

DJIBOUTI

INTER-AGENCY UPDATE FOR THE RESPONSE TO THE YEMEN SITUATION #51

January-February 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the latest available statistics from IOM and the Government of Djibouti, a total of 37,428 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of end of February 2017 (since 26 March 2015). Of those, 19,636 persons (53 per cent) are Yemeni nationals, 15,828 (42 per cent) are transiting migrants and 1,964 persons (5 per cent) are Djiboutian returnees.
- As at 28 February 2017, there are 4,201 registered refugees from Yemen currently in Djibouti. Markazi camp hosts over 1,400 refugees.

KEY FIGURES

4,201

Refugees currently hosted in Djibouti pending further physical verification exercises

1,859

Registered females.

1,504

Registered children and adolescents.

Currently, a total of **4,201** persons 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	156	176	311	305	261	222	1431	932	122	110	4,026
Syria			1			2	1				4
Somalia	7	12	6	6	2	14	14	53	3	9	126
Eritrea	4	1	3	2	4	3	9	7		1	34
Ethiopia			2			1	2	2			7
Iraq			1		2			1			4
Total	167	189	324	313	269	242	1457	995	125	120	4,201

All figures are provisional and still subject to change.

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.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context and Migration

UNHCR carries out regular border monitoring in Djibouti by observing activities at Obock port as well as entry points along the villages north of Obock. During the reporting period, there has been a slight increase in new arrivals from Yemen.

On 21 February, ONARS celebrated its 39th Anniversary in Markazi camp. The ceremony was attended by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior and the Ambassadors of Yemen and Ethiopia in Djibouti, in addition to the field representatives of UNHCR and partners.

The reporting period was marked by demonstrations on the part of refugees in Obock to call for better education services and the construction of a primary school for pupils in the camp.

With regards to migration, and according to IOM, some 525 migrants have arrived from Yemen from the end of December 2016 to the beginning of March 2017. IOM Djibouti has received funding from the US Government to assist in strengthening the capacity of the Government of Djibouti to better respond to the Yemen Crisis and to increase assistance to vulnerable migrants from Yemen, especially those stranded in Obock. IOM also received funding from *Expertise France* to strengthen Migrant Response Centres throughout the country. The fund is part of a regional EU-Funded project named “Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in Eastern Africa”.

In order to promote recreational activities for migrants hosted at the IOM MRC of Obock and engage them in physical activities that are essential for their psychological wellbeing, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provided seven footballs and two volley balls for migrants at the MRC in January.

The Mixed Migration Task Force, which is jointly chaired by IOM and UNHCR in close collaboration with the Government of Djibouti held its January meeting in Obock at UNHCR premises. Partners, agencies, diplomats and researchers interested in migration issues attend the meetings in Djibouti city every month. This was the first meeting in the field.

In January, DRC conducted 63 awareness-raising sessions to 830 stranded migrants in Fantaheru on the risks of migration. In February, DRC conducted 30 similar awareness-raising sessions to some 488 Oromo, Amhara and Tigrinya migrants. The migrants were on transit to Yemen. The awareness sessions highlight good practices on hygiene promotion due to the bad conditions of living in Fantaheru, and Aquatabs were distributed to the migrants to help reduce water borne diseases. DRC conducts these sessions in small groups some three to five days a week. DRC also referred migrants requiring medical attention to the *Centre Medical Hospitalier* (CMH) in Obock where they receive free medical assistance.

Missions to the Field:

- On 03 January, a delegation from the Italian civil military cooperation (CIMIC) visited Markazi camp to understand the needs of refugees. The delegation visited the camp facilities and discussed needs with UNHCR staff and partners. On the same day, a delegation from the ONARS and the Yemeni Minister for Regional Administration visited the camp with a donation of rice and blankets, and inaugurated fresh water fountains donated by the Arab NGO, WAMY.
- Joss Stone, Internationally acclaimed Grammy Award winning soul singer performed at Markazi camp for Yemeni refugees on 19 January. She had also performed in Ali Addeh camp for Somali refugees the day before. This is part of her *Total World Tour* where she aims to sing in every country of the world and collaborate with local artists from the various countries. Because of difficulties of



UNHCR staff and partners in Obock give a briefing of Markazi camp to CIMIC delegation. @UNHCR/A.AK, Jan 2017.

access to Somalia and Yemen, Joss Stone sang to refugees in Djibouti and collaborated with Somali and Yemeni artists in the camps.

- On 31 January, a delegation from the World Bank visited Markazi camp and enquired about opportunities to support refugee livelihood activities as part of the development of the broader region of Obock.
- UNHCR's Senior Regional Public Health Officer was on mission to Djibouti during the reporting period to ensure a smooth handover of health activities from UNHCR's health partner, Africa Humanitarian Action, to its new implementing partner.
- On 01 February, German Ambassador to Djibouti, H.E. Dr. Volker Berresheim, visited Markazi camp to understand the needs of refugees. The Ambassador showed great interest in mixed migration issues and the coordination between UNHCR and IOM. Having visited Ali Addeh camp in December 2016, this was the Ambassador's first visit to Markazi.
- On 20 February a delegation from the *SOS Village D'Enfant* visited Markazi camp to assess the needs of children in the camp in preparation for a project they intend to set up.
- A delegation consisting of UNHCR's Director of Comprehensive Responses, Mr. Daniel Endres, Africa Bureau's Senior Legal Officer, David Bugden, and CRRF Advocacy and Policy Officer, Anouck Bronee, conducted a mission to Djibouti from 21-22 February in light of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) as a follow up to the New York Declaration. The aim of the mission was to roll out the CRRF in five pilot countries including Djibouti. The delegation met with Government of Djibouti counterparts and ONARS; Ambassadors of USA, Germany, the EU delegation and China; IGAD; UN Agencies; NGOs (national and international) and UNHCR staff. Though they were not able to visit the refugee camps, the delegation met with urban refugee representatives in Djibouti City to better understand their needs and concerns.
- From 25-26 February, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in collaboration with ONARS organized a two-day photography training for 10 youth in Markazi camp with Janet Biggs, videographer, and Kari Soinio, photographer: two professionals who volunteered their time and skills during their visit to Djibouti. Ms. Biggs donated five video cameras to LWF which the refugees will be able to make use of.
- On 28 February, Mr. Sadakazu Ikawa, Executive Director of the Japanese NGO, International Children's Action Network (ICAN) visited Markazi camp and UNHCR in Obock to discuss further potential ICAN activities in Markazi, hoping to expand on its current activities through both infrastructure, and social and protection activities. ICAN was funded by Japan Platform until end of October 2016 and then continued its activities through its own resources.
- During the reporting period, ethnologist Nathalie Peulz from New York University in Abu Dhabi and photographer Nadia Benchallal carried out a photo project with Yemeni refugees from Markazi camp. The team donated ten cameras to refugees and the project is expected to carry through at various stages in 2017 and will include other countries of the Horn of Africa where Yemeni refugees are hosted.
- Several researchers have been interested in visiting Markazi camp and learning more about food security and migration issues. These included researchers from the Centre of Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and one from the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs (IIHA) at Fordham University who was researching the impact of the first wave of refugee arrivals to Djibouti from Yemen. Furthermore, as the anniversary of the Yemen conflict approaches, various journalists have been interested in covering issues pertaining to Yemeni refugees and migrants.

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- During January and February 2017, UNHCR and ONARS registered 56 Yemeni individuals (28 families) in Obock and Djibouti city.
- As part of its activities to maintain family links, the Djibouti Red Crescent (CRD) offers phone call services to new arrivals and refugees so that they can call and reassure their families abroad. During the months of January and February 2017, a total of 624 refugees in Markazi camp (269 within the framework of Restoring Family Land and 355 within that of Maintaining Family Links) benefitted from the service.

- During the period from 01 January to 28 February, ICAN held 37 child-friendly sessions in Markazi camp with a total number of 1444 children participating. Children enjoyed activities such as football, handball, colouring, jumping rope, singing and running. On average, six youth from the camp joined the activities as volunteer animators.
- In collaboration with ONARS, DRC conducted a training session in Obock on migration, human rights and refugee rights and duties on 12 January with a total of 20 participants including host and refugee community leaders of Obock. Representatives from the Gendarmerie, Ombudsman office, prefecture and the police participated in the training. According to the pre- and post-training survey, 75 per cent of participants obtained a better understanding of migration, human rights and refugee rights and duties, and committed to undertake their responsibility to uphold these rights. This was part of a larger training that also covered Ali Addeh and Holl Holl camps.



DRC training on migration, human rights, and the rights and duties of refugees conducted in January in Obock. @DRC/2017.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR is currently handing over its health facilities to a new implementing partner following a launch of call for partnership for the health sector. The months of January and February were transitional months with a continuation of health and nutrition activities in Markazi camp, Obock town and Djibouti city. Administration of staff and activities is jointly managed by UNHCR and ONARS until the new organization is officially registered and fully functional.
- A UNHCR Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) was conducted in Markazi camp at the end of February. The SENS also took place in Ali Addeh and Holl Holl camps in February. Results will be shared in the forthcoming update.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR is currently reviewing new standard operating procedures for referral of medical cases to hospitals in Obock and Djibouti city.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- There are currently 302 primary school pupils and 23 secondary school students enrolled in school in Markazi camp. On 06 February, LWF distributed school supplies and stationary to pupils and students in Markazi camp. These included 11 teacher tables and chairs, 103 desks for the pupils, 13 cupboards, 11 blackboards, 1,356 textbooks for children of grades 2-12 in addition to pens and pencils, markers and textbooks. The items have helped to improve the teaching and learning conditions in the tent classes. LWF also organizes a school feeding programme comprising of a snack and milk for pupils from pre-school to ninth grade. An average of 320 pupils benefit from the school feeding programme every day.
- From 29 Jan to 02 Feb, LWF organized exams for ninth grade primary school pupils. An inspector from the Ministry of Education and a school director from the Association of Arab Schools in Djibouti supervised the exams. A total of 14 students sat for the exams which constitute 40% of their final primary school grade.



UNHCR staff participate in distributing school materials to pupils in Markazi camp. @UNHCR/N.Lashermes, Feb.2017.



Ninth grade pupils in Markazi camp sit for midterm exams which constitute 40% of their final primary school exam in May. @LWF/2017.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On 07 January, land levelling for the construction of a primary school in Markazi camp started. Ten local workers from Obock were employed.
- On 07 February refugees marched from Markazi camp to UNHCR office in a peaceful demonstration requesting that promises which had been made with regards to the education of their children be fulfilled. There had been a delay of several months in the delivery of school supplies, the construction of a school and teacher incentives following the transfer of the school from Al Rahma to Markazi camp. After the demonstration, meetings were held with the mediator of Obock, the town authorities, UNHCR, LWF and a delegation composed of the school management committee and refugee leaders to address concerns related to education and agree to solutions that would best benefit the refugees.
- UNHCR reviewed with a consultant from LWF the need for an extension of the LWF community centre which will serve as a recreational room for children. The extension is expected to be 5x6 square meters.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in collaboration with UNHCR, ONARS and ONEAD, the national water company, installed a 45m³ reservoir connected to the Obock city water line. The reservoir is connected to the urban water network of Obock and a motor pump installed next to the reservoir will supply Markazi through the existing pipeline providing a sustainable solution to water availability in the camp. Water trucking will be gradually phased out. Refugees in Markazi camp receive an average supply of 20 litres per person per day.



The new reservoir in Markazi camp installed by NRC and connected to the Obock main water line. @UNHCR/N.Lashermes. Feb.2017.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In February, NRC and UNHCR conducted a joint monitoring assessment of showers and latrines required in Markazi camp.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- In January and February, WFP distributed dry rations to refugees in Markazi camp. In January, 1,422 refugees (406 families) and in February, 1,340 individuals (397 families) benefitted from the distribution.

- On 03-04 January, the Arab NGO WAMY distributed rice (and blankets) to some 393 refugee households comprising 1,353 individuals.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- From 10-12 January, DRC organized a three-day training of trainers in Markazi camp. The training was concerned with plant nurseries, improvement of quality of soil, and the protection of crops against insects. The training was facilitated by an FAO consultant contracted by DRC. DRC currently maintains 30 micro-gardens in Markazi camp. The identification of beneficiaries is jointly supported by ONARS and UNHCR. Some 26 per cent of beneficiaries in Markazi now consume their home-grown vegetables; mainly tomatoes and okra.
- On 27-28 February, DRC trained 40 refugees in Markazi camp in business management and provided 39 refugees with cash grants of 17,500 djf (100 dollars) each for validated income-generated activities.



A Yemeni refugee proudly displaying a melon, the product of his micro-garden funded by DRC with the technical expertise of FAO @UNHCR/N.Lashermes, Feb. 2017

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- In 2016, Zein Ahmed, a student from the University of Ottawa in Canada established a fundraising site to collect donations for Yemeni refugees in Djibouti. Throughout the reporting period, the donations which included school supplies and hygiene items (such as soap, diapers, garments and slippers) were distributed to families and children in Markazi camp. The site raised over 6,000 dollars and Zein witnessed part of the distribution herself when she visited Djibouti during her term holidays.
- On 24 and 25 January, UNHCR assisted ONARS in the distribution of kerosene. In total 1,401 refugees received kerosene at the ration of two litres per person.

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.

The web portal for the Yemen Crisis is available on <http://data.unhcr.org/yemen>. This portal, co-lead by IOM and UNHCR, provides a regional overview as well as specific information on conditions and activities regarding the Yemen situation at the country level. Countries include Ethiopia, Djibouti, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Sudan. The site enables sharing of data on population and movements, maps, recent assessments, agency/NGO specific reports, the latest funding information and quick links to a variety of partner websites.



Soul singer Joss Stone performs to Yemeni refugees in Markazi Camp in January. @UNHCR/A.AK, Jan 2017.

Contacts:

Amira Abd El-Khalek, Associate Reporting Officer, abdelkha@unhcr.org

Regional portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/yemen/regional.php>

Cell +253 77 22 61 36

Twitter: @UNHCRDjibouti