

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #8

5 June, 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,311,972

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

1,019,762

People displaced in Yemen as a result of the conflict (since 27 March).

42,210

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

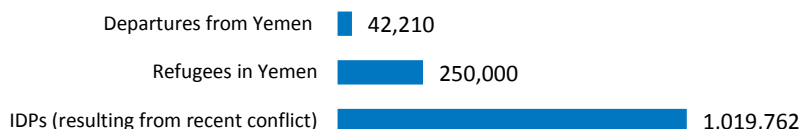
- The Humanitarian Coordinator endorsed the new figure for internally displaced persons, which was updated from the previously reported 545,719 individuals to 1,019,762 individuals. This significant increase is the result of consolidation of data and greater access to areas that were previously inaccessible.
- Plans are underway to raise the staff ceiling for international UN staff in Yemen from 17 to 70. This will include 11 UNHCR staff members and additional slots for the UNHCR Representative in his capacity as Humanitarian Coordinator and the Field Security Adviser.
- UNHCR is preparing to receive lifesaving assistance from the ship due to arrive on 6 June from Dubai, carrying supplies for 50,000 households.
- The Somalia Response Plan for the Yemen Crisis and the Djibouti Response Plan for the Yemen Crisis (April - September 2015) were released on 4 June and shared with donors, governments, partners and agencies.
- In Djibouti, as of 1 June, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) registered 1,823 refugees; 1,746 are Yemeni nationals (since 27 March). Some 1,128 refugees are registered in Obock or are hosted at the Markazi camp.
- UNHCR continues to advocate with the authorities in Djibouti for the freedom of movement for Yemeni refugees and for the return of personal documents.
- In Somalia, between 22 May and 4 June, four boats arrived in Bossaso port, Puntland, and five boats to Berbera port, Somaliland, with a total of 3,964 new arrivals. Some 12,291 individuals have arrived to Somalia from Yemen since the start of the crisis.



Kifah and Basel helping the IDPs during distribution of CRIs in 30 November school yard in Yemen © UNHCR/ Basel Mousa

Population of concern

A total of **1,311,972** people of concern*



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

As a result of the consolidation of data reported by humanitarian agencies on the ground and the ability to reach previously inaccessible locations, the new figure of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has been updated and endorsed by the Humanitarian Coordinator. The previously reported figure of 545,719 IDPs as of 14 May is now 1,019,762 individuals. Figures have almost doubled as a result of the collection of new data, in particular from Hajjah, Amran, Hadramaut, and Aden. However, several governorates remain underreported, namely Aden, Sa'ada, and Sana'a due to the inability for UNHCR and partners to reach these areas. The governorates most affected by the displacement crisis are Hajjah and Al Dhale with more than 200,000 IDPs in each governorate.

Intense violence was reported in Sa'ada, Amran, Maarib, Hajjah, AlJawf, Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb, Al-Dhale, and Abyan governorates including an explosion at the weapons depot in Nugom Mountain in Sana'a on 2 June, causing large-scale destruction. Debris from the explosions fell as far as five kilometres away, triggering an exodus of residents looking for safer areas. At least eight civilians were killed and 20 wounded.

The southern governorates are now facing a food and water crisis. Food and medical supplies are hampered from reaching the governorates via land or sea. On 3 June, UNHCR received a report of fighting in the Mayfa'a market in Shabwah governorate over water where one Somali individual was killed and two were injured. Communication with the southern governorates of Yemen is increasingly difficult. Telecommunication breakdown has been a major challenge and the internet connection is unstable. The road to Kharaz camp is no longer safe to travel. Lack of transport and fuel are preventing UNHCR's partners from moving vulnerable people from Basateen to Kharaz Camp. The Bab Al-Mandab transit centre at the southern tip between Lahj and Taizz governorates has irregular communication with UNHCR and reports are that the area is unsafe.



UNHCR staff support a distribution of relief items to marginalized IDPs in 30 November School in Sana'a ©UNHCR Basel Mousa

UN humanitarian agencies plan to further increase the ceiling for international UN staff in Yemen (Sana'a) from 17 to 70.

The UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, is preparing for consultations between the parties in Geneva during the month of June.

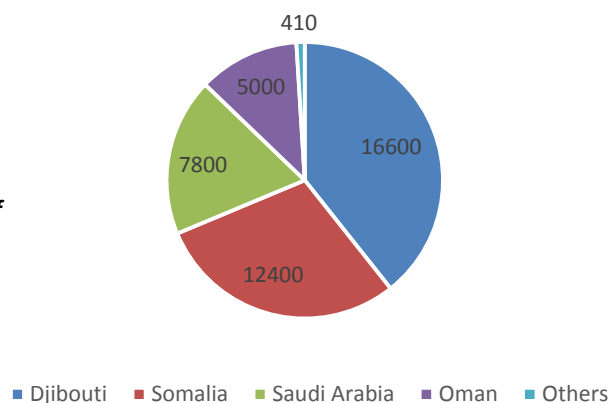
Departures from Yemen

Djibouti: According to the latest available statistics from IOM and the Djibouti government, 16,611 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 31 May (since 27 March). Of those, 8,309 persons (50%) are Yemeni nationals, 6,577 are third country nationals (40%), and 1,725 persons are Djiboutian returnees.

Somalia: There are a total of 12,291 arrivals from Yemen since the onset of the crisis. The latest boat arrival carried 183 individuals (63 men, 53 women and 67 children), on 1 June to Bossaso. In Berbera, three boats arrived during the reporting period with 382 individuals, including 235 Somalis and 147 Yemenis (28 May – 56 persons, 29 May - 285 persons and 2 June - 41 persons). The boats departed from Mokha, Yemen. The journey took 12-14 hours and passengers reportedly paid USD 100 each.

Population Movements from Yemen to Neighbouring Countries*

**Information provided herein contains figures for individuals of various statuses.*



Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR and its partners have intensified child protection efforts. UNHCR's partner the Millennium Development Foundation (MDF) met with refugee community leaders to introduce a child protection project in Sana'a. During the week MDF received three cases of abandoned refugee children. MDF is working closely with InterSos lawyers, the United Refugee Community Centre, the police, and refugee community leaders to address the cases and identify suitable foster care arrangements.
- InterSos staff continue operating in Basateen working with unaccompanied minors/separated children persons with mental disabilities. As the situation in Basateen continues to deteriorate, transport for people with specific needs is being sought to transport them to Kharaz camp. However, transport and fuel have not been identified as of yet.
- Over the week, the Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) located 63 Ethiopian new arrivals (56 males, 7 females) in Lahj and Taizz governorates along the Red Sea Coast. All new arrivals were screened at the Al Bab-Mandab reception centre.
- The Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) encountered 251 Ethiopians (235 males, 16 females) and nine Somalis (6 males, 3 females) along the Arabian Coast. All new arrivals were screened at the Mayfa'a reception centre.
- UNHCR is working with InterSos and its operational partner, Emirates Red Crescent, to distribute food rations and cash assistance to cover basic needs for families that have fled Basateen, Aden, and relocated to Kharaz camp in Lahj and to various locations in Hadramaut governorate.

Djibouti:

- As of 1 June, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) registered 1,823 refugees, of which 1,746 are Yemeni nationals (since 27 March); 1,128 refugees are registered in Obock and are hosted at the Markazi camp.
- UNHCR continues to advocate for the freedom of movement for Yemeni refugees in Djibouti and the handing back of their personal documents taking by the Djiboutian authorities.
- UNHCR continuously provides registered refugees in Obock with refugee cards.

Saudi Arabia:

- UNHCR received a total of eight families/23 persons who fled Yemen. 6 families (14 persons) were Yemeni and the other two families (9 persons) were Syrians. All families crossed through Al-Twal border.

- UNHCR has conducted five workshops targeting some 100 female and male officials from the General Department for Passports (GDP). The workshops informed officials on the UNHCR mandate and various protection issues related to the arrival of Yemeni nationals to Saudi Arabia.
- Some 72,800 Yemenis have benefited from the Royal Decree and legalized their situation. Other nationalities are provided with one month visa that were extended for another month to facilitate their departure. The Yemeni Embassy in Riyadh has regularized through the issuing of some 231,000 documents for Yemenis residing irregularly in the Kingdom. The majority of these individuals are said to have been in Saudi Arabia prior to the start of the conflict.

Somalia:

- In Berbera, many new arrivals travelled onwards while some required further assistance. Vulnerability assessments were conducted and IOM transportation was made available. By 31 May, all but one family of new arrivals had vacated the reception centre.
- UNHCR staff and members of the Ministry of Interior (Mol), met with the Ambassador of Yemen and around 100 Yemeni nationals currently located in Bossaso to coordinate registration of Yemeni asylum-seekers. An information leaflet was developed to provide information on asylum procedures in Bossaso to new arrivals. UNHCR also conducted a half day workshop on 2 June for the Mol and UNHCR registration team to strengthen registration both at the reception centre for new arrivals and registration of new asylum-seekers at the UNHCR office.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted two training sessions for duty bearers to strengthen the protection of migrants, returnees, and refugees. The target audience for these sessions included government ministries, civil society organizations, reception centre management, port immigration officers and judiciaries.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- For over a month the Yemeni Red Crescent (YRC) has been unable to communicate with UNHCR from the Bab Al-Mandab centre. To reach the cellular network YRC staff must travel for several hours along the highly dangerous coastal road to Mokha.
- An increasing number of refugees are contacting UNHCR in Sana'a to inquire about registration or renew refugee IDs; registration and renewal continue for emergency cases. UNHCR met with refugee community leaders on 1 June to discuss appointment-based registration and renewal of activities at the UNHCR office to avoid overcrowding.
- UNHCR's partner International Relief and Development (IRD) reported large crowds of refugees in front of their office each day demanding financial assistance.
- The majority of refugees residing in Basateen, Aden have relocated to Kharaz camp in Lahj governorate or to locations in Hadramaut governorate, leaving approximately 200 vulnerable families in Basateen that were unable to leave. Remaining families report that they have no financial resources to travel to safer areas.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR is intensifying advocacy efforts for freedom of movement for Yemeni refugees in Djibouti following the announcement of the Government of Djibouti to restrict departures from Obock to Djibouti city. UNHCR is very concerned about the situation of the Yemeni arrivals in Djibouti, who face severe restrictions on their freedom of movement with the option of staying in a reception centre in Obock or in Markazi refugee camp where water availability and sanitation facilities are insufficient.

Somalia:

- Security at the reception centre in Bossaso remains a primary concern. The Puntland Mol, along with Task Force members is developing standard procedures for security to tighten current practices. Also, with more and more arrivals reaching the port, the risk of double registration has been identified. A token system will be introduced to better monitor those arriving from the port as well as movement to and from the reception centre.
- Following the increased number of arrivals to Berbera, the Somaliland authorities and New Arrivals Task Force members are identifying additional buildings for second and third reception centres. The second reception centre will be set up in a school; discussions are ongoing about the identification of a more permanent location.

- New arrivals on the boat from 28 May advised that their passports were taken from them at the port in Mokha and given to the boat crew, who subsequently provided the passports to the authorities in Berbera upon arrival. No other protection or security incidents prior to or during the journey were reported.

Education

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- UNHCR's partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) were unable to conduct English classes due to heavy shelling in Sana'a over the past week.

Health

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- The Basateen Health Clinic in Aden was closed due to shelling in the area with many injuries in the vicinity. On 1 June, UNHCR's partner the Charitable Society of Social Welfare (CSSW) conducted an exploratory visit to the clinic to assess the situation. The mission observed very few people in Basateen; offices, stores and restaurants were closed. CSSW is providing referral activities via telephone and reviewing options to maintain health services given the shortage of fuel and security issues.
- The Kharaz clinic is running out of medicine. Plans are underway to have a one month supply sent to the camp once security on the road to the camp improves.

Somalia:

- Save the Children (SCI) has, thus far, made 286 medical referrals at the reception centre in Bossaso.
- Many new arrivals from 29 May to Berbera required additional assistance because of the length of time at sea. Many reported symptoms of dehydration.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Saudi Arabia:

- The convoy 'Campaign of Hope' arrived in Yemen through the Al-Wadaiah border crossing carrying more than 350 tons of food and medical supplies. The operation is conducted under the supervision of the King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Work in coordination with the evacuation and humanitarian operations department at the Ministry of Defense. The World Food Programme (WFP) will receive and distribute the relief materials.

Somalia:

- WFP, through its partner Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA), provides meals at the reception centre in Bossaso. SCI provides milk and nutrition-high biscuits for all new arrivals to the centre. After the first day they continue to provide this to children, pregnant and lactating women and other persons with specific needs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- On 1 June, a WFP ship with 5,700 tons of food assistance was diverted from the port of Aden to Hodeidah port following reports of ongoing fighting and security threats.¹ Food planned for distribution in Kharaz camp was on the vessel. The change of port may pose additional problems in terms of food supply for the camp.

¹ World Food Programme: WFP ship with food assistance for Yemen diverted to Hodeidah from Aden <http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-ship-food-assistance-yemen-diverted-hudaydah-aden>

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Djibouti:

- A Senior Regional WASH Officer arrived for a one week-mission to Djibouti. The aim is, amongst others, to provide guidance on WASH infrastructure in Markazi camp, to address the challenges with latrines currently in place and to find sustainable solutions for the provision of water on the site.
- L'Office Nationale des Eaux de Djibouti (ONEAD) installed a water pump near one of the bladders. Once connected, the bladder will automatically fill and only one bladder needs to be filled via water trucks provided by UNHCR.

Somalia:

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is currently conducting a hygiene awareness campaign aimed to encourage reception centre staff and new arrivals to maintain a clean and positive environment.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Djibouti:

- The availability of water in the region of Obock is challenging. UNHCR is currently providing water for the two water bladders at Markazi camp (total capacity 30,000 l) with a water truck (capacity 20,000 l). With 1,200 refugees in the camp, a third bladder needs to be installed at Markazi camp. UNHCR is working with Action Contre la Faim (ACF) who provided the two water bladders already in place to install a third.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- In the past week, UNHCR distributed emergency relief items to 778 families in Hajjah, Hodaidah, Abyan and Amran governorates through its partners Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS), Al Amal and the Yemen Red Crescent (YRC).

Djibouti:

- Some 325 tents and 38 latrines are in place at Markazi camp and 38 additional latrines are under construction.

Somalia:

- NRC has procured 500 non-food item kits, 500 hygiene kits and 170 emergency shelter kits for arrivals to Bossaso. New Arrivals Task Force members will discuss distribution criteria and the modality.



Distribution at the Sheikh Othman Schools in Aden © UNHCR/D.Almeyoni

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- Currently, 7,000 litres of fuel remain in Kharaz camp, only enough for the camp to operate for approximately three weeks. The situation in the camp has reached an alarming and critical state.
- The population in Kharaz camp as of 3 June is reported to be 24,820 persons. Since the end of March, 120 former camp residents returned to the camp and 3,200 displaced refugees from urban areas (Somalis and Ethiopians from Basateen) joined the camp.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR is preparing to receive lifesaving assistance from the ship due to arrive on 6 June from Dubai, carrying supplies for 50,000 households, including 129,580 medium thermal blankets, 19,413 kitchen sets, 9,527 plastic sheeting, 30,460 high thermal blankets, 69,350 sleeping mats and 50,000 buckets.

Somalia:

- On 25 May, UNHCR provided onward travel assistance to 151 individuals to enable them to return to their area of origin as well as to 127 individuals (33 households) on 1 June. Since the beginning of the crisis, UNHCR has supported 778 individuals in this way. Cumulatively, the Task Force has assisted approximately 1,373 individuals to return to their areas of origin, primarily located in areas of South Central Somalia regions. The local community has also been providing returnees with travel assistance.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) is currently under review. UNHCR and IOM in coordination with partners are updating the Refugee and Migrants Chapter to reflect the current needs.
- UNHCR, as the Protection and Shelter/NFI Cluster lead, held Review Board meetings on the selection of projects to be funded under the second Reserve Allocation for Yemen for 2015. Recommendations have been submitted to the Humanitarian Coordinator.

Djibouti:

- On 1 June, UNHCR met with a delegation of the US Embassy and a health expert from BPRM who arrived for a 9-day-mission in Djibouti. He will meet with UN agencies, the delegation of the European Union, as well as NGOs operating in Djibouti. UNHCR is facilitating the visits to Ali Addeh and Holl Holl Camp on 3 and 4 June, as well as the visit of Markazi camp on 7 June. Talks with refugees, partners, and as well as with local authorities are planned.

Somalia:

- UNHCR Hargeisa maintained a constant presence of international staff in Berbera for the last two weeks, and held coordination meetings with partners and the authorities.

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