

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #12

03 July 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,319,331

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

1,019,762

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

49,569

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.

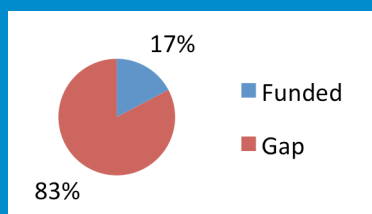
56,369

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

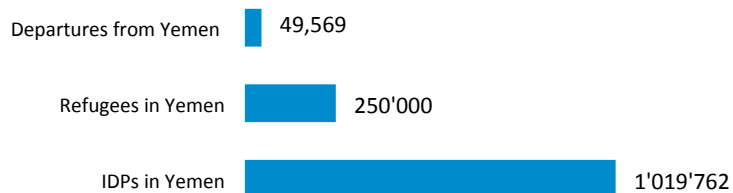


UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for the Yemen Situation Emergency Response, April – September 2015 (12 June 2015), is available [here](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 1 July, a system-wide Level 3 Emergency was activated in Yemen. On the same day, an internal Level 3 emergency was declared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the consequent appointment of a Regional Refugee Coordinator based in Djibouti.
- In Yemen, the refugee population in Kharaz camp remains in dire need of food. WFP has been unable to complete the food ration due to lack of access.
- In Djibouti, 143 new arrivals from Yemen were reported this week. According to IOM and the Djibouti government, some 20,295 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti since the beginning of the crisis.
- In Somalia, 3,726 new arrivals were reported this week. On July 2, a ship carrying 3,502 individuals arrived in Bosasso from Mukalla, Yemen. Among them, 1,587 individuals have been registered at the Reception Center in Bossaso by Puntland authorities in collaboration with UNHCR. On June 30, the Government of Somalia declared Yemeni nationals arriving in Somalia to be *prima facie* refugees.

A total of **1,319,331** people of concern



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Fighting in Yemen rages on with shelling in the north, warships bombing the south and air strikes targeting locations across the country. Massive armed clashes and shelling in several governorates were reported throughout the week, especially in Marib, Taiz and Aden. Additionally, Mayoon Island was targeted by strikes. The island is located in the Red Sea, where migrants pass via boat on their way to Yemen from the Horn of Africa.

On 28 June, an air strike hit the UNDP office in Aden. The Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon called for a full investigation into the incident. On 29 June, armed groups broke into the UN offices in Aden, forced the guards to leave and occupied the premises, including the UNHCR office. This is the second time the UNHCR office has been taken by armed groups since the evacuation of the premises at the end of March 2015. Negotiations for the release of the premises are still ongoing.



UNHCR's partner the Charitable Society of Social Welfare distributed emergency relief items to this displaced family in Taiz governorate. ©CSSW

In Sana'a, there were a new series of incidents. A vehicle born improvised explosive device (IED) detonated in front of al-Woshah Hall on 30 June: 35 individuals were injured, including eight women. On the same day, an IED detonated in front of Bani Mansour mosque, killing one person. A massive fire erupted at Aden's oil refinery on 27 June and was again targeted on 29 June. In April industry sources said that the refinery (producing 150,000 barrels per day) had shut its operations and declared force majeure on its imports. On 30 June around 1,200 prisoners reportedly escaped from a prison in Taiz amid heavy clashes.

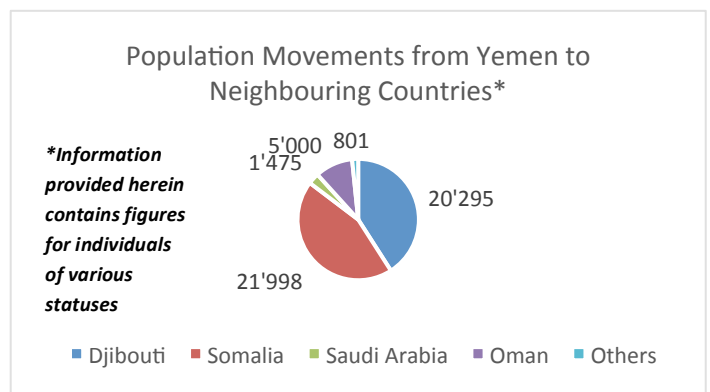
On 25 June, the UN Security Council members endorsed the Secretary General's call for a second humanitarian pause, stressing the urgent need for ongoing commercial supplies to enter Yemen. The SG urged all parties to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance across Yemen, as well as rapid, safe, and unhindered access for all humanitarian actors. The Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien echoed similar concerns, highlighting the collapse of basic services and extreme shortages of food and fuel in Yemen.

On 1 July, a system-wide Level 3 Emergency in Yemen was declared for an initial period of six months with an interim review expected in September. On the same day, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees declared an internal Level 3 Emergency and appointed a Regional Refugee coordinator to be based in Djibouti.

Departures from Yemen

Djibouti: According to IOM and the Djibouti government, 20,295 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 30 June (since 26 March). Of those, 9,256 persons (45%) are Yemeni nationals, 9,262 (46%) are transiting TCNs and 1,777 persons (9%) are Djiboutian returnees. As of 1 July, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) registered 2,179 refugees, of whom 2,060 are Yemeni nationals (since 31 March).

Somalia: Some 21,998 individuals have arrived since the beginning of the crisis, the majority being Somali nationals. The proportion of the arrivals in need of assistance is increasing. On 25 June, one boat arrived in Bossaso carrying 209 individuals (57 women, 73 men and 79 children). On 30 June, a boat carrying 15 Yemenis new arrivals (9 women and 6 men) arrived



in Zeilac, Somaliland, and on July 2 a ship carrying a total of 3,502 individuals docked in Bossasso Port. Over 5,500 persons have been assisted with onward transportation from Berbera (around 2,000) and Bossaso (around 3,500) to their areas of origin, the majority in South Central regions (mainly Mogadishu).

New Arrivals to Yemen

- New arrivals continued to reach the Yemen Red Sea and Arabian Sea coasts and regular information was shared on smuggler boats by the Combined Maritime Forces operating along the Gulf of Aden. Nine boats with 794 new arrivals (737 Ethiopians and 57 Somalis, of whom 718 men and 76 women) reached the Arabian Sea coast from the Horn of Africa, despite the intensifying conflict in the southern governorates. Upon screening, 26 asylum seekers, 15 unaccompanied minors and one older person were identified.
- UNHCR's partner the Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) continues patrolling the Red Sea Coast on a daily basis. However, the collapse of the telephone network makes communications difficult. YRC has encountered a total of 181 migrants since April, including 12 during the month of June.
- UNHCR is concerned by the number of new arrivals, still reporting being misinformed about the situation in Yemen. During a focus group discussion held at the Mayfa'a reception centre by UNHCR staff, new arrivals informed being misled by the assurance of smugglers that the war had ended and that a peace agreement had been reached. Unaccompanied and separated children informed UNHCR staff that they only heard about the ongoing conflict after arriving in Bosasso (Somalia) and could not afford to return therefore they had no alternative but to continue the risky journey. A handful of people also came fully aware of the dangers preferring to take the risk, even of death, rather than stay with no economic or educational opportunities.
- According to the information collected by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), since the beginning of the conflict, up to 647 migrants were abducted upon landing on the Red Sea coasts, including an estimated number of 53 women.

Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Some 21 police officers and 20 and 18 members of the Somali refugee and Oromo-Ogaden communities (respectively) participated in awareness sessions on the 1951 Refugee Convention conducted by detention lawyers from UNHCR's partner InterSOS. The Somali and Oromo-Ogaden communities were advised on their rights and obligations under Yemeni Law and women's rights in sessions given by InterSOS GBV lawyers.
- 14 children (10 Somalis, 1 Ethiopian, and 3 Eritreans) were counseled by UNHCR's partner Millennium Development Foundation (MDF) in Sana'a. MDF also conducted age assessments for four Ethiopian children, Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for three unaccompanied Eritrean children and home visits for eight children.
- UNHCR coordinated with refugee community leaders in Aden to identify households with specific needs and consequently provided a total of 289 families with cash assistance last week (108 Somali and 98 Ethiopian refugee families) in addition to the 83 persons with specific needs, who were already receiving cash assistance. This latter list includes unaccompanied minors, survivors of GBV, and other specific needs.
- Results of a joint UNHCR, InterSOS and IOM assessment, held on 10 June in Hadramaut governorate, identified urgent needs related to food, health care, safe and clean water, emergency assistance, counseling, and capacity development of local organizations in Mukalla.
- UNHCR's partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) manages the IDP Community Centre in Hajjah governorate. The centre was relocated within the governorate and activities are continuing through mobile services, such as protection



UNHCR staff in Kharaz Refugee Camp consulting a refugee ©InterSOS/M. Mahdi

monitoring, psychosocial services and awareness-raising. Currently, CSSW is able to reach five districts in Hajjah. UNHCR will scale-up the mobile services with CSSW so to reach more locations and avoid IDPs having to travel to too far due to the insecurity and limited transport options.

Saudi Arabia:

- As many as 7,500 Yemeni families received Ramadan food baskets, supplied by King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid and distributed by WFP.
- Since June 29, some 254,769 Yemeni nationals have regularized their situation. The General Department of Passport (GDP) granted Syrian and Palestinian nationals who fled from Yemen, three-month visiting visas extendable for an unlimited period until the situation in Yemen stabilizes.

Djibouti:

- On 25 June, 177 new individuals arrived at the port of Obock. Five Djiboutian and 24 Yemeni nationals holding American passports were authorized to continue to Djibouti. Some 42 individuals were registered with UNHCR and were provided with water, food and shelter at Markazi camp.
- Between 14 and 29 June the Red Crescent received a total of 1,975 requests for family tracing services at Markazi Camp, the ports of Djibouti and Obock, as well as at the IOM transit centre.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- UNHCR's partner International Relief and Development (IRD) was forced to suspend operations for two weeks as their office in Sana'a was overwhelmed with refugees and asylum seekers requesting cash assistance, causing a security threat to staff.
- During a meeting with UNHCR in Sana'a, refugee leaders raised their key needs: comprehensive cash assistance, humanitarian evacuation from Yemen due to insecurity, and access to employment opportunities. The leaders also reported the inability to obtain documents from local authorities to travel beyond Sana'a.
- In Aden, 50 unaccompanied refugee teenagers, who were living in a group shelter, have left due to insecurity. The InterSos social worker is in contact with all those remaining in Aden; six are now living at a local hospital, four have left for Saudi Arabia and the remaining 40 are living at a mosque in al-Mansoura district with other refugee and IDP families; cash assistance has been provided to all.
- In the Kharaz refugee camp, numerous refugees voiced their concerns to InterSos on a daily basis regarding limited water hours, the lack of food and fuel, and the inability to access any income. The situation in the camp continues to deteriorate due to fighting in the area making it difficult to transport aid.

Health

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Between 24 and 28 June, CSSW mobile clinic treated 169 refugees and IDPs in the Aden Al Tadamon Kindergarten, the Aden Market, and the 30 November secondary school. Medical issues for children were diarrhea and for both children and adults skin infections and heat rashes.
- In Sana'a, UNHCR's partner International Medical Corps (IMC) treated 169 patients (60 Yemenis, 109 Refugees). Some 39 cases received counseling for psychosocial, GBV and HIV issues; 101 patients received medication; and free consultations and medication were provided to 54 vulnerable refugees.

Djibouti:

- All new arrivals to the port of Djibouti and Obock and at Markazi camp receive first-aid services from the Red Crescent. Upon arrival, children from 6 months to 15 years receive measles and polio vaccinations and Vitamin A supplements.
- Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) has provided 662 consultations to patients with chronic medical conditions.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Djibouti:

- UNHCR is advocating with the Health Working Group to ONARS and the government of Djibouti for the possible relocation of vulnerable refugees from Markazi camp to Obock city. Some 229 vulnerable persons have been identified, including 62 elderly persons; 114 under-five children; 13 pregnant women; and, 40 patients with chronic medical conditions.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- A needs assessment was conducted in nine areas of Aden. Among the most urgent needs identified are shelter and food, the latter having also been raised by refugee families in contact with UNHCR.

Djibouti:

- Distribution of hot meals to refugees in Obock resumed on 29 June. Al Rahma Association has combined efforts with UNHCR by providing iftar meals for 500 refugees.
- On 27 June, a donation from the King Salman Association and the Royal Charity Organization of Bahrain of various food items including flour, sugar, water and rice arrived at Markazi camp and distributed to families with specific needs identified during the verification exercise conducted on 20 June.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- Two WFP trucks carrying food arrived at Kharaz camp on 21 June. The food was not distributed because three additional trucks are needed to complete the food ration. WFP has been unable to access the camp to complete the food ration. Over two weeks have passed since the scheduled food distribution on 15 June and the entire camp population is in dire need of food.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Djibouti:

- The Red Crescent conducts promotional sessions on hygiene at the transit centre at the port of Obock and at Markazi camp. The sessions include hand washing, use of latrines and environment management.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- UNHCR's partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) has been running water pumps in the Kharaz refugee camp for 13 hours a day. This means that each refugee block only receives water for 1.5 hours each day. UNHCR is working with SHS to improve the pumping facilities and increase pumping hours.

Djibouti:

- Emptying pit latrines remains a challenge in Obock with the absence of a fully functioning waste management system.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- During the past week, UNHCR's partner the Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) has distributed emergency aid to 1,179 families (6,832 individuals) in



UNHCR's partner Al Amal distributing emergency aid to displaced families in Hodeidah governorate. ©Al-Amal/J.Jaber

Amran governorate. From the onset of the conflict, UNHCR and partners have distributed aid to 9,098 families (56,369 individuals) across Yemen.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- The Ministry of Public Health in Yemen in coordination with UNHCR, OCHA and WHO is organizing a UN convoy from Sana'a to Aden containing mainly medical supplies, set to leave on 2 July. UNHCR will send the two UNHCR trucks to carry 5,500 sleeping mats and some 500 mattresses for vulnerable families in Aden.
- UNHCR has deployed 29 trucks from Hodeidah to Amran, two trucks to Hodeidah and two trucks to Sana'a governorates with emergency aid for distribution to internally displaced families.

Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- Some 25 cases were approved for resettlement to France and 15 cases to Sweden. Protection staff are coordinating with the Resettlement Hub and IOM to prepare their travel documents. While flight dates have not yet been confirmed, it is expected that the departure will be through Khartoum in Sudan on IOM humanitarian evacuation flights.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- UNHCR was represented at the Inter Cluster Coordination Meeting (ICCM) on 30 June where the six-month operational plan was reviewed. Funding gaps in particular for national and international NGOs remain an issue of concern.
- At the UNCT on 1 July the programme criticality list was finalized. UNHCR has three programme criticality 1 activities in the document: protection and rescue at sea, refugee management at the Kharaz refugee camp, as well as emergency shelter to new IDP arrivals. It was announced that a Risk Management Unit is planned to be established in Yemen. The follow-up meeting to the Consultative Meeting on Yemen, which took place in early May 2015 is planned for September 2015 with a wide range of relevant stakeholders.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

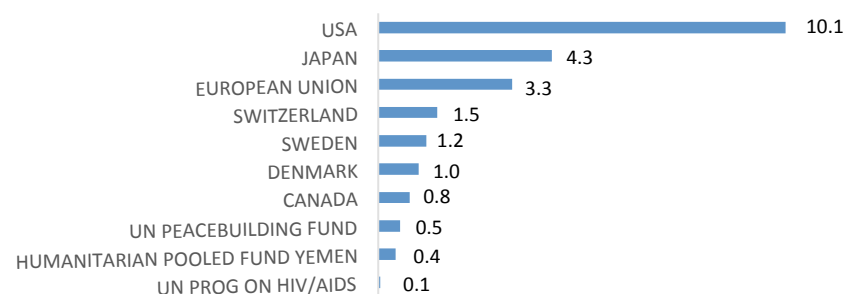
Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 23.2 million**.

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 unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Major donors of unrestricted and regional contributions in 2015:

United States of America (133 M) | Sweden (80 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | Private Donors Spain (15 M) | France (14 M) | Canada (11 M)

Funding received (in million USD)



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