

YEMEN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Winter 2014

SUMMARY

- UNHCR has worked in Yemen since 1987. Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula to have signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol.



A refugee works at a UNHCR supported income generation project ©UNHCR

- In Yemen UNHCR works within the context of 15.9 million people in need of humanitarian aid, 13.1 million people without access to safe water and sanitation, 10.6 million people facing food insecurity, and 8.6 million people without access to adequate health care. Against this backdrop UNHCR addresses three simultaneous challenges: the presence of a protracted, mostly urban, refugee population – the large majority from the Horn of Africa; emergency and prolonged internal displacement; and the complexities of mixed migration and trafficking.
- UNHCR has a presence in 9 of Yemen's 22 governorates. With a Branch Office in the capital city, Sana'a, UNHCR maintains a Sub Office in Aden, Field Office in Haradh, Field Unit in Sa'ada, and oversees the Kharaz refugee camp for Somalis, Mayfa'a and Ahwar Reception Centers; and transit centers at Bab-al-Mandab, Mayfa'a Hagir and Al Kaida.
- In 2014, the financial requirements for UNHCR in Yemen are set at USD 55.9 million. Within the 2014 budget, USD 38 million is allocated for the refugee program and USD 18 million is allocated for IDP protection and assistance.
- UNHCR works closely with the Government of Yemen, in particular with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Committee for Refugee Affairs (NACRA) which coordinates the Government's refugee policy, Ministry of the Interior and its Bureau for Refugee Affairs, Executive Unit for IDPs, Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training.

Population of concern

A total of **588,506** people of concern:



KEY FIGURES

334,093

IDPs, the majority are from Sa'ada

254,413

refugees, over 240,000 Somalis

82,680

New Arrivals (Jan to Nov 2014)

FUNDING

USD 55,986,371

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Protecting and assisting refugees in urban settings – more than 87,000 refugees have been registered in Yemen's cities – including improved access to healthcare and education through mainstreaming refugee services with the public sector.
- Protecting and assisting IDPs: finding durable, long-term solutions to protracted internal displacement in Yemen and providing emergency assistance to newly conflict displaced people.
- Addressing key protection issues including detention of asylum seekers, and the protection of children and victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).
- Working with partners to ensure new refugee arrivals are protected from perishing at sea, given emergency assistance, and properly identified and referred to protection and assistance services.
- Ensuring access for people seeking asylum to registration and Refugee Status Determination by UNHCR.
- Working toward durable solutions for our population of concern through voluntary repatriation, integration with the local community or resettlement.
- Working jointly with IOM, providing support to the Government of Yemen in the implementation of the Sana'a Declaration.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

UNHCR's refugee programme is an integral part of the operational coordination and service delivery structures of the humanitarian response plan in Yemen. However, UNHCR's refugee response is a stand-alone segment of the humanitarian coordination structure, given UNHCR's unique mandate for the protection of refugees. UNHCR's involvement in the coordination of IDP operations in Yemen is to lead the protection and shelter/CCCM/NFI clusters. UNHCR also provides capacity to the Executive Unit in verifying and registering numbers and locations of IDPs, which form the basis for vulnerability and needs assessments as well as the targeted delivery of aid.



Working in Coordination

Protection

- UNHCR is cluster lead for Protection
- 832,263 people assisted (Jan – Nov 2014)
- Sub-clusters for Child Protection and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

The Protection Cluster in Yemen works across the country, with a focus on addressing the protection needs of IDPs; awareness raising of rights and suitable services; monitor and report of violations of rights through Community Based Protection Networks; provide protection services for those whose rights have been violated; and, coordinate protection of children and victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) through two sub-clusters.

In the first quarter of 2014 the Protection Cluster worked in 18 of Yemen's 21 governorates and reached over 800,000 people, including 190,000 people through awareness raising, 89,000 through the delivery of protection services and nearly 40,000 through community based protection monitoring.

Shelter, NFIs and CCCM

- UNHCR is cluster lead for Shelter/CCCM/NFI
- 256,454 people directly assisted (Jan – Nov 2014)
- 264,040 people targeted for assistance in 2014

Working across Yemen the joint Shelter, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Non Food Items (NFI) cluster focuses on providing emergency shelter and NFIs for vulnerable IDPs; coordinating management of the two camps in Al Mizraq, Haradh; creating conditions for achieving durable solutions for IDPs in protracted displacement in the form of sustainable return, local integration or relocation; and providing shelter and NFIs assistance for returnees.



Mixed Migration Task Force

- UNHCR is joint chair with the International Organisation for Migration
- Government of Yemen, NGOs, and UN agencies make up membership

With 82,680 new arrivals at Yemen's coast in the year to November, the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) plays a key role in responding to new arrivals to Yemen. Guiding the coordinated response to mixed migration and using an inter-agency framework as a basis for effective humanitarian intervention, the MMTF serves as a platform for exchanging information, analysis, research and good practices to develop a protection sensitive approach to the management of mixed migration. Priority issues include combating human trafficking, promoting legal migration, linking migration and development, strengthening protection capacity and addressing the root causes of irregular migration. Currently the members of the MMTF are prioritizing safe disembarkation by migrants at Yemen's coast, protection and assistance for asylum-seekers and vulnerable irregular migrants, and promoting the implementation of the principles and recommendations of the Sana'a Declaration, signed at the 2013 Regional Conference on Asylum and Migration which aims to tackle the problem of mixed migration on a regional and national level.

Urban Refugees

In the major urban centres of Sana'a and Aden more than 87,000 refugees have been registered by the Bureau for Refugee Affairs. UNHCR works in partnership with urban refugees through community based monitoring and elected community representatives. UNHCR's work with urban refugee populations involves integrating services for refugees with those for the general population, notably healthcare and education. In 2014, the Government and UNHCR developed a Temporary Protection mechanism for Syrians in Yemen. In urban centers, Syrians are now able to access the available services for refugees once they register for this Temporary Protection.

Refugee Status Determination

Registration and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) in Yemen are among UNHCR's main concerns and responsibilities. With new arrivals mostly by sea, UNHCR and its partners register individuals and provide immediate lifesaving humanitarian assistance as needed. The Government of Yemen registers Somalis on a *prima facie* basis, while non-Somalis register for Refugee Status Determination with UNHCR in Sana'a and Aden. UNHCR provides those seeking asylum with asylum seeker certificates, valid for one year, before starting their individual RSD. SGBV cases and unaccompanied minors are fast-tracked and vulnerable cases are given additional assistance.

Community Services

UNHCR's approach to serving refugees primarily focuses on mainstreaming refugee services with the public services available to the Yemeni population, notably in regard to healthcare and education. In relation to the health services on offer to refugees, UNHCR works with its implementing partner, International Medical Corps, on primary and preventative healthcare. UNHCR has also been successful in getting refugee children back into the school system, through the provision of uniforms, bags, shoes and stationary, a positive trend confirmed in 2014 after the start of the new school year.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked 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](#) | [Germany](#) | [Japan](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [United States](#) | [Private donors in Qatar and Japan](#) | [UNAIDS](#) | [WFP](#)

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