

## YEMEN SITUATION

### UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #36

February 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Yemen:

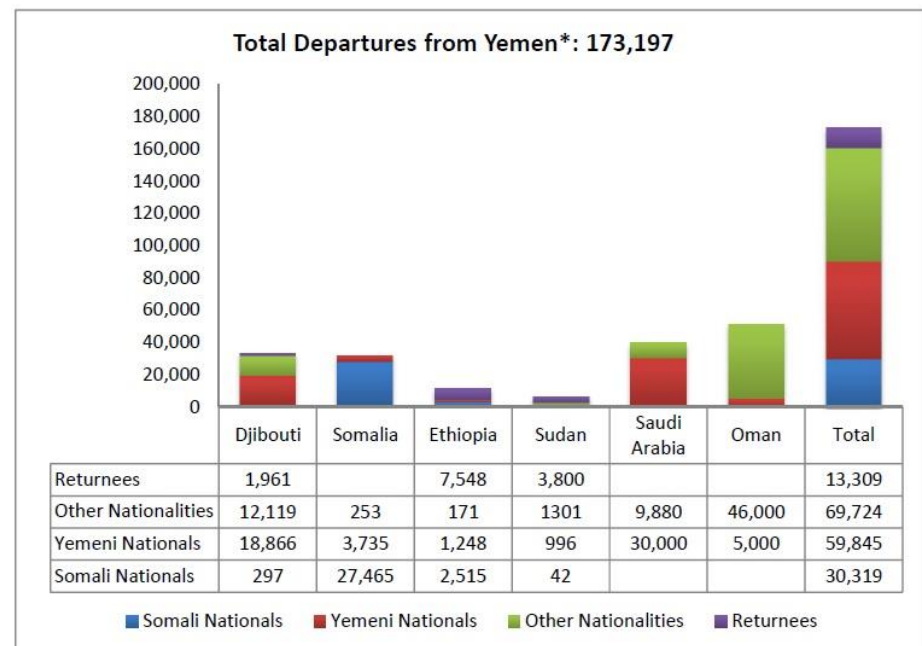
- On 14 February, UNHCR distributed CRIs to conflict-affected families in the embattled Taizz city enclave for the first time in more than five months.
- The 2016 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan was launched on 18 February seeking USD 1.8 billion to assist over 13.6 million people.
- Co-led by UNHCR and IOM, the Task Force on Population Movement published its 7<sup>th</sup> report validating a total figure of 2,430,178 IDPs in Yemen.

### Djibouti:

- Lack of electricity in Markazi camp, Obock, remains an issue both for refugees and for partners working in the camp.

## POPULATION MOVEMENTS

### Departures from Yemen



\*Statistics provided by IOM and the Government, Saudi Arabia and Oman. Figures provided by the Government are pending verification by UNHCR

### New Arrivals to Yemen

Although strong tides prevented boat travel to Yemen through the Arabian Sea early in the month, 7,705 new arrivals reached the coast of Yemen in February (5,260 Ethiopians and 1,109 Somalis along the Arabian Sea and 1,309 Ethiopians and 27 Somalis along the Red Sea). The risky sea journey and the conflict continue to affect new arrivals. For example, on 6 February, smugglers transporting 54 Ethiopians and one Somali from Djibouti threw them off the ship near Bab-al-Mandab. Only 35 persons made it safely to shore while the others are presumed drowned. So far in 2016, some 21 individuals have gone missing or have died at sea in Yemen waters.

Lawlessness around Bab-al-Mandab is still of concern especially for new arrivals. The resumption of patrols by the Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and their coordination in this area remains a positive development.

## KEY FIGURES

**2,871,050**

People affected by the conflict (in Yemen and adjacent countries), including refugees and internally displaced persons prior to and as a result of the current conflict.

**2,430,178**

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

**173,197**

Arrivals to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sudan mainly by sea or overland since late March 2015.

**267,675**

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

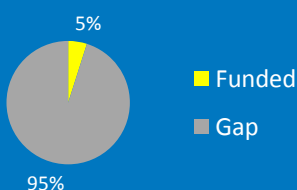
**376,885**

Internally displaced Yemenis reached in Yemen with emergency relief items since the onset of the crisis by UNHCR and partners.

## FUNDING

**USD 172.2 Million**

Requested by UNHCR for the situation



(as at 29 February 2016)

UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for the Yemen Situation Emergency Response, January – December 2016, is available [here](#)

# UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

## Operational Context

Armed clashes and airstrikes continued across Yemen, especially along the border areas with Saudi Arabia; Taizz; and Sana'a. Nihm District (40 km northeast of Sana'a) was particularly affected displacing hundreds of families. On 27 February, 32 civilians were killed and many injured when a bomb hit a market in this district. The UN Secretary General condemned the incident and called for an impartial investigation. Since March 2015, about 6,259 people have been killed and 29,852 wounded in Yemen, many of them civilians. UNHCR and other organizations were able to bring much needed assistance to Taizz city for the first time in months. While UNHCR activities in Sa'ada have been constrained since late January by the volatile security situation, UNHCR is maintaining its field team presence and continuing its effort to resume the NFI distribution targeting the most vulnerable persons of concern.

The security situation in Aden further deteriorated with clashes reported in various parts of the city, resulting in a halt to the national airline flights to Aden. UNHCR staff is, at times, advised to work from home to avoid putting its safety and security at risk. Meanwhile, extremist elements reportedly expanded across southern Yemen, including along the coastal road.

The UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, informed the UN Security Council on 17 February that deep divisions continued to hamper a resumption of negotiations, although mediation efforts continue. On 24 February, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2266 renewing sanctions against individuals and entities threatening peace, security or stability in Yemen and extending the Panel of Experts' mandate for one year.

The 2016 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) was launched in Geneva on 18 February, seeking USD 1.8 billion to assist over 13.6 million people. The IDP Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster needs stand at USD 156 million, the Protection cluster's needs stand at USD 52 million and the Refugee/Migrant chapter needs are at USD 55 million.

## Refugee Response



### Yemen:

- UNHCR partners reported a number of releases from detention but also new arrests and detention of foreign nationals in Yemen. UNHCR continues to work on access and advocate with authorities in Sana'a and at the local level so persons holding refugee or asylum-seeker documents are not arrested nor detained.
- In Sana'a, UNHCR renewed certificates for 278 refugees and registered 37 new-born refugee children, conducted best interest assessments for eleven children and 81 home visits to ascertain living conditions and specific needs of refugee children and their families/legal custodians.
- In Al Hudaydah, four refugees' certificates were renewed. UNHCR followed up on 46 detained Eritreans and 21 Somalis detained over lack of documentation and continues to work to secure their release.
- In Aden, 66 Ethiopian asylum seekers were registered, 62 refugees (including 22 Ethiopian refugees) received renewed certificates, 238 refugee and asylum seekers certificates were issued. UNHCR provided general counselling to 79 refugees and asylum seekers, conducted RSD counselling for 30 asylum seekers and resettlement counselling for 38 refugees.
- A Yemeni family of five individuals departed to Montenegro for family reunification on 3 February.

### Djibouti:

- In the first two weeks of February, UNHCR distributed 136 refugee identity cards and 66 family attestations to refugees in Obock. In addition, 34 refugee identity cards and 87 family attestations were distributed to refugees in Djibouti City.
- UNHCR and the *Office national d'assistance aux réfugiés et sinistrés* (ONARS) registered 179 individuals in Obock and Djibouti City in the month of February. This brings the total number of registered refugees in Obock and Djibouti City to 6,559 as at 29 February.
- The total number of refugees at Markazi camp has now reached 3,287 individuals (1,157 families) since the beginning of the crisis, which started in March 2015.

### Ethiopia:

- 47 new Yemeni refugees arrived in Ethiopia and were registered in Addis Ababa. With them, five Ethiopian family members also arrived from Yemen. After registration, all Yemeni refugees receive assistance within the urban programme.
- Following the Government of Ethiopia's policy to assist all new Somali arrivals in Melkadida camps, the relocation of Somali refugees, who were previously in Yemen, from Jijiga to Melkadida continued. Three additional groups arrived safely

in Melkadida with a total of 331 Somali refugees. The total number of Somali refugees previously in Yemen who have relocated to Melkadida stands at 621 individuals.

- Advocacy with the government continues to complete registration of the 1,700 unregistered Somalis from Yemen who mostly live in Shedder camp, Jijiga. Unregistered refugees do not have access to services or assistance.

### Somalia:

- UNHCR has organised a task force meeting with the Bossaso Port Authority and boat owners to share information and improve coordination mechanisms on Yemen arrivals to be better prepared for their reception and registration.
- The provision of reinstatement grants to Somali returnees who arrived in Bossaso (Puntland) in 2016 was delayed. This has now been resolved and returnees in Bossaso have either received or are about to receive their reinstatement grants.

## Education

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### Yemen:

- UNHCR distributed school kits to 1,474 refugee children (762 girls and 712 boys) through the Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) family centre in Sana'a. Each student received one school uniform, a backpack, books and writing utensils.
- On 25 February, UNHCR's partner Millennium Development Foundation (MDF) held an opening ceremony for child-friendly spaces in three schools in Basateen neighbourhood (Aden).

### Djibouti:

- From 1 to 7 February, 221 students out of the total enrolled 328 students attended classes at Al Rahma School in Obock, representing a decrease from the 292 students registered as attending schools in January. Unconfirmed information circulates that some families have moved to Djibouti City and others returned to Yemen. However, the numbers went up to 241 students during the second week of February due to an awareness campaign on the importance of schooling.

## Health

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### Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR's partner International Medical Corps (IMC) provided medical consultation and essential medicines to 1,047 refugees and 515 Yemenis from the host community, psychological support to 200 refugees and life-saving and specialized referral services to 296 individuals. IMC also conducted community outreach counselling and awareness sessions to 254 refugees and 238 Yemenis, including on hepatitis prevention, Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV.
- UNHCR's partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW)'s health centres in Kharaz camp and Basateen (Aden) provided medical consultation and essential medicines to 3,051 persons, reproductive health services to 353 pregnant women, mental health and psychological support services to 140 cases and vaccines to 544 children.

### Djibouti:

- A total of 1,229 refugees were treated at the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) clinic in Markazi Camp. Most common conditions were respiratory diseases, the common cold and diarrhoea. Four cases of malaria and some cases of dengue fever have been detected in Markazi camp. All patients are undergoing treatment.

### Somalia:

- Agencies providing health services to Somali returnees in transit through Bossaso (specifically children) announced they could not maintain such assistance at the Reception Centre due to budget constraints, which is having a negative effect on these returnees.
- There is no agency to handle non-emergency medical referrals for new arrivals in Puntland. Arrivals with emergency medical conditions are identified at the Reception Centre and referred to the nearest Mother and Child Health Clinic (MCH) run by *Médecins du Monde* (MdM).

## Food Security and Nutrition

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### Djibouti:

- During the first week of February, 75 children were enrolled in the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 17 in the severe acute malnutrition (SAM) programmes. Two admissions to MAM were referred by the community, an indication that the programme has been accepted by the population. In the second week of February, a total of 17 children fully recovered and were discharged however two children who had dropped out of MAM were re-admitted to SAM as their condition had deteriorated. From 21 to 25 February, 293 children were screened by AHA for malnutrition in the

community and two children were admitted to MAM. On average 43 children participate in the porridge feeding programme that takes place twice a day.

- On 21 and 22 February, WFP conducted its monthly food ration distribution including wheat flour, oil, lentils, salt, sugar and other food items. A total of 2,695 refugees in Markazi Camp and Obock town benefitted from this distribution.



## Water and Sanitation

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### Yemen:

- On 4 February, Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) completed drilling a new well at Mayfa'a reception centre. Water now improves basic hygiene, sanitation and cloth washing for all new arrivals.

### Djibouti:

- The UNHCR WASH specialist was on mission to Obock and Markazi Camp (8-10 February) to assess the site, especially after the rains that hit Obock in January. Recommendations were made for a proper drainage system and garbage disposal to maintain a clean environment and avoid vector breeding.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has finalized the construction of 202 latrines in Markazi Camp, including seven for partners operating in the camp. An additional two latrines were constructed at the port of Obock for new arrivals.
- On 29 February, NRC finalized the construction of 37 showers in Markazi camp. The showers contain a filtering area so that drained water can be used for gardening. The design has been approved by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and FAO. In February 90 kitchens, each serving two families were constructed by NRC.



## Shelter and NFIs

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### Djibouti:

- During the second week of February, UNHCR distributed blankets to 600 households to replace blankets that had been damaged in the rains at the end of January. UNHCR also distributed 20 torn-out tents in the four sectors of the camp to reinforce the roofing and walls of existing tents.



## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

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### Djibouti:

- In Markazi camp, the provision of electricity has been reduced to three hours during the evening because the provider of kerosene to refugees has stopped the service for financial reasons. With the upcoming hot season, the situation needs to be resolved soon. UNHCR and ONARS are appealing to partners and donors to address the gap.

## IDP Response in Yemen



## Protection

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- The Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM), led by UNHCR and IOM, released its 7<sup>th</sup> report validating a total number of 2,430,178 IDPs in Yemen. Improved assessment methodology and returnees identified in the south (Aden) explain the slight decrease from the 2.5 million displaced people mentioned in the last report (December). However, the 7<sup>th</sup> report shows increased levels of displacement in areas where the conflict has escalated, notably in the governorates of Taizz, Hajjah, Sana'a, Amran, and Sa'ada, which together account for 68 per cent of all IDPs in Yemen. Taizz, where parts of the main city have been embattled for several months, has the largest number of IDPs (555,048 individuals). 25 per cent of the IDP population reported a priority need for shelter and shelter materials, followed by 20 per cent requiring food, 20 per cent water, 16 per cent clothes and blankets, and 3 per cent medicine.
- On 13 February, UNHCR and the Executive Committee (EC) for IDPs in Sa'ada started a verification exercise for 143 IDP families to verify whether the families are present and still in need. About 113 families were located, while 24 IDP families were newly identified and assessed in Al-Baqolat area.



## Shelter and NFIs

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### Yemen:

- On 14 February, UNHCR distributed Core Relief Items (CRIs) to 1,000 conflict-affected families in the embattled Taizz city enclave. Following weeks of negotiations, the assistance came alongside recent deliveries by other humanitarian actors of food and medical supplies. On mission to Taizz and Ibb (13-15 February), the UNHCR Representative oversaw the

distributions, met with local authorities and aid organizations and discussed modalities to ensure sustained access and delivery of aid.

- On 23 February, UNHCR and the Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster conducted a joint mission to Amran governorate to carry out Post Distribution Monitoring for emergency shelter kits to ensure items were of the required quality and quantity. The team also conducted protection monitoring through discussions with IDPs at spontaneous settlements to assess the situation, including IDPs’ needs and challenges. Amran hosts 4,573 individuals in spontaneous settlements. UNHCR and partner YRC also visited the rehabilitated Khamir Court collective centre to address remaining needs (e.g., sewage issues).
- Despite the challenges in identifying adequate buildings for IDPs to reside, UNHCR partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) rehabilitated three buildings in Amanat Al Asimah and YRC rehabilitated two buildings in Amran and three buildings in Hajjah. In Ibb UNHCR and ACTED carried out a comprehensive assessment of 24 collective centres and technical assessments for 3 collective centres to develop plans for rehabilitation and upgrades.
- In 2016 so far, UNHCR reached some 88,825 IDPs and other conflict-affected persons in Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Amanat Al Asimah, Hajjah, Ibb, Marib, Taizz, Sa’ada and Amran with emergency relief assistance such as blankets, sleeping mats, plastic buckets, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, tents, and emergency shelter kits.

## Working in partnership

### Yemen:

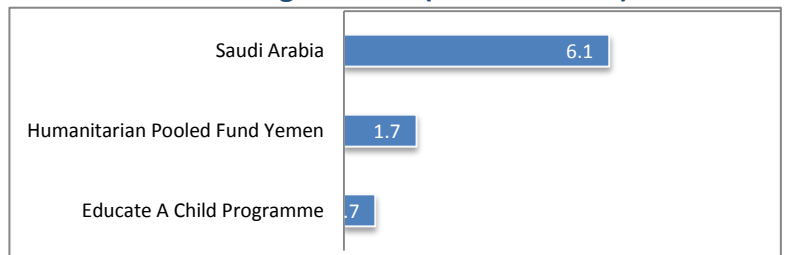
- On 15 February, the Aden Mixed Migration Working Group held its first official meeting for 2016. The meeting was attended by UNHCR, IOM, DRC, InterSos and SHS. The group identified gaps in referral services, coordinated a response for migrants in Al Bayda governorate, confirmed new arrivals trends and procedures, and considered the increasing numbers of new arrivals in Kharaz camp (Lahj governorate).
- From 21 to 23 February, UNHCR participated in a training in Amman for 15 Yemeni journalists organized by UNESCO and delivered by BBC Media Action, to develop media capacities in Yemen for humanitarian reporting according to requisite journalistic standards. The training focused on methods to deliver lifeline information via media to save lives and increase accountability towards affected communities.
- From 22 to 24 February, the Qatar Charity hosted a conference in Doha on the Yemen humanitarian crisis. The conference reviewed humanitarian challenges in Yemen in the health, shelter, NFI, food, nutrition, protection, education, livelihoods and WASH sectors and approaches to address critical gaps. UNHCR presented on behalf of the Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster in a session facilitated by the Head of the High Relief Committee (HRC) and Yemeni Minister of Local Administration. Key recommendations included the need to strengthen coordination with HRC, enhance cluster activities at field level, raise the Yemen emergency profile with media and donors, and prioritize comprehensive services for IDPs in collective centres.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 29 February 2016 amount to almost **US \$ 8.4 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.

**Funding received (in million USD)**



Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2016: Sweden (78 M) | Netherlands (46 M) | Norway (40 M) | Australia (31 M) | Denmark (24 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Germany (13M)

### Contacts:

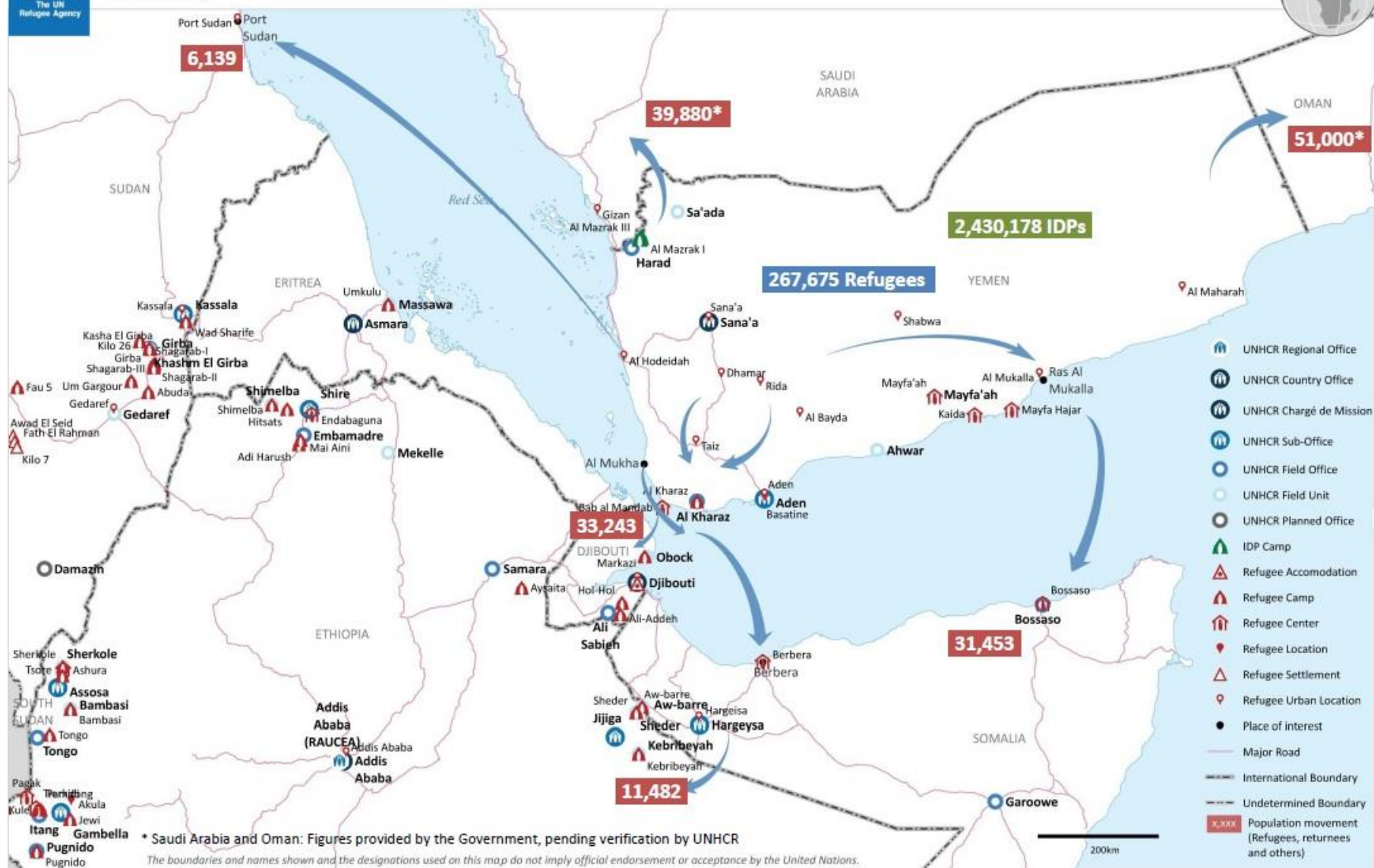
Jérôme Elie, Reporting Officer, Middle East and North Africa Bureau, [elie@unhcr.org](mailto:elie@unhcr.org), +41 (0)22 739 7806

Laura Swanson, Assistant Information Management Officer (Reporting), Office of the Regional Refugee Coordinator, Nairobi, [swanson@unhcr.org](mailto:swanson@unhcr.org) +254 20 422 2705



# Yemen Situation: Regional Map (total population movement out of Yemen: 173,197)

29 February 2016



### Contacts:

Jérôme Elie, Reporting Officer, Middle East and North Africa Bureau, [elie@unhcr.org](mailto:elie@unhcr.org), +41 (0)22 739 7806

Laura Swanson, Assistant Information Management Officer (Reporting), Office of the Regional Refugee Coordinator, Nairobi, [swanson@unhcr.org](mailto:swanson@unhcr.org) +254 20 422 2705