

SOMALIA TASK FORCE ON YEMEN SITUATION

WEEKLY INTER-AGENCY UPDATE #33

12 – 18 August 2015

KEY FIGURES

28,703

Arrivals from Yemen since 27 March at the early onset of the crisis

2,544

Yemeni prima facie refugees registered in Somalia since 27 March

17,349

Arrivals registered at Reception Centers in Berbera, Bossaso and Mogadishu since 27 March

55%

Registered arrivals expressing intention to return to Mogadishu

8,811

Somali returnees provided with onward transportation assistance since 27 March

FUNDING

USD 64 million

requested for the Somalia Response Plan for Yemen Crisis (April-September 2015)

**Funded
6%**

**Gap
94%**

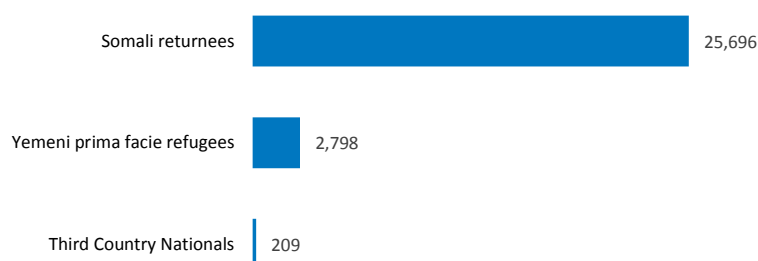


HIGHLIGHTS

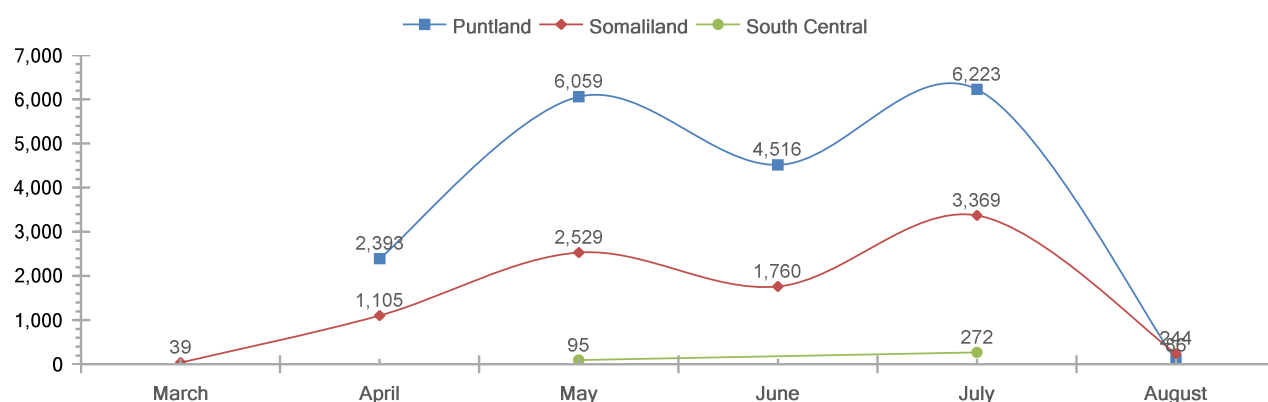
- During the reporting period, a total of four boats carrying 107 individuals arrived in Somalia from Yemen to Berbera, Somaliland (40 persons) and Bossaso, Puntland (67 persons). Out of them, 84 individuals were registered by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners in Berbera and Bossaso Reception Centers.
- The most recent arrival was a boat named *Shamis 3* carrying 13 Somali nationals who were met at Bossaso Port by their relatives in the evening of 17 August 2015. There were nine male, three female adults and one child from two households. None requested further assistance. On 13 August, two cargo boats named *Shemis 2* and *Fatul Khayr*, carrying 54 people (38 Somalis and 16 Yemenis) arrived at Bossaso from Mukalla, Yemen, and a boat named *Nuba 2* carrying 40 individuals of 28 households (22 Somalis, 16 Yemenis and two Syrians) arrived in Berbera from Mokha, Yemen.
- On 15 August, UNHCR Somalia Representative and the Puntland Minister of Interior inaugurated the 2nd Reception Center in Bossaso, rehabilitated by UNHCR through DRC, with a capacity of 600 persons. With this development, the reception capacity in Bossaso was increased from 500 to 1,100 people.
- UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Yemen Situation, Claire Bourgeois, visited Somaliland from 11 to 13 August, together with UNHCR Somalia Representative, and the Representative also visited Bossaso from 13 to 16 August. During the visit, they had meetings authorities and partners to discuss the coordination mechanism and assess current response.
- Subject to final approval from respective HQs and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, UNHCR and IOM should continue co-leading following activities (but not limited to); monitoring and rescue at sea, registration, reception and response upon arrival, provision of onward transportation to areas of return (for Somali returnees) and areas of refuge (for refugees). For refugees: the moment they arrive in places of refuge, UNHCR will take a lead on protection and response in line with existing guidelines. For returnees: the moment they arrive in places of return (areas of origin or choice), they will fall under the prevailing coordination system, be it cluster, sector or development.

Population of concern

A total of **28,703** people of concern



ARRIVALS PER MONTH



ARRIVALS PER NATIONALITY AND GENDER/AGE

Nationality	Arrived to			Total	
	Puntland	Somaliland	South Central		
Djibouti	6	1		7	0 %
Ethiopia	65	104		169	1 %
India	2			2	0 %
Kenya	7			7	0 %
Libya		2		2	0 %
Pakistan		1		1	0 %
Palestine		2		2	0 %
Somalia	17,706	7,623	367	25,696	90 %
Sudan	1			1	0 %
Syria		10		10	0 %
Tanzania		1		1	0 %
UK	3			3	0 %
USA	2	2		4	0 %
Yemen	1,498	1,300		2,798	10 %
Total	19,290	9,046	367	28,703	100 %
	67.19 %	31.53 %	1.28 %		

G/A	Arrived to			Total	
	PL	SL	SC		
Children	8,120	4,329	23	12,472	44 %
Females	5,867	2,455	123	8,445	30 %
Males	5,183	2,262	112	7,557	26 %
Total	19,170	9,046	258	28,474	100 %
	67.31 %	31.78 %	0.91 %		

Note: not all individuals that arrived remained to be registered. The figures shown here reflect those who have chosen to have their bio data collected

INTENDED AREAS OF RETURN OF REGISTERED ARRIVALS

Areas of Intended Return	First Point of Entry from Yemen			Total	
	Puntland	Somaliland	South Central		
Mogadishu	4,505	4,991	0	9,496	55 %
Hargeisa	324	1,565	0	1,889	11 %
Bossaso	637	247	0	884	5 %
Kismayo	338	174	0	512	3 %
Baidoa	364	148	0	512	3 %
Afgoye	225	124	0	349	2 %
Other locations	1,902	1,743	62	3,707	21 %
Total Arrivals Registered at Reception Centers	8,295	8,992	62	17,349	100 %

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

A decrease in the number of new arrivals in Somalia was noted in August 2015. According to the information reported by the new arrivals, the fact that there are less and smaller boats arriving it is not an indication that the trend of arrivals is decreasing in the future. According to the new arrivals in Somaliland, many Somali returnees and Yemeni nationals are waiting to leave Yemen but cannot afford to pay the travel. The fact that more and larger boats came during the months of June and July is due to the fact that during the holy month of Ramadan, many people/organizations were giving money (*sadaka*) to allow the new arrivals to travel to Somalia. According to the new arrivals, the most vulnerable people are now waiting for an opportunity to leave Yemen.

According to the Yemeni Community and new arrivals, as the situation in South Yemen is improving in terms of security, some Yemenis and Somali returnees are now questioning if they should leave the country or not.

Another factor to be taken into consideration for the decrease in arrivals in Somalia is also the current weather conditions. The sea between Yemen and Somalia is particularly rough at the moment, making it difficult for boats to make the crossing. Once the conditions at sea get better, it is expected that the new arrivals will continue to reach Somali Ports.

Achievements



Protection

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- Out of the group of 54 people that arrived in Bossaso on 13 August, 44 people (20 households of 13 females and 31 men, 30 Somalis and 14 Yemenis) were registered and assisted at Bossaso Reception Center while the others were not in need of assistance and rejoined their relatives.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR Bossaso registered 48 Yemeni individuals (22 households) as *prima facie* refugees. The total number of Yemeni nationals registered in Bossaso is currently 1,428 (526 households). An additional 142 individuals (53 households) have undergone a registration interview but are pending data entry into UNHCR registration system, ProGres.
- On 15 August, the 2nd Reception Centre in Bossaso, renovated by UNHCR through DRC, was officially opened by UNHCR Representative and the Puntland Minister of Interior, along with other governmental officials including district and regional authorities, as well as international agencies. The following works have been completed: construction of 12 latrines (with consideration for those with special needs), rehabilitation of the existing 10 latrines, site leveling and clearing, rehabilitation of the guard's room and generator room, barbed wire fencing, placement of portable water tanks, placement of generator, and construction of a child friendly space. The Centre is now fully equipped to receive people.
- The Somalia Red Crescent Society (SCRS) provided free phone calls, through their Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme, to 153 individuals during the reporting period.
- IOM started training eight immigration officers and two interns working under the Puntland Department of Immigration in registration of arrivals from Yemen. The training began on 17 August and will last for three days. On the fourth day, registration equipment will be donated to the Department of Immigration to improve the initial data collection/immigration screening at Bossaso Port.
- UNCHR, IOM, OCHA, NRC, DRC, Save the Children, CARE, and Tadamun Social Society (TASS), members of the Puntland New Arrivals Task Force, conducted on 17 August a second assessment to locate Somali returnees from Yemen in IDP settlements in Bossaso and identify their needs. Data are currently being compiled and the results will be shared in the next update, in collaboration with the Bossaso Protection Cluster that had already undertaken an assessment in IDP settlements to identify arrival from Yemen.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is currently a backlog of individuals pending data entry into ProGres (142 individuals/53 households), but UNHCR is finalizing recruitment of new Registration Associates and a senior UNHCR Registration Officer is on mission to help streamline the registration procedures.
- In a meeting between UNHCR Somalia Representative and the Yemeni Refugee Committee in Bossaso, the refugees raised their challenges such as lack of job opportunities, basic services and security in Somalia, and mentioned harassment from local community. The coping mechanisms of host communities are getting saturated: many refugees and returnees require immediate support on shelter and livelihoods but are mostly confronted by difficulties such as land issues to set-up temporary or

emergency shelter. Host communities are already in dire situations hence not able to host Yemeni refugees and returnees for an extended period of time. Numerous requests were received from the authorities both in Somaliland and Puntland to establish a camp for Yemen refugees where sustained multi-sector support can be provided by the international community. The out-of-camp policy was explained, with emphasis on the fact that assistance has to be provided based on needs and not based on identity. This approach was supported and communicated by UNHCR and DSRSG/HC/RC to authorities.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- The group of 40 individuals that reached Berbera on 13 August departed from Mokha Port, Yemen after travelling from Sana', Aden and Taiz. They reported the presence of several check points at main streets leading to Mokha, run by militia groups who were inspecting vehicles and luggage. They departed from Mokha on 11 August with a commercial vessel, some travelling for free and others paying 15,000 YER (approx. 75 USD). Males were accommodated in an open space on the vessel and females in a separate room, and received meals and water during the sea travel, which lasted 28 and a half hours. Reports were received from authorities that most of the boats used during travel do not have toilet facilities. The vessel had to wait for some 12 hours offshore due to high winds before docking in Berbera on 13 August. Out of this group, 28 households were registered including 22 Somali nationals (11 females and 11 males) and 16 Yemenis (one female and 15 males). The two Syrian nationals who were on the boat left on their own and did not request any assistance.
- During the reporting period, a total of 184 Yemeni refugees (89 cases) have been registered in Hargeisa. A total of 1,116 Yemeni refugees (574 cases) have been registered in Hargeisa since 28 March until 16 August 2015.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The rehabilitation of the registration room at Berbera Reception Center is still ongoing.
- The first 100 Yemeni refugees will be included next week under the livelihood project by UNHCR's implementing partner Action Africa Help International (AAH-I). UNHCR urged the partner to speedily include in the project other 200 vulnerable Yemenis.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONS

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, a total of 472 Somali returnees from Yemen arrived in South Central regions from Berbera and Bossaso: 324 individuals (54 households) in Mogadishu, 89 individual (20 households) in Baidoa, 41 individuals (9 households) in Luuq, and 18 individuals (3 households) in Kismayo. Out of them, 23 individuals were registered/verified and provided return and reinstallation assistance by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners at UNHCR Way Station in Luuq, including Core Relief Items (CRI), reinstallation cash grant of 100 USD per person, and food ration for three months provided by WFP. Provision of return and reinstallation assistance package to the other returnees from Yemen is ongoing upon completion of registration/verification procedures at UNHCR Way Stations in Baidoa and Kismayo.
- Verification and monitoring of movements is regularly done through UNHCR funded Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), implementing partners and UNHCR staff. In Mogadishu, the PRMN monitors reported that an estimated 324 individuals of 54 households arrived in Shibis, Dharkeynle and Kahda districts. The returnees arrived through Bossaso/Berbera in the month of July/August.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Mogadishu, no assistance was provided to Somali returnees from Yemen except onwards transportation assistance initially provided at the Reception Centers in Berbera and Bossaso. During the report period, over 100 Somali returnees from Yemen crowded the main gate of IOM-manned Transit Centre in Mogadishu, demanding WFP to issue food voucher card which took much time to print than expected five-day processing. Reportedly, some returnees in Mogadishu are turning to join IDP settlements as provision of return assistance package is not yet fully implemented due to lack of availability of proper reception facility. UNHCR is working with the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) to rehabilitate the identified Reception Center and make it operational by September.



Health

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, Save the Children International (SCI) assisted 19 individuals with emergency medical services in Bossaso Reception Center; five of these individuals are currently recuperating at Bossaso General Hospital and Daryeel Hospital.

On 13 August, SCI also supported 19 Yemeni refugees in Gardo with emergency medical assistance (three children and 16 adults). Four of whom were referred to Gardo General Hospital to receive specialized medical services.

- SCI and SRCS conducted psychosocial support sessions for 120 children (70 girls and 50 boys) and their parents and to three adults at the Bossaso Reception Centre as an attempt to ease the traumatizing experience of conflict and displacement
- Tadamun Social Society (TASS), through the support of UNICEF, provided emergency medical support to three Yemeni children (boys) and provided follow-up care for two HIV positive children. Additionally, TASS assisted one GBV survivor with medical and psychosocial support as well as a single father with three children with medical, material and food support.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Puntland New Arrivals Task Force has identified a need to provide support to the health team at the Bossaso Reception Center at night.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- From the 13 August arrivals in Berbera, IOM provided medical assistance to eight patients under five years old (one male and seven females), and seven over five years old (five males and two females). No medical referral was made.



Food Security and Nutrition

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- WFP, through implementing partner Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA), continued to provide food assistance at the Bossaso Reception Centre. During the reporting period, WFP provided cooked meals to all 44 new arrivals registered at the Centre. The same individuals also received an e-transfer card following biometric registration in order to enable them to purchase food items from WFP's contracted retailers to complement the cooked meals.
- The Yemeni refugees residing in Gardo received WFP food assistance through the e-transfer card. A total of 338 refugees were registered in WFP system and received food assistance during the reporting period, consisting of 21 USD per family member per month.
- DRC provided emergency water and biscuits to 67 new arrivals at Bossaso Port as well as at Bossaso Reception Centre.
- During the reporting period, SCI distributed ready to drink milk, dates and biscuits and conducted Infant and Young Children Feeding sessions (IYCF) for 40 mothers at Bossaso Reception Centre, focused on awareness raising of feeding promotion as well as private counselling sessions for mothers with specific needs.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- The kitchen construction at Berbera Reception Center has been completed and the wet feeding programme is ready to start in the next days, by WFP through implementing partner DRC. As WFP provides beans, oil and Corn Soya Blend, DRC under UNHCR funds will continue providing fruit, bread and meat to ensure food diversity and palatability especially for children.



Water and Sanitation

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- SCI provided water trucking at the 1st Reception Centre in Bossaso and SRCS deployed five volunteers to work at the same Reception Centre to improve hygiene and sanitation.



Shelter and NFIs

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- For the group of 40 that arrived in Berbera on the 13 of August, seven Core Relief Item (CRI) kits were distributed to the identified vulnerable families at Berbera Reception Center.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR’s partner Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland (CCBRS) started an assessment on the different modalities of accommodation for the Yemeni refugees following feedback that many Yemenis were sleeping in the streets. While the Yemeni Committee did not confirm this information, UNHCR asked CCBRS to soon corroborate it.
- Berbera is regularly facing serious environment challenges from drought to floods and the Government has no assistance to sustain those obstacles. In order to support the local authority of Berbera, UNHCR is reviewing the possibility to upgrade Berbera IDP settlements, in collaboration with the Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR).



Logistics

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- On 11 and 12 August, following vulnerability assessment, SCI and IOM, with UNHCR’s funds, supported 409 Somali returnees from Yemen (151 households) with onward transportation to return to their area of origin from Bossaso Reception Center. The majority (87%) traveled to regions in South Central Somalia, including Mogadishu, WelanWeyne, Afgoye and Marka, while 11% went to Hargeisa and Borama, and 2% to Galkayo.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- Following vulnerability assessments, IOM, with UNHCR’s funds, provided onward transportation assistance to 13 Somali returnees from seven households at Berbera Reception Center. One of the returnees reported to be traveling to Bossaso, one to Qoryooleey, and the remaining 11 to Mogadishu.

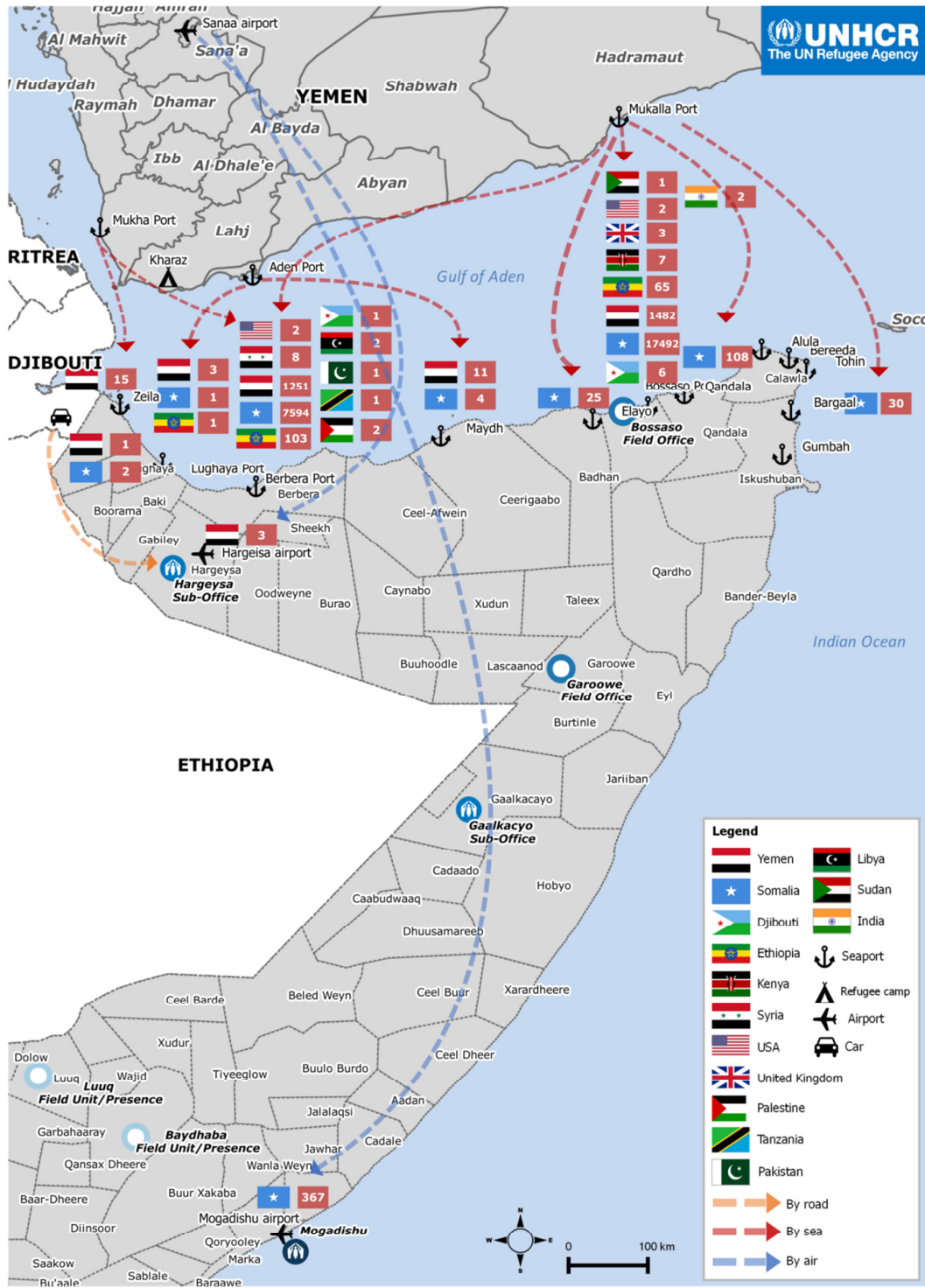
Working in partnership

- During UNHCR Somalia Representative’s visit to Bossaso on 13-16 August, she held meetings with the Puntland New Arrival Task Force, with refugee leaders and the Puntland Ministry of Interior and visited the two Reception Centers and Bossaso Port. Key issues discussed included efficient registration of all new arrivals, reception conditions, assistance to Yemen refugees and Somali returnees settling in Puntland rather than their areas of origin. During the meeting, the Puntland Minister of Interior (MOI) informed UNHCR that there are Yemeni refugees in other location where UNHCR has no presence and requested UNHCR to arrange for their registration. MOI sent a team to register Yemeni refugees in Mirgaga in Sool and Sanag regions and reported presence of Yemeni refugees also in Beletweyne, Hiran region, which is part of South Central Somalia, and asked UNHCR to consider sending team to register those refugees.
- UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Yemen Situation, Claire Bourgeois, during her mission to Somaliland on 11-13 August, looked at the coordination mechanisms and discussed with the Somaliland New Arrival Task Force members about gaps and challenges faced by the agencies to respond to the needs of the new arrivals. She also had meetings with the Somaliland Minister of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR) and the Yemeni Community in Hargeisa who reported that some Yemenis in Somaliland would like to go back to Aden due to the hardship conditions in Somaliland.
- A meeting between UNHCR, WFP and DRC took place to discuss the WFP SCOPE registration technicalities and wet feeding program at Berbera Reception Center. It has been agreed that the SCOPE registration will take place in the room assigned for UNHCR/MRRR registration. A WFP e-card will be provided to every household upon registration, and vulnerable families identified will receive 3-month food support whether through e-transfer or direct food supply at the area of destination.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Somalia Response Plan for Yemen Crisis (April – September 2015) was released on 4 June and shared with donors, governments and partners. 11 UN agencies and NGOs participate in the inter-agency response. The Response Plan can be accessed at <http://goo.gl/pVH7da>. Total funding received to date is USD 3.9 M (approximately 6% of total approved budget).

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 situation: [European Union](#) | [Italy](#) | [Japan](#) | [Sweden](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States of America](#)



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