

DJIBOUTI

INTER-AGENCY UPDATE FOR THE RESPONSE TO THE YEMENI SITUATION #25

09 October 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- Following heavy airstrikes on Bab Al Mandab, Dubab and Aden, some 2,231 individuals have arrived to Obock port and various transit points of Obock town since 27 September. Boats carrying passengers continue to arrive from Yemen
- According to the latest available statistics from IOM and the Djibouti government, 28,389 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 07 October (since 26 March). Of those, 14,839 persons (52%) are Yemeni nationals, 11,671 (41%) are transiting migrants and 1,879 persons (7%) are Djiboutian returnees.
- As of 08 October, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee agency) registered 4,895 refugees of which 4,717 are Yemeni nationals; the majority was registered in Obock. There are 1,844 refugees sheltered in Markazi refugee camp. The remaining refugees are living in Obock and Djibouti city.

Population of concern

A total of **4,895** people of concern

KEY FIGURES

4,895

Refugees registered since the outbreak of the crisis

2,235

Registered females.

1,918

Registered children and adolescents.

PRIORITIES

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

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	251	262	364	377	301	298	1554	1040	112	155	4714
Syria							3				3
Iraq							3				3
Palestine			1			1	1	2			5
Somalia	3	5	11	11	5	10	21	49	3	7	125
Eritrea	4	1	2	2	5	3	14	8		1	40
Pakistan		1					1	2			4
Ethiopia							1				1
Total	258	269	378	390	311	312	1598	1101	115	163	4895

All figures are provisional and still subject to change.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context and Migration

Since the sudden increase in people arriving from Yemen to the coast of Obock, and in order to provide necessary and timely assistance to new arrivals and refugees, the Djiboutian authorities and ONARS have increased their presence in Obock in order to speed up their screening and registration process. UNHCR has also deployed staff to Obock from its Djibouti and Ali Sabieh offices.

Border monitoring from 27 September to 08 October reveals that boats continue to arrive at the port of Obock and the nearby coast line. These are either commercial boats carrying large amounts of people or small fishing boats that travel frequently between Bab Al Mandab and Djibouti. So far several boats carrying a total of 2,231 passengers (2,100 are Yemenis and 131 are migrants in transit) have made it to the shores of Obock. Upon arrival at the port, WFP and UNHCR provide new arrivals with water, food and high energy biscuits. Once settled in Markazi camp, UNHCR provides them with standard non-food items.

Further to the authorisation granted by the Government of Djibouti to register the individuals who were self-sufficiently residing in Djibouti and Obock, UNHCR and ONARS are in close contact with local organisations working with Yemeni communities including refugees and asylum seekers. The agencies will conduct sensitisation campaigns to inform the communities of the benefit of the registration process that can now provide better international protection to those registered who live in Djibouti-ville. Refugees had previously been reluctant to register for fear of having to go to Markazi camp with limited mobility.

Since March 26th, IOM Djibouti has assisted 4,351 migrants. This number includes 2,257 persons evacuated on IOM chartered boats from Yemen and 95 persons evacuated on IOM chartered flights from Yemen.

Between 01 and 07 October, a total of 441 Ethiopian migrants were assisted at the Migrant Response Centre (MRC) of Obock. These migrants were voluntarily returned to their country of origin after having been interviewed and documented at the Ethiopian Embassy in Djibouti city. The next transportation to Ethiopia of approximately 100 persons is scheduled to take place on Saturday October 10.

UNFPA provided IOM with dignity kits for migrant women and the Red Crescent of Djibouti (CRD) provided hygiene kits which were distributed to 141 migrants at the MRC Obock and offered migrants a free phone call to talk to their families in their home countries. This new partnership with the CRD is now in place for all migrants arriving in Obock and seeking assistance for voluntary return to their country of origin. In coordination with WFP, cooked meals and food rations are provided to migrants who also benefit from medical assistance and who have access to WASH services. As of 07 October 2015, some 77 migrants are at the MRC.

IOM has witnessed a sharp rise in requests for assistance for voluntary return by irregular Ethiopian migrants transiting Djibouti on their way to Yemen and who find themselves stranded in Obock. While in August and September, on average, five migrants a day were seeking assistance at the MRC, the number has tripled; and currently, an average of 15 migrants are requesting support from IOM on a daily basis for voluntary return to Ethiopia.

On 6 and 7 October, IOM assessed the situation of 316 transiting irregular migrants (around 35 per cent of whom were women) on their way to Yemen. The migrants were intercepted by the Gendarmerie Nationale in the arid location of Lac Assal. The migrants were transported back to the Ethiopian border by the national authorities. IOM is consulting with national authorities and the Ethiopian Embassy to assist irregular migrants caught in this situation.

The MRC organises sport activities for migrants aimed at discouraging irregular migration in addition to offering basic psychological support to overcome stress and trauma from their stay in Yemen.



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- From the recent crisis since 29 September to 08 October, the UNHCR/ONARS team registered 1,844 Yemeni individuals (472 households). This is considered a huge increase in numbers given that the average registration in the months of July and August ranged from 10 to 20 individuals a week.
- Refugees who have registered in Djibouti city since the decision of the Government to facilitate registration of Yemenis residing in Djibouti-ville on 27 September has reached 127 cases (69 families) as of 07 October.
- As part of its activities to maintain and restore family links, the Djibouti Red Crescent (CRD) offered phone call services where new arrivals and refugees were able to call family abroad. From 28 September to 05 October, a total of 344 refugees at the port of Obock and in Markazi camp were able to call their families to let them know they had arrived safely.
- On 01 October 2015, the Danish Refugee Council distributed 72 baby kits (consisting of diapers, talcum powder, baby lotion and soap) and 224 child protection kits (note books, coloring books and coloring pencils). A total of 120 families benefited.
- From 29-30 September, DRC together with WFP and UNHCR, participated in four focus group discussions as part of a livelihood assessment with men of Markazi camp, and women, youth and community leaders living in Obock-ville.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- Children are being vaccinated upon arrival to the port of Obock. Since 29 September, under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, some 40 children have been vaccinated.
- On 1 October, five new arrivals who were injured were transferred to the hospital in Obock for treatment.
- From 28-29 September, DRC conducted a capacity building training to health service providers in Obock. The objective of the training was to strengthen capacity in gender based violence (GBV), clinic management rape and psychosocial support to survivors of GBV of services providers in Obock. Doctors and nurses from the CMH Hospital, AHA and IOM participated in addition to representatives from ONARS and local associations.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- WFP arranged for a new food distribution to cover 20 days in order to accommodate the new refugees until the new distribution cycle which is scheduled for 16-17 October 2015.
- The King Salman Relief Foundation donated food baskets to 400 households of refugees at Markazi camp. The food baskets included pasta, rice, white flower, soya oil, sugar, beans, tomato paste, beans and peas. The distribution was facilitated by ONARS and UNHCR.
- Pending the distribution of cooking stoves to be relocated from the Ali-Addeh camp, UNHCR provides fresh water and hot meals to all new refugee arrivals including those who have not registered on spot.
- In cooperation with the Qatar Charity, the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) distributed food baskets to families at Markazi camp. In total, 400 households (new arrivals as well as refugees) benefited from these complementary food baskets composed of tomato paste, pasta, onions, potatoes, cans of tuna fish, stock cubes and beans. The distribution was facilitated by ONARS and UNHCR.
- ONARS received a donation of fruit juice from the Coca-Cola Company, which is distributed to new arrivals at the port and at UNHCR premises as they await registration.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- Six trucks carrying the RHU containers have reached Obock. Off-loading is in progress and set up will commence within the coming days.
- In response to the influx from Yemen, the capacity of Markazi camp has swelled to accommodate 1664 individuals on 05 October. The number is projected to increase dramatically in the coming days and weeks due to the continuous flow of arrivals.
- From 29 September to 08 October, UNHCR set up 166 new tents in Markazi Camp to accommodate the heavy influx of the past week. Some 1844 individuals have registered with UNHCR since 29 September.
- During the same period, UNHCR distributed standard NFIs consisting of mattresses, solar lamps, cooking sets, soap, mosquito nets and hygiene kits for women of reproductive age. Over 1083 individuals (272 families) benefitted from the distribution as of 05 October. An additional two trucks carrying NFIs were off-loaded at UNHCR Obock on 08 October.
- UNHCR also distributed buckets and jerry cans received from WFP Obock and donated by UNICEF.
- From 28 September to 05 October, the Djibouti Red Crescent distributed hygiene kits to 172 households thus benefitting 771 persons (331 females, 396 males and 44 babies). The hygiene kit contains soap, washing detergent, garbage bags, clothes lines, personal hygiene kits and mosquito nets.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Based on the influx of Yemenis the past week, there was an urgent need for tents. Donated Sahara tents dispatched by ONARS and UNHCR tents were to be set up until the Refugee Housing Units were cleared from customs and transported to Markazi camp.
- In order to cover the rapidly decreasing stock of NFIs in Obock, UNHCR is taking measures to transport NFIs from its stock in Djibouti and its field office in Ali Sabieh. A stock has already arrived in Markazi and more may be dispatched based on need.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Johanniter, in cooperation with NRC, concluded a three-day exercise that included cleaning, relocating and re-filling the water bladders at Markazi camp. UNHCR assisted in coordinating the process.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WASH activities in particular the construction of new latrines, garbage collection points and bladders are priority activities to be implemented in order to accommodate for the new camp residents. UNHCR is liaising with its WASH partner, NRC in order to set up the facilities as soon as possible.
- Sensitization campaigns will commence soon about the usage of water, especially given the increased number of new arrivals.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Given the limited space in the camp of Markazi, discussions with the local authorities have resulted in expanding the camp space and also allocating space in the sports complex of Obock to accommodate the continuous flow of new arrivals of refugees.
- The UNHCR Senior Regional Shelter Officer has redesigned Markazi Refugee camp based on a request from ONARS and UNHCR to reduce the allotted space per family to 150 square meters. The new design has been shared with the partner NRC for technical comments before presenting to government officials.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

On 08 October, during his field visit to Obock, the UNHCR Representative held his first meeting with partnering managers and staff deployed in Obock; namely ONARS, LWF, DRC, NRC and WFP. The UNHCR Representative emphasized the importance of coordination for managing the crisis and encouraged the agencies to meet more frequently in order to harmonize and coordinate with UNHCR and ONARS all types of assistance provided to refugees.

All partners present also praised the coordination role played by UNHCR and especially the team in Obock and have agreed on the necessity to continue to hold sectorial coordination meetings on a weekly basis to better address the urgent gaps and needs of the crisis.

Another sign of good team spirit and inter agency cooperation is that partners and agencies working in Obock and Markazi camp, especially NRC, WFP, DRC, Caritas and Al Rahma have generously assisted in distributing NFIs and/or in transportation of refugees, NFIs and tents to, from and within the camp.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with non-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.



Migrants playing volley-ball at the Migrant Response Centre in Obock ©IOM/October 2015.

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