

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #34

December 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Yemen:

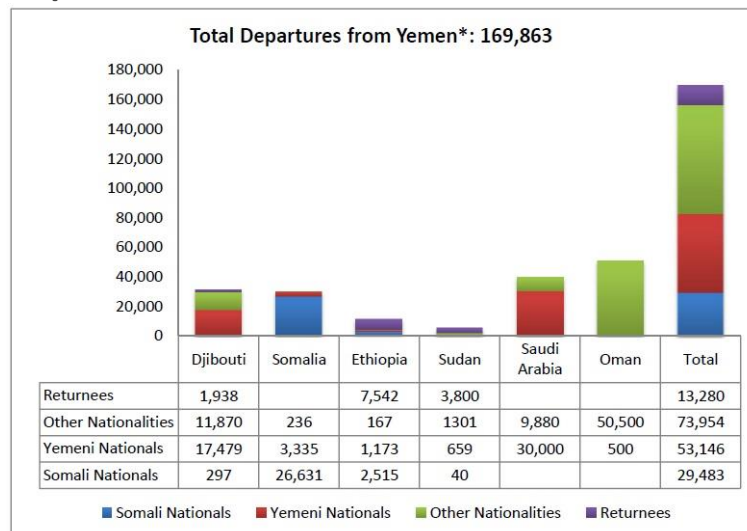
- The Task Force on Population Movement Co-led by UNHCR and IOM, co-led by UNHCR and IOM, published its [6th report](#) on 10 December, validating a total figure of 2,509,062 internally displaced persons in Yemen due to the conflict.

Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan:

- On 9 December, UNHCR, IOM and partners launched the 2016 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan in Nairobi. A total of USD 94.1 million is required for an anticipated 163,980 beneficiaries fleeing Yemen to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, and host communities.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Departures from Yemen



*Statistics provided by IOM and the Government; Saudi Arabia and Oman: Figures provided by the Government, pending verification by UNHCR

New Arrivals to Yemen

In December, 12,302 individuals arrived along the coasts of Yemen bringing the yearly total to 92,446 individuals, a higher level than 2014 (91,592). 95 individuals died or went missing at sea in 2015 (five in December). In a reversal of previous trends, new arrivals seek to reach the Arabian Seashores rather than the Red Sea areas where the conflict is raging. Detention of new arrivals by local authorities is more frequent due to suspicion of recruitment into militias, particularly in Al Dhale'e, Aden and Shabwah. Reception activities at the Arabian Sea Coast continued and transport of refugees and asylum seekers with specific needs resumed from the reception centres to Kharaz camp. Patrolling and communication between UNHCR and partners at the Red Sea Coast remained limited, while partners Yemen Red Crescent and Danish Refugee Council enhanced patrols in Lahj governorate. Plans to resume reception and medical assistance activities at Bab-al-Mandab were again stalled due to fighting. On 1 December, the Aden Mixed Migration Working Group (UNHCR, IOM, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and InterSos) held a first meeting since March to discuss the coordination structure and operational challenges.

KEY FIGURES

2,946,098

People affected by the conflict (in Yemen and adjacent countries), including refugees and internally displaced persons prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

2,509,062

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

169,863

Arrivals to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sudan mainly by sea or overland since late March 2015.

267,173

Refugees in Yemen assisted with protection assistance and life sustaining interventions and items.

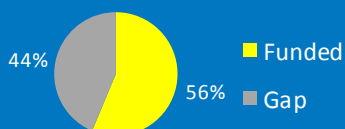
283,152

Internally displaced Yemenis reached in Yemen with emergency relief items since the onset of the crisis by UNHCR and partners.

FUNDING

USD 153 Million

Requested by UNHCR for the situation



UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for the Yemen Situation Emergency Response, April – December 2015 (16 October 2015), is available [here](#)

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Following intense preparations and in parallel with a ceasefire in Yemen, UN-led peace talks started in Switzerland on 15 December with the participation of the UNHCR Representative in Yemen as outgoing Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen. The newly appointed Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Jamie McGoldrick, arrived in Sana'a on 6 December.

When the talks ended on 20 December, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen and the UN Security Council members deplored the ceasefire violations, while acknowledging progress by the parties towards a settlement. Confidence-building measures were discussed, including facilitation of humanitarian aid. Although efforts were made to scale up assistance in hard-to-reach areas including Taizz, overall access did not improve substantially due to fighting and lack of security clearances. The humanitarian and socio-economic situation in Yemen remained alarming, with aggravated chronic vulnerabilities observed and impacting the population. Nine months into the conflict, the UN registered over 6,000 casualties and 28,000 injuries. Bilateral consultations are on-going, aimed at resuming peace talks in mid-January 2016 on the basis of a consolidated ceasefire.

In December, ground fighting continued across the country with forces loyal to President Hadi reportedly gaining ground around Sana'a as well as intense clashes in areas which had previously not seen significant fighting such as Haradh. The overall situation did not change in Taizz, with over 200,000 civilians living in the still besieged city enclave and continued ground fighting in south-western districts along with airstrikes. On 2 December, an MSF mobile clinic in Taizz was reportedly hit during an airstrike, injuring MSF staff and civilians.

Refugee Response

Protection

Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR renewed certificates for 438 refugees and registered 69 new-born refugee children, conducted best interest assessments for ten unaccompanied children and those at risk.
- In Aden, UNHCR continued to provide counselling on RSD, protection and resettlement to refugees and asylum seekers; 56 refugees are in the process of being transferred to the Emergency Transit Centre in Slovakia pending issuance of ICRC travel documents and flight bookings. Spontaneous Yemeni returnees also approached UNHCR as they face protection risks including threat of abduction and forced recruitment. They were referred to OHCHR and other organisations.
- UNHCR met several times with Oromo and Eritrean community leaders in Sana'a to address their needs. In Aden, as insecurity hinders new elections, UNHCR and InterSOS encouraged refugees to nominate temporary representatives. In Kharaz camp, the 18,000 refugees elected leaders to inter alia assist in avoiding duplications in ration distributions.
- UNHCR discussed with the Aden Immigration, Passport and Naturalization Authority the handover of the Basateen Registration Centre to UNHCR for its rehabilitation and to resume registration and renewal activities in Aden and Kharaz.
- On 16 December, UNHCR and the Ministry of Human Rights co-organized in Sana'a a workshop for line ministries on key protection principles and UNHCR services. The event contributed to enhancing cooperation with the National Committee and Sub-Committee for Refugee Affairs and paved the way for a partnership agreement with the Human Rights Ministry.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR and ONARS registered 6,397 refugees, of which 6,178 are Yemeni nationals, as of 6 January 2016. The majority were registered in Obock. In total, 2,995 refugees are sheltered in Markazi refugee camp while the others living in Obock. A total of 1,058 urban refugees were registered in Djibouti city as of 06 January 2016.
- The registration rate decreased notably in December compared to previous months since the start of the Yemen crisis. At the ports of Obock and Djibouti combined, registration in December reached 300 individuals compared to 446 individuals in November; with registration in Djibouti city amounting to 77 individuals compared to 331 individuals in November.

Ethiopia:

- According to Government policy, Somali refugees arriving from Yemen need to be living in Melkadida if they are to receive assistance. They are therefore being relocated from Jijiga to Melkadida. In December 2015, 50 Somali refugees were relocated from Jijiga to Melkadida. A second convoy of 120 Somali refugees from Yemen was scheduled for January.

Somalia:

- Since 27 March 2015, 18,595 individuals fleeing Yemen have been registered at the Reception Centers in Berbera, Bossaso and Mogadishu by UNHCR, IOM and authorities from Somaliland, Puntland and the Federal Government of Somalia.

- Several agencies including DRC, IOM, the Somali Red Crescent Society as well as, government representatives are present at the Berbera port to receive the new arrivals from Yemen. A total of 349 individuals, including 276 Yemenis, 30 Ethiopians, 23 Syrians, and 20 others were registered by the Ministry of Resettlements, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRR&R) in December 2015. MRR&R also extended *prima facie* refugee status to Syrians, Afghans, and Palestinians seeking asylum in Somaliland.
- Since March 2015, a total of 9,621 people travelled to Somaliland because of hostilities in Yemen. This includes 7,797 Somali returnees, 1,692 Yemenis, 110 Ethiopians and 22 people of other nationalities. As all Yemeni new arrivals are recognized as *prima facie* refugees, Yemeni nationals now represent 54% of the active refugee population in Somaliland.
- A total of 2,656 Yemeni refugees were registered in Hargeisa since 28 March 2015.

Sudan:

- In November and December 2015, UNHCR registered Yemenis who reported having arrived earlier in the year but only then chose to approach UNHCR later in the year for assistance due to their deteriorating financial situation. Prior to April 2015 Yemeni nationals required a visa to enter Sudan, but in April 2015 the Government waived this requirement.
- UNHCR continues to provide Yemeni refugees with counselling and referrals for health, psychosocial, educational and livelihoods assistance jointly with partners and to support extremely vulnerable cases with emergency cash assistance.

Education

Yemen:

- 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 for 40 teachers and social counsellors from ten schools in Sana'a with a high number of refugee children. On 1 December, 12th refugee student graders (45 male and 37 female students) sat for their final exam in Kharaz camp.

Djibouti:

- Primary classes for 328 students (grades one to seven) were organized by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and six additional teachers were recruited. An additional 15 urban refugee children started attending the Yemeni school in Djibouti.
- The informal secondary school for students of grades 10 and 11 taught by voluntary refugee parents continues within the camp of Markazi through the support of UNHCR. In total, 40 students attend these classes.

Ethiopia:

- 90 Yemeni children are enrolled in kindergarten, 169 in primary school and 22 in secondary school. UNHCR is engaging with the government to accredit secondary school certificates for Yemeni high school graduates to enable them to enrol in Universities and tertiary education.

Health

Yemen:

- UNHCR partners International Medical Corps (IMC) in Sana'a and Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) in Basateen (Aden) and Kharaz camp continued to provide medical services and medicines to refugees and the host community.
- Following UNHCR negotiations with the Office of Health in Aden, from March 2016 refugees will have access to healthcare services such as reproductive health and routine immunization through the Daar Saad Primary health centre.

Djibouti:

- From 1 December 2015 to 4 January 2016, a total of 1,261 refugees were treated at the AHA clinic in Markazi.

Ethiopia:

- All registered refugees were able to access health services in public facilities with relevant referrals for complicated cases.

Food Security and Nutrition

Yemen:

- Coordinated by UNHCR, WFP and Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS), food distribution covering two months took place peacefully from 26 to 28 November in Kharaz camp, with the involvement of refugee community leaders and local authorities. The food ration included wheat which had lacked in previous distributions, leading to refugee demonstrations.

Djibouti:

- On 20 December about 49 metric tons of food were distributed to 2,426 refugees (521 families) in Markazi camp and Obock town by WFP. UNHCR, ONARS, DRC and LWF participated.
- The Nutrition Unit in Markazi camp is currently caring for 31 children with severe malnutrition and 41 children with moderate malnutrition. The management of cases of malnutrition is being provided according to the National Nutrition Programme with the support of the Centre Medical Hospitalier (CMH) in Obock, UNICEF and WFP.
- The Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) took place in Markazi camp and Obock town from 5-14 December 2015 and concerning results include a high global acute malnutrition rate (GAM) of 25.5%, severe acute malnutrition rate of 5.6% and the chronic malnutrition (stunting) rate of 50%.

Somalia:

- The Puntland Students Association, supported by the Ministry of Interior and Al Minhaj Group has provided wet feeding for new arrivals since November, when the wet feeding provision contract between WFP and the Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA) expired.



Water and Sanitation

Djibouti:

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) completed its first shower prototype in Markazi camp. The shower will include a sand filter system for home gardening activities. NRC is also replacing the latrines of Sector One.
- DRC conducted various activities in Markazi camp in December in addition to its semi-weekly cleaning campaign of the camp which has been extended to the area outside the camp. DRC organized father-child campaigns during November and December with the same process and goals as the mother-child campaigns: sensitizing the community on the good practices of hygiene, including hand washing, brushing of teeth and proper use of scarce water resources.
- A rotational cleaning system of the latrines of Markazi camp was initiated by DRC where different committees were developed with specific responsibilities. DRC also distributed cleaning items to facilitate the process.

Somalia:

- Water has been regularly provided in the reception centers, and sanitation covered with the support of NRC.



Shelter and NFIs

Djibouti:

- UNHCR and ONARS began the distribution of Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) in Markazi camp on 15 December. 120 RHUs were distributed so far with priority to refugees who were present in the camp from the beginning of the crisis.
- NRC completed the construction of 32 kitchens. Ten additional kitchens are currently under construction. NRC completed the construction of two platforms for water tanks of 10,000 litres each in Markazi camp.

Somalia:

- 100 blankets were provided for vulnerable new arrivals at the Reception/Transit Center.
- Core Relief Items continue to be distributed to vulnerable new arrivals at the reception centers in Berbera, including 12 NFI kits in December. Since late March 2015, 699 NFI kits have been distributed to vulnerable new arrivals.

IDP Response in Yemen



Protection

- Co-led by UNHCR and IOM, the Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM) published its 6th report on 10 December, validating a total figure of 2,509,062 persons displaced in Yemen due to the conflict. Increased displacement figures (by 204,014 individuals as compared to October) are due to an improved methodology. The five governorates most affected by fighting (Taizz, Amran, Hajjah, Sana'a and Abyan) account for 51 per cent of the total displaced population. Taizz governorate hosts the highest number of IDPs (392,429 individuals) followed by Amran and Hajjah. IDPs' needs include shelter, blankets, clothes, water and food. Most IDPs have lost their livelihood and sought shelter in rented houses, schools, public areas, temporary tents and structures or in the open with little to no protection. Conversely, southern governorates saw a decrease in displacement levels (especially Aden) although remaining IDPs and returnees have important needs. The November cyclones that impacted southern Yemen displaced 22,970 individuals, who are assumed to have greater prospects for return than those displaced owing to the conflict.

- On 17 December, UNHCR and partner AMIDEAST launched the Tawasul call centre, an element of the OCHA-led Community Engagement initiative. It is a two-way communication channel with persons of concern to inform them on services and gather details on needs. In December, 113 calls were received, mainly from male IDPs from Sa'ada and Sana'a.

Shelter and NFIs

Yemen:

- UNHCR worked to engage and inform authorities – especially the Executive Unit for IDPs – on UNHCR's humanitarian role, plans and working procedures in order to facilitate truck movements and distributions. In December, UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs to 94,427 individuals in Al Bayda, Al Hudaydah, Al Maharah, Amanat Al Asimah, Amran, Hadramaut, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahj, Shabwah and Taizz governorates. In 2015, UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs to 283,152 individuals.
- As IDPs from Taizz continued to flee to Lahj and Aden, the Sub-national cluster coordinated distributions, including with IOM and the Yemen Red Crescent in Lahj. UNHCR assisted hundreds of IDP families in the area through CRIs distribution.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- Between 28 November and 8 December, UNHCR participated in discussions with the Operational Peer Review (OPR) mission, which was commissioned to review the collective humanitarian response and make recommendations on the way-forward, as part of the L3 declaration for the Yemen Situation. For L3 emergencies, Operational Peer Review is a mandatory phase in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle. The output of the OPR process is designed to assist decision-making and corrective action by the Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Team.
- Between 13 and 22 December, an inter-agency mission, including UNHCR, UNICEF and OCHA headed to Sa'ada governorate with the aim of assessing the general situation and needs of persons of concern, as well as security. The mission inspected the new joint UN premises; visited IDP settlements and facilitated the new Humanitarian Coordinator's visit to Sa'ada (22 December).
- On 25 and 26 December, the UNHCR Representative went on a follow-up mission to Sa'ada to further discuss with local authorities modalities to resume UNHCR and partners' field assessments and distributions in the Governorate and highlight UNHCR's concerns about the humanitarian situation. It was agreed that UNHCR will proceed with direct implementation and work with the Executive Council on field assessments, distributions and Post Distribution Monitoring. UNHCR gradually re-establish its presence in Sa'ada, starting with a staff member in early January.
- UNHCR participated in a mission to Ibb with FAO, IOM, WFP and UNICEF between 14 and 31 December. UNHCR focused on developing the capacity of partners in Ibb with trainings on needs assessment, vulnerability criteria, distribution methodologies and post distribution monitoring.

Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan:

- UNHCR, IOM and partners jointly launched the 2016 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan in Nairobi on 9 December. A total of USD94.1 million is required for an anticipated 163,980 beneficiaries (refugees, migrants and returnees fleeing from Yemen to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, and host communities) by December 2016. The UNHCR Representative in Yemen attended as outgoing Humanitarian Coordinator and highlighted the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen and the various elements leading to continued departures from Yemen.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

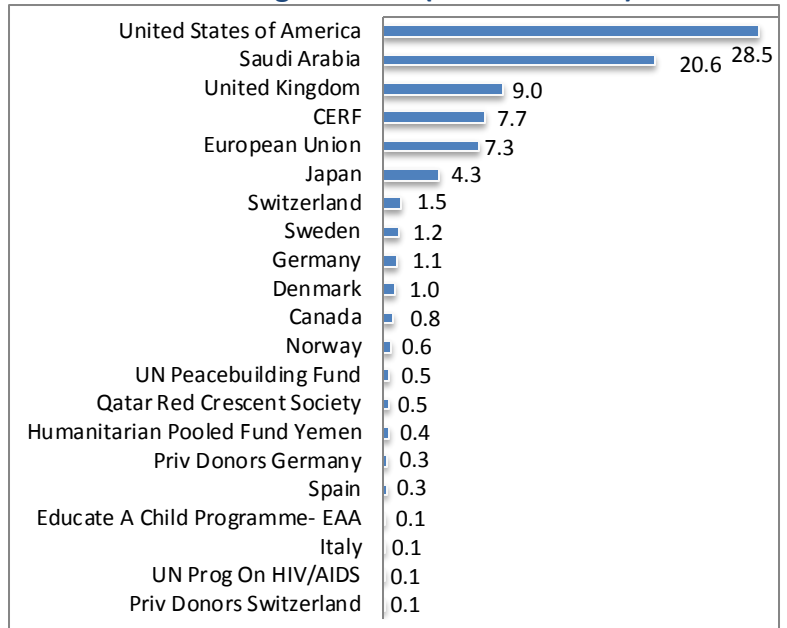
Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 29

December amount to some **US \$ 86 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 un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2015: United States of America (251 M) | Sweden (80 M) | United Kingdom (53 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Priv Donors Spain (41 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Canada (18 M) | Priv Donors Italy (16 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (12 M) | Priv Donors Japan (11 M) | Finland (10 M)

Funding received (in million USD)



Contacts:

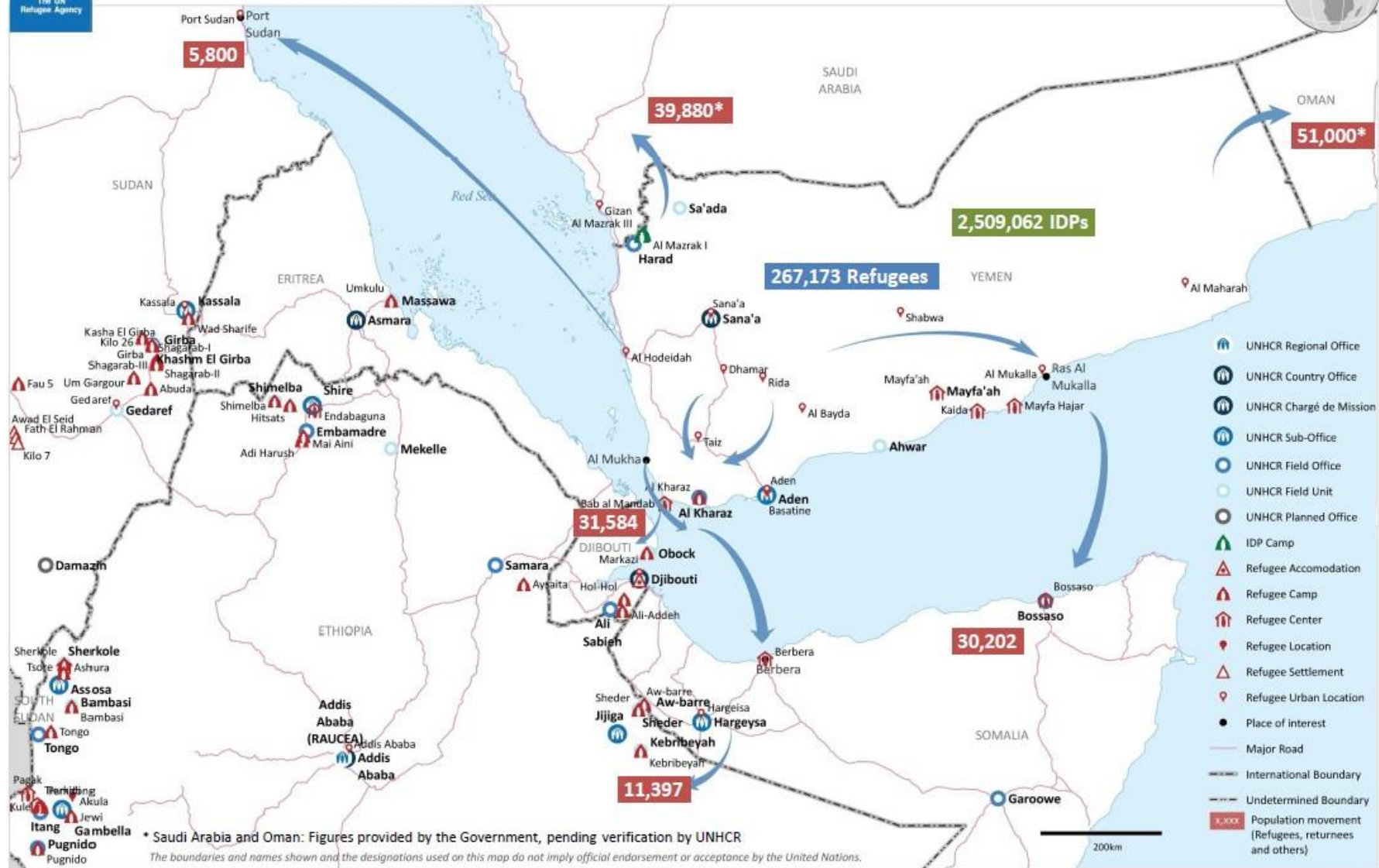
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Yemen Situation: Regional Map (total population movement out of Yemen: 169,863)

31 December 2015



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