

DJIBOUTI

INTER-AGENCY UPDATE FOR THE RESPONSE TO THE YEMEN SITUATION #38

31 March 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the latest available statistics from IOM and the Djibouti government, 33,340 persons of mixed nationalities have arrived in Djibouti as of 15 March 2016 (since 26 March 2015). Of those, 18,952 persons (57 per cent) are Yemeni nationals, 12,427 (37 per cent) are transiting migrants and 1,961 persons (6 per cent) are Djiboutian returnees.
- As of 31 March 2016, UNHCR and ONARS registered 7,002 refugees of which 6,766 are Yemeni nationals; the majority was registered in Obock.

KEY FIGURES

7,002

Refugees registered since the outbreak of the crisis

2,945

Registered females.

2,633

Registered children and adolescents.

Population of concern

A total of **7,002** 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	356	367	507	499	445	378	2503	1383	148	180	6,766
Syria	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Palestine	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	5
Somalia	4	9	12	12	5	11	31	69	3	9	165
Eritrea	6	1	3	2	5	3	15	10	0	1	46
Pakistan	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4
Ethiopia	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	9
Sudan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	367	379	525	513	455	394	2559	1469	151	190	7,002

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

Border monitoring trends continue at the ports of Djibouti and Obock and along the northern coast of Djibouti. The trend remains the same with small numbers of Yemenis seeking asylum in Djibouti. An average of 40 individuals a week are registered by UNHCR and ONARS.

There are so far 567 Yemeni refugees who have returned simultaneously from Obock to their place of origin in Yemen; namely Bab Al Mandab, based on the refugee cards and attestations they are returning to UNHCR and boat manifestations at the port of Obock. The UNHCR team in Obock continues to raise the awareness of refugees on the security situation in Yemen which remains extremely volatile.

On 22 March, UNHCR in Obock received a delegation from the Arab Human Rights Committee of the League of Arab States. The delegation visited the available health facilities in the camp, observed the food distribution which was taking place that day, and discussed with refugees their urgent needs.

The Republic of Djibouti's presidential campaign began on 25 March 2016, ahead of the presidential elections which are scheduled to take place on 8 April 2016. Six candidates are expected to run for presidency including the current president, Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh, who has been in office since 1999.

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- From 15-31 March, UNHCR and ONARS registered 113 individuals (64 families) in Obock and Djibouti city. Furthermore, as at 31 March, a total of 1,255 urban refugees (667 families) were registered in 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. From 15-23 March, 237 refugees in Markazi camp (133 females, 104 males) benefitted from the service.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- From 15-30 March, 359 refugees were treated at the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) outpatient clinic in Markazi camp mostly suffering from communicable diseases such as respiratory infections and diarrhea. Furthermore, from 20-24 March, some 288 households were sensitized on voluntary HIV counseling and testing. Out of these 98 individuals voluntarily tested for HIV revealing one positive result who is currently undergoing treatment.
- During the reporting period, AHA launched an initiative to conduct health promotion activities in school. Through collaboration with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Centre Medical Hospitalier (CMH) in Obock, AHA community workers will conduct bi-monthly sessions at Al Rahma school.
- Patients needing specialized healthcare are assisted through a tripartite partnership between ONARS, AHA and the NGO World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY) which covers the cost of treatment at Al Rahma hospital in Djibouti. UNHCR covers the cost of transportation and accommodation for the referrals.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- Primary classes for grades 1-7 continue to take place at Al Rahma school on a daily basis. During the last two weeks of March, there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of children attending. Some 145 students (60-63 per cent) out of the total 338 enrolled students in grades 1-7 attended classes. The attendance rates are decreasing gradually because families are spontaneously returning to Yemen or leaving for Djibouti city.
- A total of 30 children, aged 3-5 years, are enrolled in schools in Djibouti city through the support of UNICEF.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During the week 20-24 March, the bus transporting children to school was not functioning because of a lack of fuel, which caused disruption in school attendance. This matter has now been resolved as ONARS has agreed to provide fuel when there is a shortage.
- There remain 136 urban students who are not enrolled in school. Sensitization is planned with parents of the children, the Djibouti community leader and directors of public schools in Djibouti city to encourage children's enrollment.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- WFP conducted its monthly food ration distribution on 22 March. A total of 2,150 refugees (600 families) in Markazi camp and Obock town benefitted from the distribution. It was noted that around 551 persons who usually receive assistance were not present. This figure closely corresponds to the number of refugee cards returned to UNHCR as a result of the spontaneous return of Yemeni refugees.
- FAO has introduced gardening activities aimed at engaging the refugee community in gardening activities to diversify their dietary intake. The fruits of this labour became visible during the month of March. Due to the very harsh condition of the soil and water scarcity, the FAO designed module includes a mix of technology and technical assistance which includes a drip irrigation simplified system, germination tray kit, seeds of chili, tomatoes, melons and okras, and technical assistance every two weeks from an FAO expert on gardening production in water scarce conditions. Initially the project targeted 120 families, which was reduced to 70 mainly due to limitations imposed by the environment. Families who succeeded can count on an average of 18 Kilograms of vegetables per month for a period of about 3 months. FAO worked in coordination with UNHCR and for the community mobilization in direct partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).



A refugee of Markazi camp is overjoyed at being able to plant fruits and vegetables in Markazi camp. ©FAO/L.Lombi. March 2016.

- During the reporting period, 22 children were enrolled in the severe malnutrition programme (SAM) and 692 packets of PlumpyDoz were distributed to them. Additionally, 26 children were enrolled in the moderate malnutrition programme.
- WFP provided a stock of Super Cereal ++ during the reporting period for use at the AHA nutrition centre.
- On 18 March, UNHCR and AHA distributed a donation of full cream powder milk and mineral water for children aged 0-6 months, 7-12 months, and adults and elderly persons from 50 years and above.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- During the third week of March, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) conducted sensitization sessions on nutritional hygiene. The sensitization included information on hand washing, proper washing and cooking of vegetables, and washing of cooking and eating utensils before and after use.
- Sensitization on water usage was also conducted in Markazi camp during the reporting period. The community was sensitized on water management and how to avoid water waste, especially with the hot season approaching. Working together as a community through NRC's guidance, the refugees produced and placed information boards with water messages around the camp. Through its hygiene promoters, NRC cleaned the water distribution points and sensitized the community on rational use of water.



NRC has cleaned the water points in Markazi camp and constructed water trenches around them to contain and drain excess water.
©NRC/March 2016.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- Further to the King Salman Humanitarian and Relief Centre (KSC) request for the clearing of 40,000 square meters allocated in Markazi camp by the Government of Djibouti, UNHCR has removed UNHCR tents and Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) to reconstruct them in Sectors One and Two. The Norwegian Refugee Council has also dismantled 62 latrines, 20 kitchens and three showers. It is not yet clear whether WASH facilities are included in the KSC package.

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.



Refugees proudly display their vegetable and fruit gardens which were grown with the support of FAO and DRC. ©FAO/L.Lombi. March 2016.

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