



YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #33

18-25 November 2015

KEY FIGURES

2,738,770

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

2,305,048

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

167,889

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

265,833

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

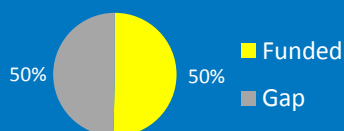
165,893

Individuals reached in Yemen with emergency relief items since the onset of the crisis.

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](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Yemen:

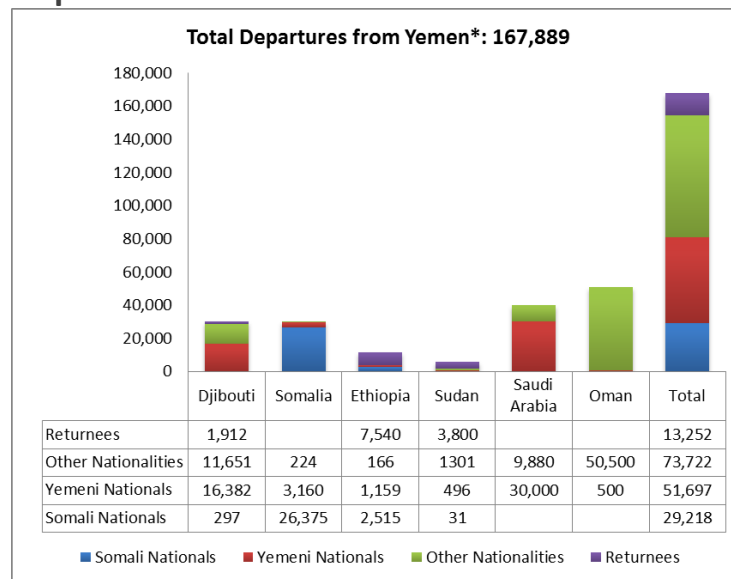
- From 14 to 19 November, UNHCR, in coordination with the Education Office under the Ministry of Education, trained 30 school principals, teachers, and social counsellors from ten schools in Sana'a with a high population of refugee children on Learning Disorders and Resource Rooms.

Djibouti:

- In Djibouti, a joint protection team composed of UNHCR, ONARS, and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) held a meeting with refugee community leaders in Markazi camp on 16 November. During the meeting, the team and the leaders discussed protection issues, particularly protection incidents, registration, peaceful cohabitation and the importance of issuing birth certificates. It was decided that weekly meetings would follow.

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

So far, there have been 4,469 new arrivals along the Arabian Sea coast in November, as compared to some 11,000 arrivals in November 2014. In Sana'a, UNHCR registered 95 new arrival asylum seekers; three minors were referred by Community Services to partners for assistance. On 17 November, a 17 year-old Ethiopian boy drowned while trying to disembark from the smuggling boat to the coast.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

In Yemen, the conflict shows no sign of abating with intensified air strikes and ground fighting in Taizz governorate. Airstrikes were also reported in Al Dhale'e, Sa'ada, and Sana'a, and armed clashes in Al Bayda, Al Dhale'e, Al Hudaydah, Al-Jawf, Hajjah, Lahj, and Marib governorates. On 22 November, Prime Minister Baha conducted an official visit to Marib to supervise military preparations and assess the needs of the vulnerable population. On 20 November, an IS-affiliated group claimed two attacks in Hadramaut, killing some 15 people and wounding 30 others.

On 18 November, the Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) highlighted in a press statement that more than 14 million people in Yemen cannot access health care, with three million children and pregnant or lactating women in need of malnutrition treatment or preventive services, and 1.8 million children out of school since mid-March. The ongoing conflict in Yemen has claimed over 5,700 lives, including 830 women and children, alongside a sharp rise in human rights violations, nearly 8,875 or an average of 43 violations occurring every day. The collapse of basic services in Yemen continues to intensify.

On 24 November, in a statement on Yemen, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, expressed deep concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Taizz where some 200,000 vulnerable civilians are in dire need of drinking water, food, medical treatment, and other life-saving and protection assistance. He noted that parties to the conflict continue to obstruct the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid and supplies into Taizz. Hospitals that are still functioning are overwhelmed with wounded patients and face severe shortages of doctors and nurses, essential medicines and fuel. Despite repeated attempts by UN agencies and humanitarian partners to negotiate access, UN trucks remain stuck at checkpoints and only very limited assistance has been allowed in, while some aid was diverted from reaching the people it was intended for. He called on all the parties to facilitate the delivery of urgently needed assistance to civilians and safe and unhindered access of humanitarian workers to Taizz.

Refugee Response



Yemen:

- On 22 November, the UNHCR Representative met with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior, and with members of the National Sub-Committee for Refugee Affairs (NASCRA) to discuss protection and assistance services for refugees, the *prima facie* recognition policy for Somali refugees, and the temporary protection regime for Syrian refugees. NASCRA members expressed concern over the volume of new arrivals and the pressure this generates on the country's reception system. The UNHCR Representative presented on protection and assistance achievements and encouraged the continuation of the *prima facie* policy vis-à-vis Somali refugees, and advocated for the lifting of mandatory HIV and hepatitis testing for issuance and renewal of refugee attestations. Moreover, he underlined that the temporary protection documents for Syrians should, in addition to enabling access to assistance services, also constitute a temporary legal residence document.
- In Sana'a, UNHCR renewed 78 refugee certificates and registered 6 new-borns. Community Services conducted two best-interest assessments (BIAs) and 25 home visits to ascertain living conditions and needs of refugee children and their families or legal custodians.
- In Sana'a, UNHCR partner Millennium Development Foundation (MDF) conducted a training on Psychological First Aid (PFA) for foster families and families of children with specific needs (nine Ethiopian (Oromo) refugees, and twelve female Somali refugees). The training included awareness sessions on Child Protection, and how to identify and protect children from exploitation, abuse, violence, and neglect.
- With the support of MENA Protection Service, UNHCR interviewed 4 critically sensitive cases. The cases were transferred from Kharaz refugee camp to Aden for the interviews, with a view to expedite their resettlement. UNHCR is working on the transfer of 69 individuals from Aden to the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Slovenia.
- UNHCR partner InterSos continued to follow up on the detention of 32 Somalis in the central prison of Al Hudaydah, while 11 Eritreans are detained in Alluhaiah in Hudaydah governorate for lack of documentation. UNHCR is working with the lawyer to provide the detained with the necessary documents.

Djibouti:

- From 16 to 22 November, UNHCR and ONARS registered 28 individuals. In light of the recent peak of arrivals from 29 September to 22 November, UNHCR in Obock registered a total of 2,146 individuals. This brings the total of refugees at Markazi camp to 2,727 individuals. As of 22 November 931 refugees were registered in Djibouti city.
- UNHCR submitted the registration documents of 10 new born Yemeni babies to the administration office of the Sub Prefecture in order to obtain their birth certificates.
- As part of its activities to restore and maintain family links, the Djibouti Red Crescent (CRD) offers phone call services to new arrivals and refugees. From 17 to 19 November, some 365 refugees benefitted from the service, 264 in Obock, both at the port and in Markazi camp, and 101 at the port of Djibouti.

Somalia:

- In Puntland, UNHCR, through its partner DRC, provided monthly subsistence allowance for 326 Yemeni refugee households in Bossaso, Gardo, Garowe and Bardhan. In addition, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continued to provide monthly cash support for three months, from October to December, to 508 returnee households. The amount provided is USD 105 per month per household.
- Upon arrival in Berbera, Somaliland, some new arrivals from Aden reported that they had to pay USD 100 for the sea journey, while others informed that no fee was paid for the passage. After their arrival in Berbera, new arrivals were welcomed and registered by several agencies, as per set procedures. Eventually, they were taken to the reception center, where DRC provided them with food and water.
- From 16 to 22 November, 46 Yemeni refugees were registered in Hargeisa by the Ministry of Resettlements, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRR&R). NRC distributed unconditional cash assistance to 291 refugees and 101 returnees in Hargeisa through Dahabshil remittance services. In addition, UNHCR distributed cash assistance to the 228 Yemeni refugee households that had not received their first instalment in October.
- UNICEF provided child protection services to Yemeni returnees and refugees in Bossaso and Berbera. Twelve families were supported with vulnerability assessments on their arrival at Berbera Reception Centre. In Bossaso, UNICEF and partners provided emergency medical assistance to three children and psychosocial services to 12 children.
- Save the Children International (SCI) provided reintegration cash assistance to 660 individuals as part of the reintegration package for returnees to Somalia. It also supported the school enrollment of 112 returnee children (49 boys and 63 girls), and provided them with learning materials. Four teachers were recruited.

Education

Yemen:

- From 14 to 19 November, UNHCR and the Education Office under the Ministry of Education conducted training on Learning Disorders and Resource Rooms for 30 school principals, teachers and social counsellors from ten schools in Sana'a attended by many refugee children, to enhance safe learning environment. The theoretical training was followed by ten days of practical training from 21 November to 2 December, where each participant identified a student with learning disorders (10 students in total) and prepared case studies.

Health

Yemen:

- UNHCR partner International Medical Crops (IMC) in Sana'a provided medical consultation and essential medicines to 470 refugees and Yemenis from the host community, and mental health support to 44 refugees.
- In Basateen and in Kharaz refugee camp, UNHCR partner CSSW provided medical services and medicines to 687 refugees, reproductive health care services to 115 women, mental health consultation and medication to 15 refugees, and health education sessions for 388 refugees. From 15 to 17 November, CSSW participated in the national polio vaccination campaign, providing immunization to 2,025 refugee children.

Djibouti:

- The Djibouti Red Crescent (CRD) provided first aid services to 15 new arrivals at the port of Djibouti.

Somalia:

- UNHCR partner Tadamum Social Society (TASS) provided emergency medical assistance to three Somali refugee returnee children at the reception centre. TASS also provided 12 children (Yemeni and Somali) with recreational games to enhance their psychological well-being and reduce stress levels.

- UNHCR partner Gruppo per le Relazioni (GRT) provided medical assistance to 18 Yemeni refugees, including five emergency cases.

Food Security and Nutrition

Djibouti:

- On 18 November, WFP conducted its monthly food distribution in Markazi camp and Obock city to 2,578 refugees, amounting 42.6 metric tons of mixed commodities.
- The Nutrition unit launched in Markazi camp on 16 November is now fully functional: 13 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 22 cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) are closely being monitored. A focal point from Programme National de Nutrition (PNN) will support the nutrition activities in the camp twice a week. On 14 and 15 November, two nurses, one doctor and one community nutrition worker were trained on the revised protocol of community-based management of acute malnutrition by UNICEF.
- WFP, in collaboration with Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) and PNN, is supporting 40 moderately malnourished children in the camp.

Water and Sanitation

Yemen:

- Domestic water distribution networks in Mukalla, Hadramaut, remain unrepaired after the main pipelines exploded due to cyclone Chapala. According to the Human Development Foundation (HDF) in Mukalla's coastal neighbourhood the water situation has worsened and residents face serious water interruptions. The local water authorities tried to respond to the needs with support from local NGOs, including Human Development Foundation and Silah Development Foundation, to provide potable water to mosques. However, the Water and Coastal authority in Hadramaut is requesting for urgent WASH infrastructure support.

Djibouti:

- NRC, together with the community, completed the construction of 59 family shared latrines in the camp.
- From 15 to 19 November, DRC continued its mother and child hygiene campaign in Markazi camp. A total of 10 children aged 3-7 were sensitized in hand washing, personal cleanliness, proper use of scarce water resources and the importance of boiling drinking water.

Shelter and NFIs

Djibouti:

- Construction of the communal kitchens by NRC has begun, based on the feedback received from refugees regarding the prototype that was constructed on 16 November. Seven kitchens are currently being built.
- On 19 November, some 970 blankets donated by World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY), a new NGO, were distributed to 485 families (two blankets per family). The distribution was facilitated by ONARS and WAMY in Obock.
- On 22 November, UNHCR and the Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes (UNFD) monitored a distribution of relief items including milk, powdered milk, wheat flour, green beans and soup, provided by UNFD.
- The rainy season has begun in Djibouti. UNHCR thus distributed 1,308 mosquito nets to 654 refugee families in Markazi camp (two nets each).

Somalia:

- Since April, 687 CRIs have been distributed to vulnerable new arrivals.

IDP Response in Yemen

Protection

- UNHCR partner InterSos released the findings of a series of in-depth protection assessments at the household level in Aden governorate (covering five districts) it conducted from 18 October and 7 November. InterSos interviewed 84 heads of household representing 333 individuals (32 per cent of the families assessed were female-headed). The assessments were complemented by two Focus Group Discussions in one district with 8 female and 8 male participants. One of the main findings is that there are a number of IDP returnees as a result of improved conditions in the assessed locations, although there was continued conflict in surrounding areas. 12.5 per cent of those

assessed were IDP returnees. Based on the assessments, InterSos is providing targeted protection assistance including legal assistance as well as cash assistance to persons with urgent medical needs. InterSos also identified persons in need of NFIs and dignity kits and has provided referrals to other service providers.

- UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare's (CSSW) IDP community centre in Hajjah provided social and psychosocial counselling for 30 IDPs and individuals from the local communities, conducted seven awareness sessions on protection for 179 individuals, conducted two recreational activities for 124 IDP children in Abs district and training for 20 community-based protection network members in Al Mehsam, Abs district.

Shelter and NFIs

Yemen:

- From 16 to 22 November, UNHCR partners ADRA distributed CRIs to 1,386 IDPs in Sana'a and Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) distributed CRIs to 1,736 IDPs in Hajjah. UNHCR has distributed CRIs to 165,893 IDPs since late March.
- To open up schools for education, where IDPs have been taking shelter, UNHCR partner ADRA assessed three of the nine alternative collective centres in Amanat Al Asimah (Sana'a) identified by the Executive Unit for IDPs (ExU), and commenced rehabilitation activities. In Amran, local authorities identified two alternative collective centres in Khamir district, to be assessed. In Ibb and Marib, local authorities identified four alternative collective centres; UNHCR partner Sama Yemen Society is conducting an assessment on suitability.
- On 18 November, UNHCR hosted a CCCM/Shelter/NFIs sub Cluster meeting in Al Hudaydah with officials from the ExUs in Hajjah and Al-Hudaydah on NFIs distributions, updates on ongoing assessments in addition to challenges and gaps during implementation, and the role of the local authorities in facilitating implementation.
- In response to Chapala and Megh cyclones, on 15 November, UNHCR and Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) distributed 110 tents to 470 IDPs in Al Galah, Algwari, Murees and Alhaybala villages in Rudhum district in Shabwah. Rudhum district experienced some of the worst damage during the cyclones, including loss of property, animals, agricultural land and infrastructure. From 5 to 18 November, UNHCR and SHS provided NFI kits and tents to 6,984 individuals, including 3,583 women and girls in Shabwah: 5,288 individuals (2,426 women and girls) in open areas and collective centres in Hadramaut; and 1,910 individuals (953 women and girls) in Al Maharah. SHS continues to clear roads to facilitate access and distribute NFIs in inaccessible areas.
- UNHCR partner InterSos carried out assessments in Qasiar district in Hadramaut to identify the needs of internally displaced persons coming from Socotra, one of the locations most affected by the cyclones. InterSos plans to target persons with specific needs with cash assistance and NFIs.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- On 25 November, the UNHCR Representative met with the Acting Minister of Human Rights, senior Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) officials, and the Deputy Head of the International Organizations Unit within the Prime Minister's Office. The meeting provided a good opportunity to inject new momentum into the cooperation with the Ministry, which was stalled since the start of the conflict.
- On 21 and 22 November, UNHCR conducted a workshop for Government Officials (ExU and a representative from the governor's offices) with participants from 15 governorates (Al Hudaydah, Amanat Al Asimah, Sana'a, Amran, Marib, Al Jawf, Ibb, Taizz, Dhamar, Al Bayda, Al Mahwit, Raymah, Hajjah, Al Dhale'e, and Sa'ada). The workshop was aimed at improving communications and collaborations with local authorities in the field and to share UNHCR activities and plans, and focused on addressing challenges, expectations and solutions that will support the process of effective coordination between UNHCR and ExU.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

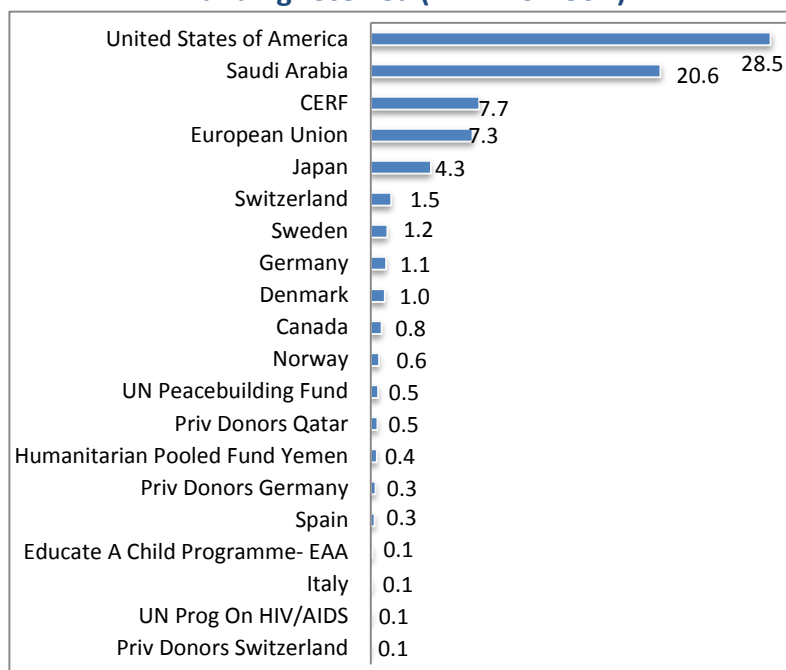
Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 17 November amount to some

US\$ 76.9 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 (36 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Canada (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | Priv Donors Italy (15 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (11 M) | Finland (10 M) | Priv Donors Japan (10 M)

Funding received (in million USD)



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