

## YEMEN SITUATION

### UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #31

4-10 November 2015

#### KEY FIGURES

**2,692,000**

People of concern to UNHCR (in Yemen and surrounding countries), including refugees and persons internally displaced prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

**2,305,048**

Persons internally displaced prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

**122,337**

Arrivals to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sudan mainly by sea or overland.

**264,615**

Refugees in Yemen to be assisted with protection assistance and life sustaining items.

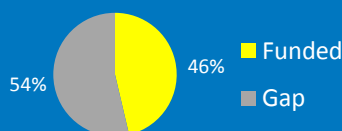
**150,892**

Individuals reached in Yemen with emergency relief items since the onset of the crisis.

#### FUNDING

**USD 153 Million**

Requested by UNHCR for the situation



UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for the Yemen Situation Emergency Response, April – December 2015 (16 October 2015), is available [here](#)

#### HIGHLIGHTS

##### Yemen:

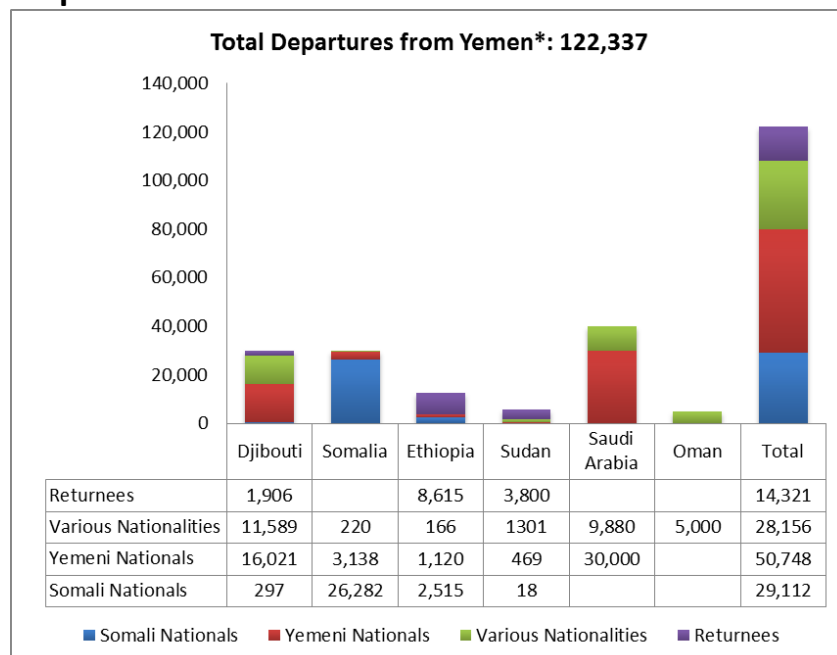
- In October, over 12,000 new arrivals reached Yemen along the Arabian Sea coast. However, since 1 November there have been no new arrivals reported due to high tides as a result of Cyclones Chapala and Megh.



Yemeni refugee family proudly standing in front of their restaurant in Hargeisa (Somaliland) opened thanks to the livelihood support provided by UNHCR and AAH-I partner © UNHCR/M. Aertker, October 2015.

#### POPULATION MOVEMENTS

##### Departures from Yemen



## New Arrivals to Yemen

Since 1 November no arrivals to Yemen were reported due to rough conditions at sea as a result of Cyclones Chapala and Megh. UNHCR registered 69 new arrival asylum seekers in Sana'a, and provided IOM with 100 mattresses and blankets to assist with the establishment of the Migration Reception Point (MRP) in Al Hudaydah, which will have a capacity to host 200 migrants (with specific needs only). In Somalia, following the cyclones announcement, UNHCR, partners of the UNHCR-funded Protection



*Ethiopian and Somali refugees at the Mayfa'a reception centre in Yemen. © UNHCR/J.Björgvinsson 2015*

and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) and the Puntland and Somaliland New Arrivals Task Forces rose awareness about the dangers of crossing into Yemen.

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

The Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed stated that the new round of talks should begin between 10 and 15 November. Meanwhile in Yemen, airstrikes persist in Hajjah, Sa'ada, Al Hudaydah, Amran, Al Hudaydah, Shabwah Al-Jawf, Marib, Sana'a, Al-Mahwit, Taizz, Ibb, and Shabwah governorates. Armed clashes continue in Al-Jawf, Al Bayda, Marib, Al Dhale'e, Shabwah, Lahj and Taizz. In Abyan, two civilians were injured as a result of a landmine explosion. On 8 November, Al-Thawra hospital in Taizz was shelled; the International Committee of the Red Cross condemned the attack, emphasizing that hospitals in Yemen have been repeatedly attacked with some 100 similar incidents since the escalation of the conflict, and urged warring factions to respect the sanctity of health facilities.

In Djibouti, the pace of arrivals decreased significantly, and only eight new refugees were registered. UNHCR is working with authorities and partners to inform refugees in Markazi camp and the host community in Obock about the cyclones and their possible effects on Djibouti. UNHCR cautioned refugees against movements to and from Obock, who relayed the information about the dangers to their relatives in Yemen. UNHCR and partners were on standby in



*UNHCR and partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity visit cyclone-affected villages in Shabwah. ©SHS, 2015*

preparation for the cyclone: WFP with dry food rations, UNHCR with core relief items (CRIs) and shelter, ONARS with trucks to transport people and aid items, and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) with CRIs.

## Update on aid response to Cyclones “Chapala” and “Megh” in Yemen

On 1 November tropical cyclone “Chapala” made landfall on Socotra Island and on mainland Yemen on 3 November, followed by cyclone “Megh”, which struck the island of Socotra on 8 November before dissipating over the mainland. Casualties were reported on Socotra as well as significant damage, and 3,000 families displaced and over 800 houses damaged over the course of the two storms. As a result of Chapala, partners reported that in Hadramout governorate, 2,400 families have been displaced, 44 houses fully damaged, 76 houses partially damaged, with severe damage to 65% of the infrastructure. In Al Maharah governorate, 159 families have been displaced, 342 houses partially damaged, with severe damage to 25% of the infrastructure. In Shabwah, 1,400 families have been displaced, 400 houses fully damaged, 800 houses partially damaged, with assessment ongoing on the scale of damage to the infrastructure. UN and partners are continuing to scale up response and provided over 830 families with CRI kits and tents, 1,450 families with safe water and are distributing high energy biscuits to 25,000 people in cyclone-affected areas. As of 10 November, UNHCR partner Society of Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) distributed 585 CRI kits to 2,712 persons in Chapala-affected Mayfa’a Hagir and Mayfa’a Broum area in collective centres and those living in the open. They also distributed 112 tents in Mayfa’a Hagir in Hadramout. SHS distributed 708 CRI kits to 2,466 persons in Azzan, Galaah/Jilaa, Al Sabaeen and Al Hafa areas in Shabwah.



### Yemen:

#### Refugee Response

- In Sana’a, UNHCR renewed 141 refugee certificates and registered 11 new-borns. Community Services counselled 15 unaccompanied separated children and one child with specific needs, conducted two best-interest assessments (BIAs) and 30 home visits to assess living conditions and needs of refugee children and their families or legal custodians.
- From 1 to 3 November, the Age, Gender Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) multi-functional team conducted 32 focus group discussions with refugees. Community Services also held a three-day training on AGDM for UNHCR partner Millennium Development Foundation (MDF).
- UNHCR partner InterSos conducted a mission to Alaya pre-trial detention centre and profiled 45 persons of concern; Ethiopians, Somalis and Syrians accused of irregular entry, intentional abuse or theft.
- UNHCR partner International Relief for Development (IRD) assessed 55 new cases for financial assistance, re-assessed 9 for further assistance, and provided 1,134 cases with specific needs with cash assistance.
- Sub-Office Aden began receiving refugees two days a week, and counselled 53 individuals, who mostly requested health and financial assistance. Community Services also met with community representatives on ways to strengthen leadership roles and skills. Due to security limitations, the Sub-Office reception is still not receiving refugees on a daily basis.

#### IDP Response

- On 3 November, UNHCR as the lead agency for the Protection Cluster conducted a workshop on Protection of IDPs, the 1998 Guiding Principles, Cluster Approach and an introduction to protection mainstreaming for new cluster members of the protection cluster and UNHCR partners. The overall objective was to develop the capacity of local NGOs in responding to IDP needs; particularly the protection needs and guide efforts to mainstream protection principles to avoid harm when delivering humanitarian aid.
- On 4 November, the Protection Cluster met in Sana’a to discuss cluster activities and targets for 2016 in preparation for the next step of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle for the Yemen response.
- UNHCR partner InterSos reactivated the GBV subnational cluster in Aden, and UNHCR committed to having the GBV subnational cluster as a standing item in Protection Cluster meetings, initially addressing GBV issues in Abyan and Aden, and existing response mechanisms in place.

- On 4 November, UNHCR hosted the first Protection Sub-National Cluster meeting in Al Hudaydah for agencies operating in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah. The forum enabled sub-national cluster members to exchange information on activities from April to October and review response plans.

#### Djibouti:

- As of 8 November, UNHCR and the Government refugee agency, the Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et aux Sinistrés (ONARS), registered 5,805 refugees (5,611 are Yemeni nationals); the majority was registered in Obock. From 29 September to 8 November, UNHCR Obock registered 2,061 individuals (567 families). This brings the total number of refugees in Markazi camp to 2,642 individuals; the others live in Obock and Djibouti city.
- Since the 30 September Government's decision to facilitate registration of Yemenis residing in Djibouti-city, the number of Yemeni refugees registered reached 821 individuals (431 families) as of 8 November.
- As part of its activities to restore and maintain family links, the Djibouti Red Crescent (CRD) offered phone call services to 78 refugees at the port of Djibouti.



#### Ethiopia:

- According to the Government's policy, Yemeni and Iraqi refugees are assisted within UNHCR's urban programme in Addis Ababa, while Somali and Eritrean refugees are under the camp operations. In previous meetings with UNHCR, ARRA informed that new arrivals of Somali refugees will be registered and assisted in Dollo Ado camps. On 21 October, instructions were issued for ARRA Jijiga to immediately start working on a plan to transport 81 Yemenis and the 822 Somali refugees registered in Jijiga to Addis Ababa and Dollo Ado, respectively.
- UNHCR is coordinating with IOM the relocation plan. Registration and assistance of Somalis who already arrived in Dollo Ado was also approved by ARRA. Information leaflets on registration and assistance were developed to be distributed to new arrivals in Jijiga and Dollo Ado at UNHCR and ARRA Offices. The first draft will be submitted to ARRA for approval. At a later time, copies of the leaflets will also be given to immigration officials based at border areas.

#### Somalia:

- UNHCR registered 28 Yemeni individuals as refugees (18 families). In Puntland, UNHCR Bossaso registered 1,918 Yemeni refugees (756 cases) since the beginning of the Yemen conflict in late March 2015.
- UNHCR and the Government are conducting a verification exercise to remove cases of dual nationality (Somali-Yemenis) and reconcile the numbers of Yemeni arrivals at the ports and the number of Yemeni registered refugees, which is currently higher.
- In Gardo, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is undergoing registration/verification of Somali returnees from Yemen, and registered so far 2,386 returnees (344 families) who joined 11 IDP settlements. UNHCR, in conjunction with the DRC, is capturing biometrics for those 344 families at Bossaso second reception centre. Those verified will be given a reinstallation cash grant by DRC, through UNHCR funding.

- The Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR) registered 177 Yemeni refugees in Hargeisa (including 19 individuals who arrived to Somaliland before 28 March). Some 2,291 Yemeni prima facie refugees (1,135 cases) have been registered by UNHCR Hargeisa as of 8 November, including 62 Yemeni refugees (23 cases) that moved from Bossaso to Hargeisa and have been entered in UNHCR's ProGres registration database (as case transferal). Discussions are ongoing between UNHCR and MRRR to change the status of the 19 Yemenis to *prima facie* refugees, as those who arrived after the outbreak of the conflict in Yemen.
- On 5 and 7 November, UNHCR Hargeisa organized a blanket cash distribution for the Yemeni refugees who did not collect their first subsistence allowance installment on 15 October: 111 individuals (62 cases) collected their first installment.

### Sudan:

- UNHCR registered 29 Yemeni nationals, bringing the total of registered Yemeni nationals to 469.
- UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) Port Sudan (Red Sea State) did not identify any Yemeni new arrivals during the reporting period. In October, 56 Somali new arrivals were registered by COR, but they did not arrive through Port Sudan and instead came through one of the following border entry points: Abu Gamal, Hamdayet, Garora, Gedaref, Gergef, Galsa, Kassala, Khartoum, and Laffa.

## Education

### Yemen:

- On 1 November, the new academic school year began in Yemen (in Aden school already began on 4 October). On 10 November, UNHCR held a follow-up meeting with the Ministry of Education and school directors from 10 schools on the continued enrolment of refugee children in schools, noting that birth certificates are not a pre-condition for enrolment, and the importance of sensitizing school staff on refugee-related issues.

### Djibouti:

- The number of Yemeni refugee children attending the Al Rahma school in Obock increased to 185 students enrolled from first to seventh grade. The majority of students are female (61 per cent). Al Rahma, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and UNICEF began furnishing six additional classrooms to move to a single morning shift for pupils. Refugee children currently attend school in the afternoons after the children of Obock have had their morning classes. UNHCR and Al Rahma buses transport the children to school.
- The refugee community requested for the establishment of eighth and ninth grades for refugee children. The Al-Rahma school administration is working on responding to this need.

## Health

### Yemen:

- In Basateen (Aden) and in Kharaz Refugee Camp, UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) provided medical services and essential medicines to 623 refugees (228 under 5), reproductive healthcare services to 167 women, routine immunization for 115 children, mental health services for 84 refugees. CSSW also conducted health education sessions for 661 refugees.

### Djibouti:

- Sector Four of Markazi camp is now equipped with two mobile clinics, donated and managed by King Salman Centre for Relief and



*Shrapnel-injured Yemeni refugee Seif Zeid Abdulah stands on crutches at Markazi camp in Djibouti © UNHCR/Oualid Khelifi. 2015*  
For the entire story follow this link <http://www.unhcr.org/5643218b6.html>

Humanitarian Aid. On November 8, the Executive Director of King Salman Centre made an inaugural visit.

- To enhance community engagement and ownership, the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) met with community leaders from the four sectors of Markazi camp to establish a health committee composed of one male and one female representative of each sector. On 8 November, the first meeting of the health committee was held. The committee will meet regularly every month with AHA staff; it will also be responsible for identifying candidates for various voluntary and incentive-based services in Markazi camp.
- Transporting patients to and from Markazi camp remains a challenge. Patients and staff walk long distances in difficult weather conditions, or use unreliable private transport to reach health facilities in Obock city. The daily transport of patients to and from the camp for laboratory works and to facilitate referral cases, requires the approval of local authorities and Obock Hospital. At least one vehicle or an ambulance is needed for the health and nutrition programmes to take place on a regular and uninterrupted basis.

### **Somalia:**

- Since April, 441 Yemeni refugees (48 per cent of all refugees and asylum seekers receiving health services in Somaliland) were supported by UNHCR's partner Horn Youth Development Association (HYDA) for medical services (consultations, referrals, medicines and small surgeries) in Somaliland.



## **Food Security and Nutrition**

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### **Djibouti:**

- Based on the nutritional needs of refugees, especially children, UNHCR, UNICEF and AHA established a new nutrition unit at Markazi camp, which will be launched on 15 November. AHA, through the financial and technical support of UNHCR and UNICEF, will run the unit until 31 December 2015. UNICEF and UNHCR will continue to mobilise funds to ensure that the unit remains functional after December 2015.
- Through the support of UNHCR and UNICEF, from 2 to 4 November a nutritional screening of 281 children under 5 years old in Markazi camp took place: 15 children were found to have Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 40, Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). All children affected by SAM are receiving the necessary care and treatment at Obock Medical Regional Hospital through the support of UNICEF. Following the screening, UNHCR and AHA led a coordination meeting with UNICEF, WFP and the national nutrition programme (PNN) to develop a strategic common response and action plan.
- The nutrition unit requires the necessary equipment and supplies to respond to the needs of the refugee population, particularly children and mothers who are among the most vulnerable. UNICEF will ensure the provision of supplies (such as Plumpy'Nut) for the treatment of SAM; screening tools; furniture; and will cover the cost of training sessions for community health workers and nurses in Markazi camp and Obock on malnutrition prevention and case management of acute malnutrition. WFP will provide this unit with all necessary supplies for the management of MAM such as Supercereal and Supercereal Plus.



## **Water and Sanitation**

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### **Djibouti:**

- On 8 November, the Djibouti Red Crescent (CRD) distributed standard hygiene kits to 18 persons (nine men and nine women with four babies) at the port of Djibouti. On 3 and 4 November, NRC distributed 150 hygiene kits to newly arrived refugees with the support of UNHCR and ONARS.
- With the participation of the community, the NRC completed digging 47 pits out of 60 family shared pit latrines planned for November. These are sited in Sector Four where most new arrivals are accommodated.



## **Shelter and NFIs**

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### **Djibouti:**

- On 4 November, in collaboration with the NRC and partners in Markazi camp, UNHCR and ONARS completed the set-up of 300 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) donated by the Qatari Red Crescent. A quality check is being done before allocating them to the refugees.

## Working in partnership

### Somalia:

- On 9 November 2015, UNHCR Hargeisa met with the Somaliland Minister of Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR) to discuss the registration and verification strategy, introduce the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on assets at Berbera reception centre for revision, cash assistance distribution to new arrivals and cases of dual nationality (Somali and Yemeni) erroneously registered in the ProGres database. The Minister agreed to sign the verification strategy for the exercise to be carried out in February 2016. He will respond to UNHCR on the “persons of concern” certificates to be issued to Somali refugee returnees residing in Somaliland.

### Regional Refugee Coordinator:

- On 5 November, the UNHCR Protection Task Force, in coordination with the RRC Office, convened a meeting with Senior Regional Protection Staff working in countries affected by the Yemen crisis to discuss protection gaps, partnership and recommendations. It was followed by exchanges with some main partners (Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council, Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, and International Rescue Committee). Some of the main recommendations include the need to advocate with countries of asylum the right to seek asylum and access; UNHCR assistance programmes in countries receiving Persons of Concern from Yemen that should not discriminate with regard to the level of assistance provided to different populations’ groups; and the need to improve the knowledge of the onward movement of people fleeing from Yemen.
- On 6 November, UNHCR and IOM met to discuss the operationalization of the Gulf of Aden Strategy, with the support of UNHCR Protection Task Force from UNHCR Headquarters. UNHCR and IOM hope to generate a tangible and sustainable impact on state practice in the region, with immediate actions being to: 1) establish a contact group of focal points from each agency at global, regional and national levels that will be responsible for leading the operationalization of the Strategic Actions, which, among others actions, will, 2) guide the adjustment of the Terms of Reference of local, national and regional Mixed Migration Task Forces (MMTFs); and 3) prepare a regional roundtable on key elements of the Strategic Actions during the first quarter of 2016. The expanded meeting with IOM key partners working on the Yemen situation reviewed the protection gaps in the region that must be addressed in the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for the Yemen situation (RRMRP).

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

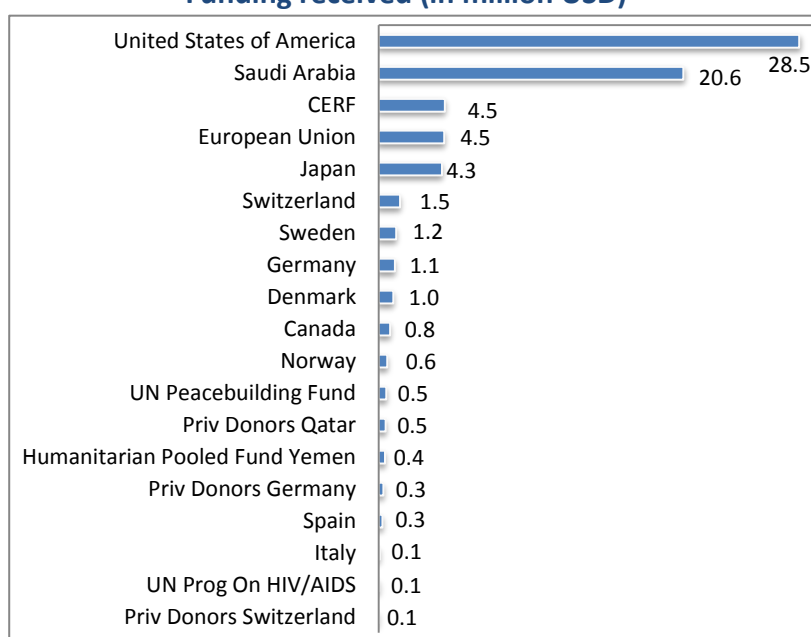
Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 3 November amount to some

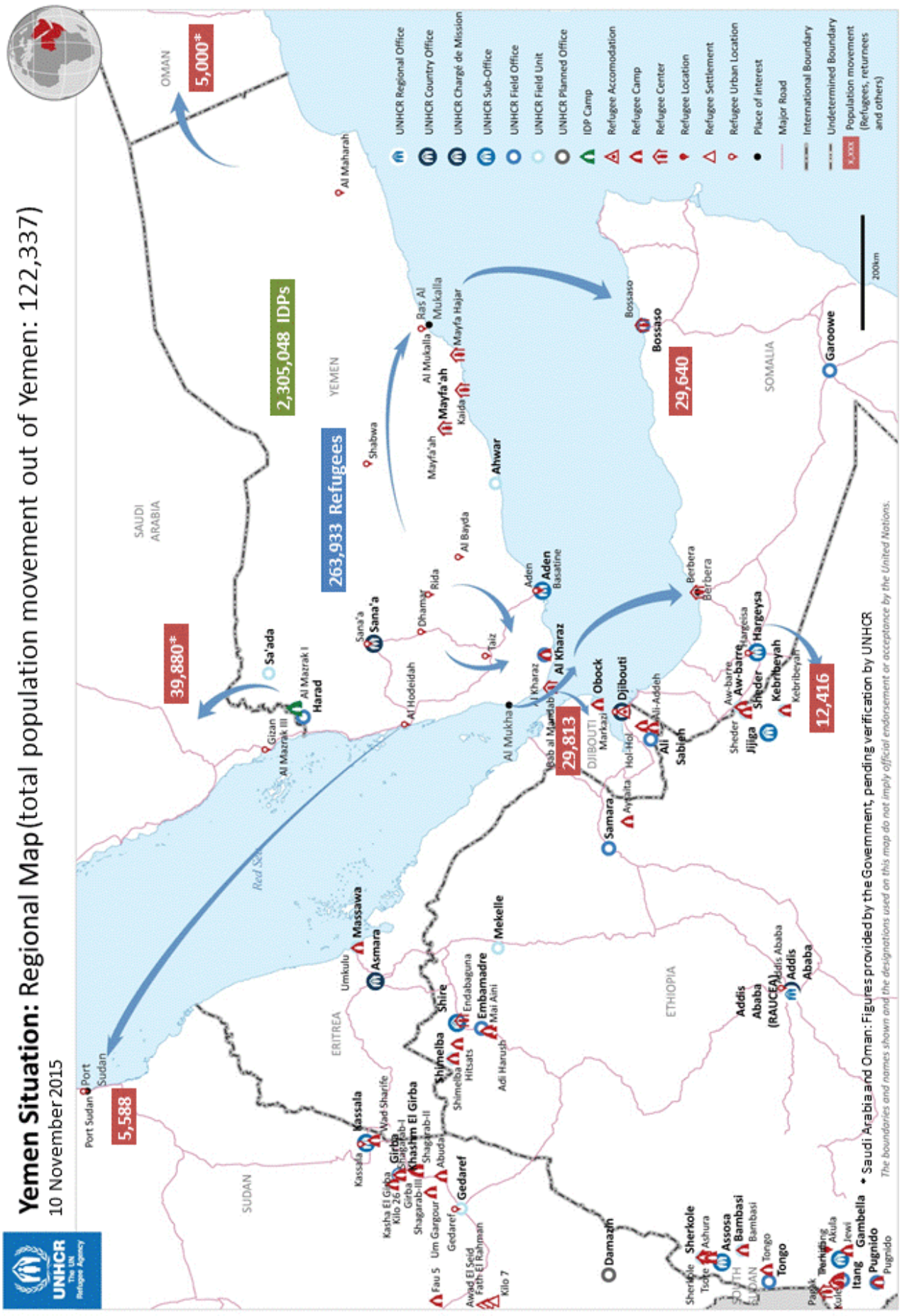
**US\$ 70.7 million.**

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2015: United States of America (251 M) | Sweden (80 M) | United Kingdom (53 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Priv Donors Spain (29 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Canada (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Italy (13 M) | Finland (10 M) | Priv Donors Japan (10 M)

Funding received (in million USD)





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