Champions Football Club @Intersos

Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Some 191 asylum-seekers were registered and 179 registration documents renewals were processed.
- On 26 July, upon notification of five Eritreans detained in Hodeidah UNHCR and InterSos followed up on the matter. Due to low budget and damages by airstrikes, the immigration detention centre released the 99 Ethiopians detainees that had been

transferred from the detention centre. InterSOS also visited the Alya Pre-trial detention centre to examine 46 cases and registered 6 new cases.

- At the Millennium Development Foundation (MDF) family centre in Sana'a, 26 youth (19 males and 7 females) attended a protection awareness session and 22 youth (11 males, 11 females) attended a mathematics class. On 27 July, MDF conducted five home visits, interviewed five Somali separated children and provided one unaccompanied Ethiopian child with NFIs. 87 children attended activities at the family centre.
- On 28 July, UNHCR's partner International Relief and Development conducted 21 vulnerability assessments for urban refugees.
- In Kharaz refugee camp, InterSOS provides psycho-social consultation to some 90 individuals daily at their drop in centre and field office. Many refugees report to be suffering from depression and to be in need of food and financial assistance.

Saudi Arabia:

- Some 363,378 Yemenis have regularized their status as at 29 July.

Somalia:

- Suitable office premises have been identified to establish a UNHCR Field Office in Berbera, and the recruitment of field staff is on-going.
- UNHCR-funded Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) is activated to track return movements to South Central regions. So far, PRMN system has reported an estimated 1,153 households of 6,790 individual returnees who arrived in South Central regions from Somaliland and Puntland since the Yemen crisis began. The majority of returnees returned to the Benadir region with an estimated 927 households (5,562 individuals) who returned to Mogadishu city.

Djibouti:

- Some 14 refugee attestations and 19 individual refugee cards were issued to Yemeni refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Somalia:

- UNHCR, Puntland Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the local community identified approximately 30 cases of Yemeni nationals wishing to register as refugees in Garowe, Gardo and Badhan. These cases are currently pending registration interview.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Djibouti:

- The American Military Humanitarian branch started providing English language classes once a week, attended by 27 young adults from Markazi refugee camp. UNHCR provides transportation.

Health

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR's partner Association for Development of Persons with Specific Needs (ADPSN) provided regular physiotherapy to 23 children in Kharaz camp.
- UNHCR's partner Charitable Society of Social Welfare (CSSW) received some 50 patients daily at the Kharaz refugee camp clinic.

Somalia:

- Save the Children International (SCI) made six medical referrals to hospitals in Bossaso; four were discharged, while two children were admitted to a stabilization centre at Bossaso General Hospital with severe acute malnutrition. SCI also conducted an Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) group counselling session for 61 mothers, to educate on breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Djibouti:

- The family of a two-week old baby suffering from a severe skin condition due to extreme heat approached UNHCR. As a temporary measure UNHCR is hosting the child and his mother in a room in Obock. The need for health partners to identify more sustainable solutions to care for this type of medical cases is becoming increasingly urgent.
- The need for an ophthalmologist in Obock remains a priority given the number of patients with recurring eye conditions.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Somalia:

- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provides water and meals at Berbera Reception Centre four times per day. The construction of a kitchen at the Centre is ongoing, and efforts to improve the quality of food continue.
- WFP, through DRC, is providing food voucher for three months to evacuees arrived in Mogadishu on 27 July through registration in SCOPE system at the Reception Centre in Mogadishu.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Somalia:

- NRC's hygiene awareness and garbage collection campaigns at Bossaso Reception Centre that began in June have been extended and will be ongoing until further notice.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Somalia:

- Bathroom facilities at both Reception Centres in Berbera are insufficient to cope with large arrivals. Construction of additional sanitation facilities continues.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- In the Mustaba district, in Hajjah governorate, UNHCR's partner, Al Amal conducted a shelter needs assessment to identify families in need of lifesaving assistance.
- On 26 July, UNHCR's partner Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) distributed emergency aid to 134 families (1,110 individuals) residing in the Adult Educational Centre in Amran. On 27 and 28 July, UNHCR's partner the Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) distributed emergency aid to 116 families (574 individuals) to displaced families living in schools in the Dar Saad district of Aden. Since the end of March, UNHCR has reached 11,743 families (74,195 individuals) with NFIs.



Markazi Refugee Camp, Djibouti – Thanks to the Arrahma Association, refugees enjoy bright evenings. ©UNHCR/S. Malaguti, July 2015.

Djibouti:

- On 25 July, the Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes (UNFD) made a donation of items such as clothes for women, children and men, hygiene and sanitary material; UNHCR distributed the items to 435 individuals.
- Following the end of Ramadan and improvement in the weather and living conditions, some families have returned to Markazi, UNHCR/ONARS will conduct a physical verification exercise in the next two weeks to confirm the number of refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- Lahj and Shabwah governorates have been inaccessible to humanitarian agencies.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- The UNHCR Sana'a Branch Office arranged to move the office's equipment and furniture from the Field Office in Haradh. The contractor managed to load about 70% of assets when intensive airstrikes forced them to leave the compound. The remaining equipment will be moved next week to be stored in Hodeidah; items will be used for the UN common operational hub.
- UNHCR has 19 trucks with emergency aid from Sana'a en route to UNHCR Aden's warehouses, which are currently at the Al Rebat checkpoint, outside of Aden. Once clearance is received, the aid will be transported to the UNHCR warehouse. For the first

time since the start of the conflict, UNHCR was able to reach Sa'ada with aid on 12 and 13 July. Eight trucks with emergency aid are prepared to reach Amran governorate to benefit 700 families. The aid will be transported upon security clearance.

Saudi Arabia:

- On 25 July, King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Aid deployed seven trucks with relief assistance to Al Abr District and Marib Province in Yemen through Al-Wadiah border.
- On 23 and 24 July, two planes arrived at Aden International Airport carrying 10 tons of food, and 12 tons of medical supplies.

Somalia:

- Tadamun Social Society (TASS) provided 45 individuals with transportation to travel from Bossaso to Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Garowe. Cumulatively, the Puntland New Arrivals Task Force has assisted 4,348 individuals to return to their areas of origin. In partnership with UNHCR, IOM provided onward transport assistance from Berbera to 1,298 arrivals from the 20 July arrivals and 116 individuals from 24 July arrivals. Provision of onward transportation assistance to the arrivals on 26 July is currently ongoing.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Somalia:

- Available resources to provide onward transport are quickly running out due to the increasing proportion of the arrivals who are assessed to be vulnerable at Berbera Reception Centre. Additional funds are required.

Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- On 26 July, 27 individuals (15 Eritreans, 12 Ethiopians) departed for resettlement. UNHCR and IOM coordinated the departure of refugees to Sweden via Amman. Other cases are in the pipeline for transfer to Emergency Transit Centres prior to resettlement to the USA, as well as resettlement cases for France.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- The latest Inter Cluster Coordination Mechanism (ICCM) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings evolved around a potential humanitarian pause, which did not take effect; however, UN agencies continue to focus on what the humanitarian community can continue to deliver and to identify any challenges in doing so.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

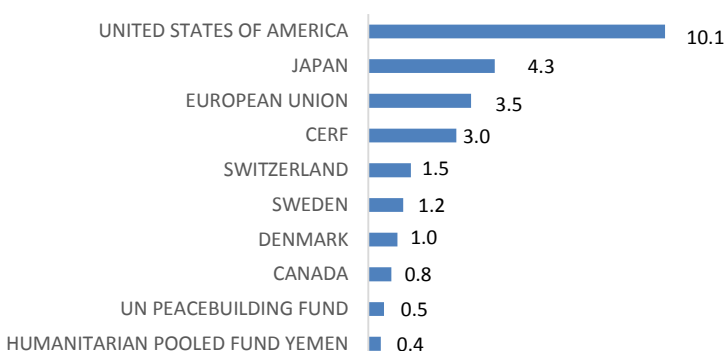
Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 26.4 million**.

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) | Japan (18 M) | Priv Donors Spain (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Canada (11 M)

Funding received (in million USD)



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