

# YEMEN MONTHLY FACTSHEET

December 2015

## KEY FIGURES

**267,173**

Registered refugees as of 31 Dec 20115

**9,866**

Registered asylum seekers as of 31 Dec 2015

**2,509,062**

Internally Displaced People as of 10 Dec2015

**92,446**

New arrivals to Yemen in 2015 as of 31 Dec 2015

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

**2,786,101** refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs

Country	Refugees	Asylum Seekers	Total
Somalia	253,215	-	253,215
Ethiopia	5,645	8,142	13,787
Iraq	3,404	134	3,538
Syria	3,011	615	3,626
Other	1,898	975	2,873
Yemen (IDPs)	-	-	2,509,062
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,173</b>	<b>9,866</b>	<b>2,786,101</b>

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

115 national staff | 29 international staff\*

5 emergency employees (international)

\* fluctuating – as of 1 November, 16 international staff in Yemen and 13 working from Amman or on leave

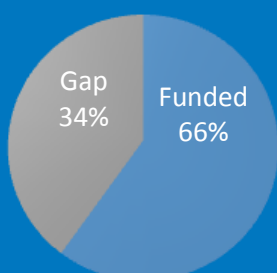
### Offices:

Representation, including the Protection Office, in Sana'a; Sub-Office Aden; Field Office Kharaz refugee camp; Mayfa'a reception centre; Bab el Mandab transit centre; Yemen Operational Centre in Amman, Jordan. N.B. Field Offices in Sa'ada, Ibb and Al Hudaydah are planned to (re-)open in 2016.

## FUNDING

**107.4 million USD**

Requested by UNHCR in 2015



## HIGHLIGHTS

- On 10 December, the Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM), led by UNHCR and IOM, validated in its 6<sup>th</sup> report that there are 2,509,062 internally displaced persons in Yemen.
- UNHCR participated in a mission to Ibb from 14 to 31 December, which focused on developing the capacity of partners in Ibb, including trainings on needs assessment, vulnerability criteria, distribution methodologies and post distribution monitoring.
- From 20 to 24 December, UNHCR in coordination with the Education Office in Sana'a, conducted a training on psycho-social support to Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC) for 40 teachers and social counsellors from ten schools in Sana'a with a high number of refugee children, in addition to two participants from the Education Office in Sana'a and one participant from the Ministry of Education.
- On 25 and 26 December, the UNHCR Representative conducted a mission to Sa'ada to look into re-establishing UNHCR's presence and modalities to implement urgently needed humanitarian interventions.

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Yemen is a historic transit hub for mixed migratory movements of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula and beyond. Although Yemen is the poorest of the Gulf countries, it stands out in the region for its generosity towards refugees. It is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Since late March 2015 with the escalation in the conflict, the already precarious humanitarian and socio-economic conditions coupled with the security situation have substantially deteriorated.

Ten months into the conflict, there have been over 6,000 deaths and 28,000 injuries as a result of the hostilities. Basic services across the country are on the verge of collapse. Nearly 600 health facilities have stopped functioning due to damage or lack of fuel, staff and supplies. Many public water and sewage corporations have closed down; often due to lack of fuel. Over 6 million people in cities have had their water supply cut or disrupted.

An additional 1.8 million children have been out of school since March. In parts of the country, authorities are unable to pay salaries to doctors, nurses and teachers. The already fragile economy has been further impacted due to damage to roads and markets, and the loss of jobs for hundreds of thousands of people who subsequently have used up their savings. The staple food, wheat, costs 57% more on average than pre-crisis and the price of cooking gas and other fuel has more than tripled. Critical needs, which UNHCR and partners address includes shelter, protection services, cash assistance, livelihood opportunities, food and health care.

## SPOTLIGHT



UNHCR and partner AMIDEAST launched the Tawasul (dialogue in Arabic) call centre in Sana'a on 17 December. The centre promotes community engagement and accountability through a two-way channel of communication with persons of concern countrywide to receive information concerning their needs, to inform them about how, when and where to access services, and to provide them with other pertinent information. Operators also collect reactions and complaints for follow-up and to assess access and quality of assistance.

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## REFUGEES

- UNHCR has maintained a collaborative relationship with authorities to safeguard the protection space and improve access to basic services and rights for people of concern across the country. Regular interaction is maintained with authorities at national and local level, with implementing and operational partners, and with refugee community leaders. The refugee protection and assistance hotline remains operational. The government has mainstreamed access for refugees into public health services, the judiciary system, and access to education – including vocational and technical skills training. However, many of these services and livelihood opportunities have been reduced because of the conflict.
- The number of persons of concern in need of financial assistance has drastically increased; in response UNHCR has expanded its financial assistance programme to include additional categories of persons with specific needs for refugees and exceptionally some categories of asylum seekers such as single-parent headed households and pregnant women. In addition, the individual amounts of financial assistance have been increased in light of risen basic living expenses. UNHCR provided cash assistance to 3,239 persons with specific needs in 2015.
- UNHCR continues to provide reception and protection services in the two urban areas where the largest numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers are residing: Sana'a and the Basateen neighbourhood in Aden. Since March 2015, a number of urban refugees relocated to safer locations, mainly rural areas in Yemen. On 8 and 9 December, UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) conducted a campaign of cleaning and removal of solid waste in the Basateen neighbourhood in Aden in coordination with the local sanitation department. Since the conflict in the city ceased in July, municipal services, including garbage collection, have still not completely resumed. Community committee volunteers, hygiene promotion staff, and youth committees all participated in the efforts to clean and raise awareness on the importance of maintaining a clean and healthy environment. The campaign canvassed streets and alleys in block 1-9 and block 21-25 in Basateen, as well as the main streets, markets and public places in the neighbourhood.
- UNHCR manages Kharaz refugee camp which hosts some 18,000 (predominately Somali) refugees in Lahj governorate 150km west of Aden. Refugees in the camp receive WFP food rations, supplementary food items and benefit from school feeding programmes and meals for special cases. Partners provide health care, education, and community services programmes.
- Resettlement has been particularly difficult due to insecurity across the country and the impossibility of organizing resettlement selection missions in Yemen. Nevertheless, the operation has continued to identify and resettle a modest number of refugees with specific needs, such as women at risk, unaccompanied minors and separated children, and refugees with medical conditions to the United States, Sweden, France and other resettlement countries.

## NEW ARRIVALS AND MIXED MIGRATION

- In 2015, Yemen received 92,446 new arrivals on Yemen's Arabian and Red Sea coasts (82,268 Ethiopians, 10,162 Somalis, and 16 of other nationalities). Over two thirds arrived after the conflict in the country escalated in March. New arrivals are often misinformed about the severity of the conflict, believe that the situation has become relatively calm in some of the southern governorates, or are following rumours of improved access into neighbouring Gulf countries. New arrivals make the perilous journey usually on rickety, overcrowded smugglers' boats risking their lives at sea. They land dehydrated, in shock and in need of basic assistance, and further face the risk of abduction, exploitation and insecurity within Yemen. Due to the ongoing conflict, new arrivals face movement restrictions in Yemen, and there have been reports of some being caught in the conflict and killed. There are now fewer income opportunities in Yemen and available services which render these newly arriving refugees and migrants increasingly vulnerable. This situation has been compounded by continued activities of organised gangs and smugglers. New arrivals have sought the shores of the Arabian Sea rather than the Red Sea, as the conflict has been raging at the latter but has subsided at the former; this is a clear reversal of the trend in previous years.
- On 1 December, the Aden Mixed Migration Working Group (UNHCR, IOM, Danish Refugee Council and InterSos) had its first meeting since regular coordination had been suspended due to the conflict. Colleagues called in from Aden, Amman and Sana'a and discussed operational issues and challenges, especially with respect to coordinating with authorities, as well as discussing protection risks for new arrivals
- Alongside the continuing inflow, due to the conflict and ever-deepening humanitarian crisis in Yemen there has also been an outflow of 169,863 Yemenis, refugees (mainly Somali) and third country nationals, who have fled to countries in the Horn of Africa and the Gulf in 2015.

## IDPs

- The Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM), co-led by UNHCR and IOM, validated in its 6<sup>th</sup> report on 10 December 2015 that Yemen had 2,509,062 internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to the conflict. The increased displacement figures (by 204,014 individuals as compared to October) are mainly due to an improved methodology. An estimated 45% of IDPs have fled to areas within their own governorate of origin, while 55% have sought refuge in other governorates. The five governorates most affected by the conflict - Taizz, Amran, Hajjah, Sana'a and Abyan - account for 51% of all IDPs in Yemen. Taizz governorate, which has been under siege for several months, has the largest number of IDPs in the country with over 392,000 individuals. Conversely, IOM identified that 210,000 individuals have returned to their homes in Aden over the last few months. However, internal displacement is only one aspect of this crisis and the needs in Aden remain high, with many returnees in need of assistance to rebuild their lives. The TFPM separately identified 22,970 individuals displaced due to the cyclones Chapala and Megh that struck the southern coast of Yemen in November 2015. Those displaced due to this natural disaster may have greater prospects for return over those that are displaced owing to the conflict.
- Most IDPs have lost their livelihood opportunities and sought shelter with relatives and friends, in schools, public and abandoned buildings, makeshift shelters or in the open with little to no protection. UNHCR in coordination with other UN agencies is working to re-establish and expand its presence in Yemen at five strategic operational hubs to cover Sana'a, Sa'ada, Al Hudaydah, Taizz/lbb, and Aden in order to facilitate the provision of life-saving protection and assistance to persons of concern. As lead of the Protection Cluster, UNHCR and partners are expanding outreach to communities of large concentrations of IDPs and their host communities by providing psychosocial, legal and cash assistance. Community-based protection networks, composed of volunteers from the IDP and host communities, are assisting with protection monitoring, information collection, and well as awareness-raising and sensitisation.
- As lead of the Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM), Non-Food Item (NFI), and Shelter Cluster, UNHCR has distributed NFIs to over 286,000 IDPs since the escalation in the conflict in 19 of the 21 governorates. UNHCR has also distributed emergency shelter kits to several thousand of IDP families, whose houses were heavily damaged and destroyed. Despite extremely challenging circumstances, UNHCR and partners are doing their utmost to deliver essential life-saving supplies and services in an impartial and neutral manner.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Canada](#) | [CERF](#) | [European Union](#) | [Humanitarian Pooled Fund](#) | [Japan](#) | [King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre](#) | [Spain](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [UN Peacebuilding Fund](#) | [UN Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States](#) | [Private Donors: Germany and Educate A Child Programme](#)

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