

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR CRISIS UPDATE #7

29 May, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

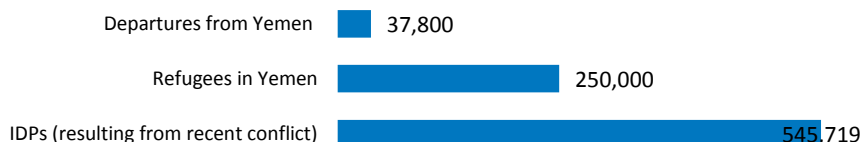
- The UN-sponsored peace conference scheduled for 28 May in Geneva has been postponed.
- Conflict resumed in various areas of Yemen after the end of the humanitarian pause, severely limiting humanitarian access and forcing civilians to flee their homes. Clashes on 27 May marked the deadliest day in Yemen with 80 individuals killed.
- On 24 May, UNHCR Dubai loaded a cargo ship with life sustaining items that departed for the port of Hodeida in Yemen. The ship is carrying 160,040 thermal blankets, 19,413 kitchen sets, 9,527 plastic sheeting, 50,000 buckets, and 69,350 sleeping mats.
- On 26 May, UNHCR medical supplies arrived to the Sana'a International Airport through a WHO chartered flight. This essential supply, weighing 991 kilograms, contained lifesaving medicines such as antibiotics, analgesics, and oral rehydration solutions.
- Movements of people continues; a boat carrying 2,413 individuals (678 men, 793 women and 942 children), arrived on 27 May 2015 to the port of Bossaso in Somalia from Mukalla, Yemen. This brings the total arrivals in Somalia from Yemen to 11,692 individuals (9,279 plus 2,413) since late March.
- As of 25 May, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) registered 1,688 refugees in Djibouti, including 1,550 Yemeni nationals (since 27 March).



UNHCR distributes water to new arrivals at the port of Bossaso in Puntland. In total 2,413 new arrivals reached Bossaso on 27 May © UNHCR

Population of concern

A total of **833,519** people of concern*



**The number of people of concern to UNHCR has decreased from earlier reports. Many of the previously reported 330,000 IDPs prior to the current conflict have likely been subsumed in the new IDP figure of 545,000. Verification is ongoing to review the figure.*

KEY FIGURES

833,519

People of concern to UNHCR, including refugees and persons displaced prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

545,719

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

37,800

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.

31

Protection assessments conducted within the refugee community in Sana'a.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Peace talks slated to begin on 28 May in Geneva have been postponed. The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, has instructed his Special Envoy to redouble efforts to consult with all parties and countries in the region to produce a “comprehensive ceasefire and the resumption of peaceful dialogue and an orderly political transition.”

Violence has resumed in many areas in the country after the end of the humanitarian pause, severely limiting humanitarian access and forcing civilians to flee their homes. Clashes on 27 May marked the deadliest day in Yemen since 26 March with a reported 80 people killed and 100 injured.

Coalition airstrikes targeted several locations in Yemen, namely Sa’ada, Marib, Jawf, Sana’a, Dhamar, Bayda, Taiz, Al Dhale, Hajjah, and Lahj governorates. Intensified clashes and shelling were reported at the northern border of Yemen (Sa’ada governorate). On 21 May, a projectile hit an area next to the IOM migrant response centre in Haradh at the Saudi border. At least 12 people were wounded on 22 May due to an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in Al Sayyah mosque in Shoab district of Sana'a during the Friday prayers. The headquarters of the Yemeni Special Forces, located in the centre of the city (Haddah), were hit by an explosion on 27 May with reports of over 40 casualties.

In Aden, armed clashes took place in Dar Sad, Sheikh Othman and Khor Makser districts causing massive displacements. According to UNICEF, since the escalation of conflict at the end of March, as many as 135 children have been killed and 260 injured. Almost one third of the deaths were in Aden where violence has accelerated again in recent days.

WHO reports that hospitals around the country are closing emergency rooms and intensive care units due to shortages in staff and fuel. Medicines for diabetes, hypertension and cancer are no longer available. WHO also cited reports of 484 suspected cases of dengue fever with two reported deaths; WHO staff in Yemen are hoping to send rapid diagnostic kits for both dengue fever and malaria.

The UNHCR Representative in Yemen, in his capacity as Humanitarian Coordinator discussed modalities for regular UNHAS flights (Djibouti-Sana’a-Djibouti).

In several areas, fuel prices have increased by more than 500 per cent and the price of wheat flour has increased by 80 per cent since 26 March. According to Oxfam, 16 million Yemenis, almost two thirds of the country’s population have no access to clean water. "Ongoing air strikes, ground fighting and fuel shortages mean that an additional three million Yemenis are now without drinking water, raising the total number of Yemenis without a clean water supply and sanitation to at least 16 million."

UNHCR’s key humanitarian partners and other UN agency partners continue to deliver food, health supplies, and fuel to support those in need when and where possible.

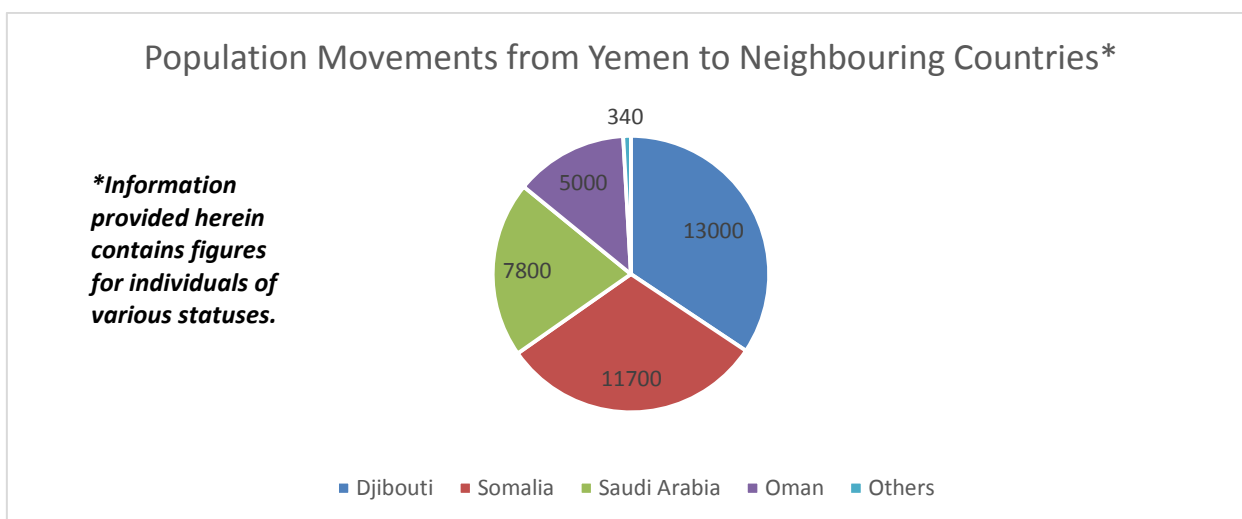


UNHCR staff distributing essential household items at the Amena Bent Wahb School in Sana’a. ©UNHCR

Departures from Yemen

Djibouti: According to IOM and the Government of Djibouti, as of 21 May, there are an estimated 12,989 persons that arrived to Djibouti from Yemen since 27 March. Of those, 5,846 are third country nationals (TCNs), 5,455 persons are Yemeni nationals, and 1,688 persons are registered with UNHCR.

Somalia: On 27 May, a boat that departed from Mukalla, Yemen, carrying 2,413 individuals (678 men, 793 women and 942 children), arrived at the port of Bossaso, Puntland. Among the new arrivals were 72 Yemenis, one British national and the remaining 2,340 were Somali nationals. The total number of new arrivals from Yemen since the beginning of the crisis in Yemen increased to 11,692 individuals.



Achievements

Protection

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- International Relief and Development (IRD) conducted 22 individual vulnerability assessments and nine re-assessments at the refugee community centre in Sana'a.
- On 21 May, UNHCR's partner, the Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) encountered 172 new arrivals (164 Ethiopians, 8 Somalis). At the Mayfa'a reception centre, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) screened and identified 11 asylum seekers and six unaccompanied minors. Due to electricity blackouts and network difficulties, UNHCR has not received further information (since 21 May) from the Mayfa'a or Bab Al Mandab reception centres.

Djibouti:

- As a result of the coordination meeting co-led by ONARS/UNHCR on 25 May, the Minister of Interior (MoI) approved the registration of urban Yemeni refugees in Djibouti city for legal protection and medical care, which will be provided to them in Markazi camp.
- As of 25 May, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) registered 1,688 refugees, which includes 1,550 Yemeni nationals (since 27 March). According to the provisional statistics, 1,121 refugees are registered in Obock and hosted in the temporary transit centre Al-Rahma orphanage and at Markazi camp.
- About 300 persons are currently staying in the transit centre at the Port of Djibouti. Of those, 55 persons have requested asylum; 44 persons will be transferred to Holl Holl camp and 11 to Markazi camp. About 200 persons have ongoing visa processing with the United States Embassy, and 27 persons plan to travel on to other countries.

- Some 574 refugee documents, including 234 family attestations and 340 refugee ID cards, were sent to Obock on 27 May. The documents will be distributed to the respective owners in Markazi camp in the coming days.
- A Child Protection rapid assessment was conducted in Obock by UNICEF, UNHCR, and DRC. The assessment team collected information through sample interviews, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews in Markazi camp as well as the Al Rahma transit centre. The results will guide the response by the Protection Working Group.
- UNHCR and ONARS prepared an information brochure on asylum procedures in Djibouti for new Yemeni arrivals.
- UNHCR continues its advocacy with the Djibouti government to ensure access for all persons in search of safety and international protection.

Oman:

- UNHCR concluded a mission to Oman and met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and the Oman Charity Organization. UNHCR requested information on the number of arrivals from Yemen and offered trainings on refugee and protection principles.

Saudi Arabia:

- The Saudi authority and Yemeni Vice President Khalid Bahah inaugurated the Hope centre on 24 May in Jeddah. The centre assists the Yemeni consulate in the regularization of Yemenis' status. UNHCR conducted four trainings in Jeddah and Khabar for male and female officials. The trainings covered various topics including UNHCR's mandate, the legal framework for protection of refugees, refugees in mixed migration situations, guiding principles on detention of refugees and asylum seekers, coordination, and refugee rights and obligations.
- According to the government of Saudi Arabia, 13,819 Yemenis have had their status regularized.

Somalia:

- On 25 May in Puntland, UNHCR staff registered 44 individuals, and on 27 May, another 32 individuals. All registered individuals on these two days were Yemeni nationals. Registration will continue to take place at the UNHCR Bossaso office to ensure all Yemenis, as well as other nationalities, have access to information and asylum-procedures. Information concerning available services to returnees was provided by all Task Force members represented at the port.
- On 25 May, UNHCR provided onward travel assistance to 151 individuals in Puntland to enable them to return to their area of origin, primarily in South Central Somalia. In total, UNHCR has supported 651 individuals with onward transportation assistance. Additionally, Save the Children (SCI) provided onward travel for 23 individuals. On 28 May, the community aims to assist 300 individuals with onward transportation.
- IOM facilitated the return of 18 Ethiopian nationals on 26 May from Puntland and should arrive to Ethiopia the next day.
- UNHCR in Puntland provided cash subsistence allowance to all households that were registered as refugees on 25 May. In partnership with the MoI, UNHCR also rehabilitated the existing reception centre and is in the process of identifying another transit centre to increase government reception capacity.
- From the boat carrying 936 individuals in Somaliland, (21 May) 540 vulnerable individuals were provided with cash assistance (120 USD per individual) by IOM for transportation to Mogadishu. Ninety four individuals were identified by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Comprehensive Community-based Rehabilitation Services (CCBRS) for transportation support to different locations in Somaliland; 47 individuals received return grants. No new arrivals are remaining in the primary or secondary reception centre.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:

- UNHCR's partner SHS continues to patrol the Arabian coast. Due to the lack of fuel patrolling the coast has been reduced from three times per day to once per day, fuel for the office generator is reduced by 50 per cent and electricity has been discontinued in parts of the office. SHS agreed with local fishermen to inform them of any new arrivals in the absence of SHS patrolling.

- Kharaz refugee camp operates at minimum capacity due to the lack of fuel.
- Registration and renewal of identity documents for refugees and asylum seekers continues to be postponed until a secure location to operate is available.
- Refugees continue to approach UNHCR for cash assistance in order to leave Aden for other governorates, namely Hadramaut.
- Access to and communication with several governorates in Yemen is increasingly challenging. UNHCR has been unable to conduct protection assessments or distribute lifesaving aid in Sa'ada governorate.

Djibouti:

- Medical cases in Markazi camp requiring special care and treatment are being referred to the Obock regional medical centre. However, there are shortages of essential drugs, equipment, and basic medical supplies. Complex cases including pregnant women in need of caesarean interventions or other surgeries are referred to the capital Djibouti-city, but the unavailability of a fully equipped ambulance hinders the provision of emergency care.

Somalia:

- The reception centre in Bossaso is over-crowded with the high number of new arrivals. This is of particular concern given that more arrivals are expected in the coming days. While information was shared with people about the availability of services at the reception centre, they were also informed that the centre is currently operating at over capacity. There is an urgent need to have the second reception centre as soon as possible to accommodate the growing number of arrivals.



On 21 May, UNHCR, ADRA, and InterSOS provided life sustaining items to 29 families living at the 22 May School in Sana'a. @UNHCR/A.Al-Hadi

Education

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR's partner, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) continues to provide English classes in Sana'a. However, classes were suspended on 25 May due to lack of fuel for electricity.

Djibouti:

- A mission to Obock by the Education Sector Working Group took place to prepare for the Education in Emergencies (EiE) programme. UNHCR and UNICEF organized focus group discussions with men, women, and children in Markazi camp with the aim to define the educational and recreational activities in the camp. The mission identified a local enterprise to pitch tents that will function as child-friendly spaces and host educational and recreational activities.
- UNICEF provided materials for preschool, primary, and low-secondary education and will cover the needs of up to 500 school-aged children during over a three month period.



Health

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- On 26 May, UNHCR medical supplies arrived to Sana'a Airport through a WHO chartered flight. This essential supply, weighing 991 kilograms, contained lifesaving medicines such as antibiotics, analgesics, and oral rehydration solutions.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR's medical partner, African Humanitarian Action (AHA) established a fulltime presence in Markazi camp and is providing medical check-ups, consultations, and referrals for serious medical cases to Djibouti city.
- Monitoring of the immunisation status is ongoing for all under-5 refugee children upon arrival. The Ministry of Health (MoH), with UNICEF support, is ensuring necessary healthcare to all children, including the provision of oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc for all children with diarrheal diseases, and antibiotic treatment for those affected by pneumonia.

Somalia:

- The health team (two doctors and two nurses) working at the reception centre in Bosasso, led by WHO, is comprised of the following organizations: UNFPA, IOM, SCI and the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS). Referrals are sent to either Bossaso public hospital or to Daryel Private Hospital. Medicins du Monde (MDM) provides maternal health care for those in need including the transfer of women in labour to delivery centres. They also have one ambulance on call for the referral of sick patients. SRCS has an outpatient medical department at the reception centre. SCI has so far made 286 medical referrals and covers inpatient costs including food and accommodation. SCI also constructed a shaded area for the health team to work under at the centre in Bosasso.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Yemen:** Health needs continue to grow as hospitals around the country are no longer able to operate without electricity and fuel, including UNHCR supported public health clinics.



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, and is conducted weekly in Markazi camp and the transit centres. According to the last screening (24 May), seven under-5 children and one pregnant woman are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and 19 under-5 children and one lactating woman are affected by moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). All of them are receiving adequate treatment and care at Obock regional medical centre.
- On 25 and 26 May, the Turkish Humanitarian Aid Organisation Kimse Yok Mu visited Markazi camp and provided 500 refugee families with additional food rations. All families received a package with 30 kg of food, (10kg rice, 5kg noodles, 5kg wheat flour, 5kg sugar and 5lts of sunflower oil).

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 scale down but continue to provide this to children, pregnant and lactating women and other persons with specific needs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Djibouti:

- The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) among Yemen refugee children continues to exceed WHO emergency threshold of 15 per cent. The Nutrition Working Group in Obock is establishing an adequate response to this situation.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Djibouti:

- The needs for safe water of all 850 refugees hosted at Markazi refugee camp are ensured. The two bladders established by Action Contre La Faim (ACF) and UNICEF in the camp are fully operational and the capacity (30m³) is adequate for the needs of up to 1,200 refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Djibouti:

- With the number of refugees in Markazi camp increasing, ACF and UNICEF secured the necessary materials and equipment to install a third bladder. Works will start as soon as the population hosted in the camp reaches 1,100 refugees.
- Reports from partners during monitoring activities is raising concerns regarding the safe and adequate utilisation and management of Markazi's water points. There is an urgent need to reinforce awareness-raising activities among the refugee population for the usage of the water points.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- UNHCR field unit assessments located 109 families in Sana'a living in public buildings with little access to water; they arrived with no belongings.
- Multi-agency assessment teams located 564 families in Sana'a, Amran, and Hajjah and identified shelter and NFI needs.
- UNHCR and partners distributed lifesaving relief items such as blankets, mattresses, buckets and sleeping mats to 533 families in Sana'a, Amran and Aden, and also distributed NFIs to 522 families in the Aslaam district Hajjah governorate.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR is preparing the transfer of 490 Yemeni refugees from the temporary transit centre Al Rahma to Markazi camp. Two hangars are prepared to accommodate these persons until additional tents are delivered. The hangars will then be used as reception facilities and recreational areas for children.
- On 28 May, two NFIs containers with tents, blankets, kitchen sets, and mosquito nets will be transported to Obock for distribution to new arrivals at Markazi camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Yemen:



On 21 May, UNHCR, InterSos, and the Government's Executive Unit provided 37 families living at the Al Batool School in Sana'a with relief items. ©UNHCR/A.Al-Hadi

- Travel to UNHCR's warehouse in Hajjah governorate to offload relief items has been postponed due to airstrikes and clashes in the area.
- During an IDP Task Force meeting in Sana'a, the Executive Unit (the government body responsible for IDPs in Yemen), advised that the number of IDPs arriving from Sa'ada to Amran is significant and emphasized the need to maintain an emergency stock of NFIs and food supplies for newly arriving IDPs to ensure they have access to humanitarian assistance.

Logistics

Achievements and Impact

Yemen:

- On 24 May, UNHCR Dubai loaded a shipment of relief items to travel via cargo ship from Dubai to Hodeida port. The ship is carrying 129,580 medium thermal blankets, 19,413 kitchen sets, 9,527 plastic sheeting, 30,460 high thermal blankets, 50,000 buckets and 69,350 sleeping mats.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- The newly appointed Regional Humanitarian Coordinator went on mission to Sana'a from 26-28 May meeting members of the humanitarian community, as well as MOPIC and other key Yemeni ministries and parties to the conflict.
- On 25 May, in a Humanitarian Coordination Team meeting several matters were reviewed: brokering of an agreement for rapid, sustained and predictable delivery of humanitarian assistance, securing transport into Yemen and fleet movements; through a possible inspection routine, resuming commercial imports, which accounts for 90 per cent of Yemen's total needs in food and fuel; and, obtaining assurances that air and seaports are not attacked.

Djibouti:

- Coordination meetings are organized on a weekly basis amongst the government, UN agencies and NGOs present in Djibouti to exchange information on the assistance provided to refugees in the context of the Yemeni crisis.
- UNHCR is coordinating assistance efforts with the government. The response is organized per sectorial working groups (for protection, shelter, water, food security, nutrition, education and health). These sectorial activities are included in the contingency/response plan to ensure a harmonized approach between all cooperating NGOs, UN agencies, and governmental counterparts (ONARS and different ministries).

Somalia:

- In Puntland, UNHCR staff, along with members of the Ministry of Interior (Mol), met with the Ambassador of Yemen and a group of approximately 100 Yemeni nationals currently located in Bossaso to coordinate registration with the office. An information leaflet was developed to assist in providing information on asylum-procedures in Bossaso to new arrivals.
- A meeting was held with the local authorities in Berbera (Governor and Deputy Governor) to discuss the ways to improve support for new arrivals. Local authorities thanked the humanitarian agencies present for the important work accomplished, particularly with regards to the support provided to new arrivals on 21 of May. The local authorities expressed their willingness to collaborate closely with the humanitarian agencies to ensure that the conditions for new arrivals are optimal. The Governor requested the authorization to install a registration post, a triage area, and toilets for the new arrivals at the port.

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