

# DJIBOUTI

## INTER-AGENCY UPDATE FOR THE RESPONSE TO THE YEMEN SITUATION #8

21 June 2015

### KEY FIGURES

**2,110**

Refugees registered since the outbreak of the crisis

**717**

Registered children and adolescents.

**722**

Medical consultations provided in the camp since the outbreak of the crisis.

### PRIORITIES

- Ensure protection of refugees and provide assistance.
- Provide documents to refugees.
- Work with the government to ensure access to the territory and freedom of movement..
- Continue to develop the infrastructure at the Markazi camp.
- Continue border monitoring activities.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the latest available statistics from IOM and the Djibouti government, 17,929 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 9 June (since 27 March). Of those, 8,921 persons are Yemeni nationals, 7,275 are transiting TCNs and 1,733 persons are Djiboutian returnees.
- As of 20 June, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) registered 2,110 refugees, thereof 2,019 Yemeni nationals (since 27 March). According to the provisional statistics, 1,575 refugees are registered in Obock and are mainly hosted at the Markazi camp.
- Strong sandstorms have started in Obock and damaged parts of the infrastructure at the camp.
- The Immigration office through ONARS returned the passports to Yemeni refugees in Obock, which were kept for administrative reasons.

#### Population of concern

A total of **2,110** people of concern

Nationality	0-4 years		5-11 years		12-17 years		18-59 years		60 years+		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Yemen	83	88	133	133	128	115	787	437	49	66	2,019
Syria	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Palestine	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	5
Somalia	0	2	5	8	1	2	8	13	1	4	44
Eritrea	4		2	2	5	3	11	6		1	34
Pakistan	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2,110</b>

All figures are provisional and still subject to change.

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

Since the escalation of the Yemen conflict in March 2015, 1,976 people were killed and 8,034 injured, including a large number of civilians. 1,019,762 people are displaced inside Yemen as a result of the conflict since 27 March. In addition, about 250,000 refugees from other countries such as Somalia, Eritrea are estimated to be in Yemen. Access to food and water is challenging, especially in the southern Governorates of Yemen. Moreover, the country's health system is at imminent risk of collapse due to shortages of medical supplies and fuel for generators. In this context, those Yemenis, refugees, migrants and TCNs with means to leave Yemen flee the country to the neighboring countries.

According to statistics from IOM and the Djiboutian government, 17,929 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 9 June since the onset of the crisis. 8,921 of those are Yemeni nationals. As of 20 June, UNHCR has registered 2,110 refugees of which 2,019 are Yemeni nationals. Yemenis applying for asylum in Djibouti are hosted in the Markazi camp in Obock, where the Government of Djibouti has designated a new site for refugees, four kilometers away from Obock city, the capital of the region. Recently, the government announced that all boats carrying people fleeing fighting in Yemen are rerouted to the Port of Obock. Upon this decision, Yemeni nationals have to stay in Obock, except persons with valid visa for third countries, ongoing visa petitions, air tickets or resident permits in Djibouti or other countries.

However, Djibouti can look back on a long tradition as a refugee-hosting nation. Despite its limited resources, the country has always hosted thousands of people in search of security. For decades, the Republic of Djibouti has been hosting a caseload of refugees from neighboring countries (Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea) who have fled war and political conflict in the unstable part of the Horn of Africa region. As of May 2015, 14,944 refugees and asylum seekers are living in Djibouti.

### Achievements

#### Protection

##### Achievements and Impact

- Following UNHCR's advocacy, local authorities returned the passport to all refugees in the camp. Passports were retained by the immigration authorities for administrative reasons. UNHCR is continuing its advocacy for returning the passports also at Djibouti level.
- As of 20 June, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) registered 2,110 refugees, thereof 2,019 Yemeni nationals (since 27 March). According to the provisional statistics, 1,575 refugees are registered in Obock and are mainly hosted at the Markazi camp.
- Registration in Markazi camp is ongoing and newly arrived refugees are constantly provided with NFIs. During the last week, 30 family attestations and 37 ID-cards have been distributed to the respective holders.
- On 12 and 13 June, two boats originating from Yemen with a total of 172 people (80 Yemeni nationals and 92 holders of US passports) arrived at the port of Obock. According to the procedure in place, US citizen were allowed to continue to Djibouti. Out of the 80 Yemeni nationals, only 12 individuals sought asylum in Djibouti. Notwithstanding UNHCR's counseling at all stages and in the absence of other alternatives to legalize their stay in Djibouti, UNHCR will continue to provide Yemeni nationals who have refused to register as refugees with humanitarian assistance.
- According to information available, the Yemeni Government offers free air tickets to Yemeni nationals who want to return voluntarily to Yemen.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The continuous movement of Yemeni refugees in Obock makes it difficult to know the exact number of people hosted in Markazi camp. UNHCR will start a verification exercise to assess the actual number of refugees present in the camp based on the comprehensive list previously established with the number of tents allocated.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- Discussions are ongoing to understand if the Al Rhama Orphanage in Obock can receive Yemeni refugee students in the upcoming school year using the Yemeni curriculum, which is recognised by the Djiboutian Ministry of Education.
- Teachers will be recruited within the refugee community by UNICEF and UNHCR. So far, 38 teachers (including 24 female teachers) have been identified within the Yemeni refugee community.

## Health

### Achievements and Impact

- The UNHCR Health coordinator completed his 10-day assessment mission to Obock. As of 14 June, 772 consultations were made at the camp, 25 patients were hospitalized in the regional hospital of Obock and 17 patients were referred to Djibouti since the outbreak of the crisis. Death and birth rates are continuously recorded. 274 children were vaccinated and 11 patients whose treatment is not available in Djibouti have been identified.
- A new baby was born among the Yemeni refugee population in Markazi camp. Both mother and new-born were assisted at Obock's Regional Medical Centre, and are in good health.
- Check-up of immunisation status is ongoing for all under-5 refugee children upon arrival, with vaccination being provided as needed.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- After the start of heavy sandstorms in the course of last week, refugees with acute respiratory problems have been transferred to the medical unit in Obock.
- Healthcare is not yet available 24/24 in the refugee camp. Health partners under WHO leadership are discussing on the possibility of having more healthcare staff assigned to the camp, and on how shifts can be scheduled to ensure continuous care.
- Given the high temperatures in Obock (above 45°C), Health partners are concerned about the possibility of deterioration of essential drugs stocked in the refugee camp. The Health Working Group is discussing on solutions for this issue.
- The lack of an updated inventory of essential drugs in Obock makes it difficult to ensure an adequate response and avoid shortfalls. The Health Working Group will be taking measures to address this issue.



Heavy sandstorms have started in Obock impacting on the daily life as well as on the health of refugees hosted in the camp. © UNHCR



## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- WFP placed an additional food order to support 1600 refugees for one month. The next distribution will take place at the beginning of July.
- The Nutrition Census conducted by the Nutrition Sub-Working Group has been finalized. Results are being compiled and will provide a more comprehensive idea of number and profile of those in need of nutrition support.
- Malnutrition screening and treatment is ongoing for all under-5 refugee children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. According to the latest malnutrition screening (4<sup>th</sup> June) there are currently 10 cases of severe acute malnutrition (nine under-5 children and one pregnant woman) and 23 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (22 under-5 children and one lactating woman). All of them are receiving adequate treatment and care at Obock Regional Medical Centre.
- In terms of prevention of micronutrient deficiency, all Yemeni refugee children in Markazi aged 6 to 23 months have been provided with sprinkles, and all pregnant women with iron and folic acid. Vitamin A supplementation is ongoing for all new arrivals of children aged 6-59 months.
- Markazi's "Nutrition Space" is operational. ACF has provided the tent and Johanniter the necessary equipment. This space concentrates all nutrition activities including screening, distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic food for cases without complications, etc.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- According to the information gathered by the Nutrition Sub-Working Group, the milk provisions among Yemeni refugee families have finished. Yemeni refugee families with children aged 7-24 months do no longer have milk available to provide them. Measures will be taken to address this issue and ensure that milk children aged 7-24 months.
- Due to the damage of the food distribution centre through the recent heavy sandstorms, food preparations for families have been disrupted.



## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and Impact

- Three water bladders with a total capacity of 45m<sup>3</sup> are in place at Markazi, covering the needs for safe water of all refugees hosted in the site.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The management of water resources continues to be a challenge in the refugee camp, with misuse of this invaluable and scarce resource. The establishment of a Water Management Committee and the implementation of awareness raising activities are planned.
- Further efforts are needed to ensure that the water provided is up to standards. Water treatment and quality control should be done on a regular basis both during the transportation by truck and during the storage in the bladders.
- The management of solid waste is being a challenge due to lack of refugees' ownership of the operations coordinated by Red Crescent. Sensitisation is ongoing but the current strategy must be enhanced.

## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

- As of 16th June, 325 tents, four hangars (one under revision after damages caused by sandstorms) and 59 latrines are in place at Markazi camp. The construction of 18 additional latrines is ongoing.
- The humanitarian organization Al-Rahma donated one generator with the capacity of 200 KVA and one water cooling station for one bladder to the camp. The donation of a second generator with the same capacity is foreseen in the near future. The two additional generators will allow installing public lighting in the whole camp site and providing electricity in the tents.
- The Djiboutian Red Crescent distributed 138 hygiene kits to new arrivals. Materials include soap, laundry detergent, laundry cord, garbage bags, toothbrush, toothpaste, combs, razors, mosquito nets and sanitary pads. Diapers and mosquito nets are also included for children under 1 year.
- Families with children below 12 years have been provided with NFIs by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Based on the needs identified in the pre-distribution assessment, families have received cooling powder, diapers, cooler boxes, coloring books and pencils and powder milk. The distribution of the latter was accompanied by an awareness raising campaign to explain that powder milk is no substitute for breast milk.
- After consultations with young refugees on activities on how to commemorate World Refugee Day at Markazi camp, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and UNHCR organized a soccer tournament for young refugees.



Refugee children were provided with coloring books and pencils by DRC. © UNHCR

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps



The food distribution centre has been damaged during the recent sandstorm in Obock. © UNHCR

- Strong winds and sandstorms have started in Obock and have caused damages on the infrastructure of Markazi camp. The shades of two water bladders, the food distribution center and one of four hangers that serve as reception facilities for new arrivals were damaged. Repair work has started. 12 tents were torn from the anchorage but have already been repaired.

### Working in partnership

- The UNHCR Field Unit in Obock met with the Representative of the King Salmane Association (KSA) in Obock. The Representative of KSA promised to provide support to the GVT of Djibouti in order to increase the standards in the camp. Moreover, the King Salmane Association distributed food consisting of 400 bags given to 400 families.
- On 11 June, a delegation of the Yemeni Government headed by the Yemeni Prime Minister met with the UNHCR Field Unit in Obock. The delegation was accompanied by the Djiboutian Minister of Interior, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other senior Officials of the GVT of Djibouti. The delegation conducted a short visit to Markazi followed by an official meeting. Discussions were about the situation of Yemeni refugees in Djibouti and more particularly in Obock.
- UNHCR received a delegation from the Arab Federation of the Red Cross and from WHO (visits related to assess the situation on health) and LWF (interest to provide activities in community services, education and child protection).

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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- The Djibouti Response Plan for the Yemen Crisis (April - September 2015) were released on 4 June and shared with donors, governments, partners and agencies. 11 UN agencies and NGOs have submitted their inputs. The Djibouti Response Plan can be accessed via <http://www.unhcr.org/557066809.html>
- Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.

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Regional portal: <http://unhcr-regional.or.ke/country/djibouti>