

SOMALIA TASK FORCE ON YEMEN SITUATION

WEEKLY INTER-AGENCY UPDATE #34

19 – 25 August 2015

KEY FIGURES

28,791

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

2,941

Yemeni prima facie refugees registered in Somalia since 27 March

17,405

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

55%

Registered arrivals expressing intention to return to Mogadishu

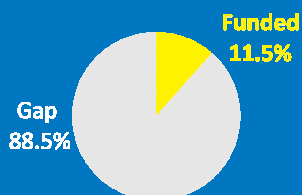
8,838

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)**

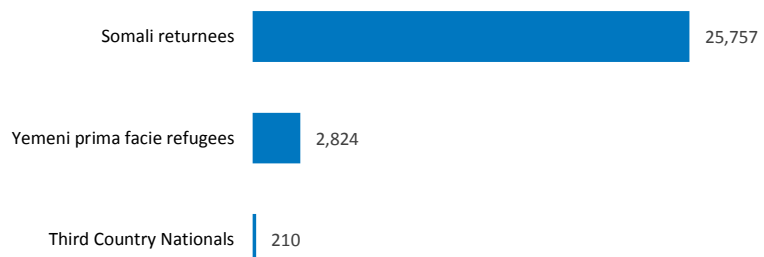


HIGHLIGHTS

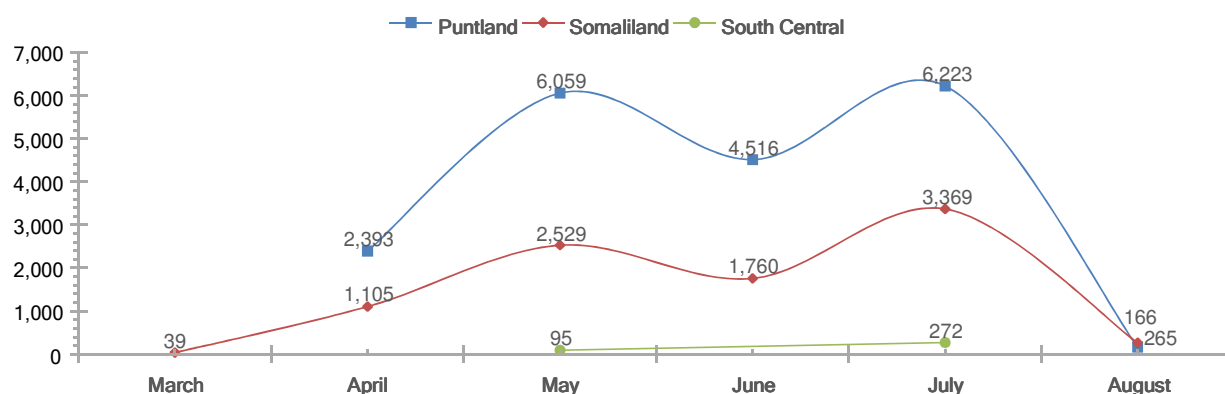
- During the reporting period, a total of two boats carrying 88 individuals arrived in Somalia from Yemen to Berbera, Somaliland (21 persons) and Bossaso, Puntland (67 persons). Out of them, 52 individuals were registered by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and partners in Berbera and Bossaso Reception Centers.
- The most recent arrivals include: on 24 August morning, a boat called *Shemis 4* arrived in Bossaso from Mukalla carrying 67 individuals (34 men, 11 women and 22 children) comprising 53 Somalis and 14 Yemenis; on 20 August, a commercial vessel named *Asadaldin* arrived in Berbera from Mokha carrying 21 people (19 households) composed of 8 Somalis, 12 Yemenis and one Lebanese.
- UNHCR Senior Registration Officer is on mission to streamline the registration process in all entry points and has reached Bossaso. Set up of equipment and preparation for training of UNHCR, Puntland Ministry of Interior and IOM staff are underway.
- UNHCR organized a meeting with 320 Yemeni women new arrivals to share information on UNHCR partners' services and referral mechanisms in Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Population of concern

A total of **28,791** 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 %
Lebanon		1		1	0 %
Libya		2		2	0 %
Pakistan		1		1	0 %
Palestine		2		2	0 %
Somalia	17,759	7,631	367	25,757	89 %
Sudan	1			1	0 %
Syria		10		10	0 %
Tanzania		1		1	0 %
UK	3			3	0 %
USA	2	2		4	0 %
Yemen	1,512	1,312		2,824	10 %
Total	19,357	9,067	367	28,791	100 %
	67.23 %	31.49 %	1.27 %		

G/A	Arrived to			Total	
	PL	SL	SC		
Children	8,142	4,331	23	12,496	44 %
Females	5,878	2,457	123	8,458	30 %
Males	5,217	2,279	112	7,608	27 %
Total	19,237	9,067	258	28,562	100 %
	67.35 %	31.74 %	0.90 %		

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	4,528	4,996	0	9,524	55 %
Hargeisa	326	1,576	0	1,902	11 %
Bossaso	638	247	0	885	5 %
Kismayo	338	177	0	515	3 %
Baidoa	364	148	0	512	3 %
Afgooye	226	124	0	350	2 %
Other locations	1,910	1,745	62	3,717	21 %
Total Arrivals Registered at Reception Centers	8,330	9,013	62	17,405	100 %

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

A decreasing trend of arrivals continues to be noted in the month of August, compared to the previous month of July, which recorded the peak of new arrivals with over 9,800 individuals. The reasons for the reduction, according to information provided by new arrivals and partners, include the lack of cash availability among Somalis and Yemenis willing to leave Yemen, the bad weather conditions at sea and the return of Aden under the coalition forces which may prompt some Yemenis and Somalis to wait and see how the situation further develops before fleeing the country. However, the fact that fewer, smaller size boats are now arriving should not be taken as an indication that the number of people trying to flee Yemen is decreasing.

Achievements



Protection

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- Out of the group of 67 people that reached Bossaso Port on 24 August, 35 people (16 households of 21 females and 14 males, 22 Somalis and 13 Yemenis) were registered at the Reception Centre in Bossaso. Their sea trip from Mukalla lasted about 12 hours.
- The backlog of Yemeni cases pending registration in UNHCR Bossaso has been completely cleared as of 23 August. During the reporting period, UNHCR Bossaso registered 77 Yemeni individuals (37 households) as *prima facie* refugees. The total number of Yemeni nationals registered in Bossaso is currently 1,610 (595 households).
- The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) provided free phone calls, through their Restoring Family Links (RFL) Programme, to 90 individuals during the reporting period.
- Tadamun Social Society (TASS) assisted a single father and his three children with medical, material support and food items.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, DRC conducted two workshops in Bossaso and Gardo for duty bearers engaging in the emergency response for the new arrivals from Yemen. The 80 participants (56 men and 24 women) included religious leaders, traditional leaders, members from the private sector and other key stakeholders. The objective of the workshops were to advocate for the continued support of the new arrivals while discussing potential protection concerns that new arrivals may face and providing training on the rights of the new arrivals.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During visits to the Reception Centre in Bossaso, Yemeni nationals have reported to UNHCR staff that there are some people wishing to receive assistance in order to return to Yemen.
- Provision of subsistence allowance for Yemeni refugees has become increasingly challenging as Yemenis are scattered in different locations and some decided to move to places where there is no UNHCR presence. UNHCR is discussing with partners and the Puntland authorities on how to reach out to those Yemeni refugees in remote locations.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- Out of the group of 21 people that arrived in Berbera on 20 August, four new arrivals travelled directly from Berbera to Hargeisa by their own means, while 17 were transported to the Reception Center in Berbera by UNHCR's partner DRC, where they were registered and provided with assistance.
- The group reported that they departed from Mokha Port, Yemen on 18 August and were previously living in Sana'a and Taiz. During their inland travel, they confirmed the presence of many check points, as reported by other new arrivals, and stayed in Mokha between three days and few hours waiting for the boat. New arrivals stated that they were facing bombing from the coalition forces lead by Saudi Arabia few hours before their departure from Mokha. Due to the air strikes, the Assistant Captain announced to the passengers to get into the vessel in ten minutes, leaving the Captain behind in Mokha. For the sea trip they paid \$100 USD per person. The males were accommodated in an open space while the females in a separated room. The overall trip lasted 30 hours; the boat arrived off shore at Berbera at around midnight on 19 August, but could dock at the port at 1 pm the following day due to high winds.

- A total of 215 individuals were registered during the reporting period, while a total of 1,331 Yemeni refugees have been registered in Hargeisa since 28 March 2015. The total of registered Yemeni refugees in Somalia is now 2,941 individuals.
- UNHCR Hargeisa held a meeting with 320 Yemeni women on 19 August to share information on UNHCR's mandate and activities and to present services by UNHCR's partners, and procedure/referral system for protection need. The meeting focused on rights and obligations of new arrivals, especially the importance of being registered with the Government to access services. The differences between initial registration in Berbera Port, full registration with Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR) and the process of MRRR registration. All new arrivals present at the meeting were provided with Somaliland New Arrivals Task Force's Service Providers brochure. Most of the 320 women were already registered and a few expressed intention to be registered after the meeting, to have access to services including Core Relief Items (CRI) distribution.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with Action Africa Help-International (AAH-I), DRC, IOM and NRC started a one-month mass information campaign in Somaliland on the dangers of crossing to Yemen.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The rehabilitation of the registration room at Berbera Reception Center is still ongoing.
- There are increasing numbers of vulnerable new arrivals that have been identified living in Hargeisa. Most of the new arrivals that came with some savings are now running out of money and are not able to pay their rent and for other basic necessities. Many refugees and returnees require immediate support on shelter, food and livelihoods.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONS

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, a total of 94 Somali returnees from Yemen reached South Central regions from Berbera and Bossaso. As reported by UNHCR's partners, 11 households of 56 individuals arrived in Mogadishu and joined their relatives in Hodan District. UNHCR and partners are also verifying 38 Somali returnees at the Way Stations in Baidoa (7 households of 24 individuals), Luuq (2 households of 7 individuals) and Kismayo (2 households of 7 individuals) for provision of return assistance package.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is need to secure a proper reception and registration facility in Mogadishu to kick-start the registration/verification and provision of assistance package to Somali returnees from Yemen. UNHCR multifunction team has carried a field visit to identify suitable facilities in Mogadishu to be used while the site agreed with the authorities for the Reception Center/Way Station is being rehabilitated. Four locations have been identified which await approval by management and security.



Health

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, SRCS provided first aid services to five returnees in Bossaso.
- Save the Children International (SCI) conducted psychosocial counselling for 48 children (28 girls and 20 boys) at the Reception Centre in Bossaso in an attempt to ease the emotionally and traumatizing experience of displacement and conflict. SCI also provided emergency medical referrals in Bossaso to 16 individuals (four children and 12 adults). Four of these individuals are still recuperating in the hospital while the rest have been discharged. In Gardo, SCI provided emergency medical assistance to 36 individuals (eight children and 28 adults). Three from this group were referred to Gardo General Hospital. In coordination with the Gardo General Hospital, SCI set up a clinic to provide emergency health support to the refugees residing there.
- During the reporting period, local NGO Tadamun Social Society (TASS) provided emergency medical support to three children of Yemeni nationality in Bossaso, and provided transportation, and emergency medical, legal and psychosocial support to two GBV survivors. Additionally, TASS provided follow-up and dry food support for two HIV/TB positive children that had arrived on an earlier boat.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- From the 20 August arrival in Berbera, IOM's medical assistance was given to nine patients. Six of them were above five years old (four males and two females), and three below five (two females and one male).



Food Security and Nutrition

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- Through implementing partner Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA), WFP continued with food assistance at Bossaso Reception Centre by providing three cooked meals a day. During the reporting period, a total of 465 individuals (97 households) were registered with biometrics on WFP's SCOPE system in Bossaso to enable them to purchase commodities at WFP retailers using e-transfer card.
- The Yemeni refugees residing in Gardo received WFP's food assistance through the e-transfer card; during the reporting period, WFP conducted a post distribution monitoring exercise among the refugees in Gardo. A total of 102 households, comprising of 338 individuals, had received the e-transfer cards. According to the houses interviewed, the main items purchased with the cards rice, wheat flour, milk, pulses, vegetable oil, salt, dates, sugar and canned fish.
- During the reporting period, SCI conducted Infant and Young Children Feeding (IYCF) sessions for 31 mothers at the Reception Centre in Bossaso, and three mothers benefitted from individual counselling.
- DRC provided emergency water and biscuits to all of the 67 new arrivals that reached Bossaso Port on 24 August.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- Food stocks have been delivered by WFP to Berbera Reception Center. It is stored on pallets in the recently renovated store.
- All future kitchen staff has been contracted. The DRC team is now making plans for starting cooking operations this week in order to be prepared for the next new arrivals.



Water and Sanitation

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- SCI provided supplementary clean drinking water to the returnees and refugees at the Reception Centre in Bossaso and donated the following equipment to the Reception Centre management to enable them to keep the Centre safe and clean: rakes, shovels, wheel barrows and gloves.



Shelter and NFIs

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, UNHCR distributed 11 Core Relief Item (CRI) kits to Yemeni refugees in Bossaso.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- For the group that arrived on the 20 of August, no CRI kits were distributed as no vulnerable families were identified in need of this kind of assistance.
- UNHCR had a meeting with the new Somaliland Minister of Education to inform that one school in Berbera had been requisitioned by the local authority with the knowledge of the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR) to be a Reception Center for arrivals from Yemen. A second meeting was held in Berbera with the local representative of the Ministry of Education to fine tune the return of the building to the community, before the start of the school year on 1 September. WFP has been approached to dismantle the rub hall.
- One Reception Center will remain operational in Berbera for the time being, which should be sufficient to cover the needs of the decreasing number of arrivals. Discussion is continuing with authorities and partners on rehabilitation of a possible alternative reception site that has been identified, in case the number of arrivals increases again in the next weeks.



Logistics

PUNTLAND

Achievements and Impact

- SCI provided onward transportation assistance to two Somali returnee families in Bossaso, consisting of eight individuals, to enable them to return to their area of origin. Out of the group that arrived in Bossaso on 24 August, UNHCR, through its partner IOM, provided onward transportation assistance to 16 Somali returnees from 11 households. 13 will be going to Mogadishu, one to Baidoa, one to Afgoye, and one to Hargeisa.

SOMALILAND

Achievements and Impact

- Out of the group of 21 people that arrived in Berbera on 20 August, UNHCR, through its partner IOM, distributed onward transportation assistance to three individuals, one Somali single mother traveling to Kismayo with two children.

Working in partnership

- As agreed with UNHCR, DRC will soon take over the provision of subsistence allowance for Yemeni refugees in Bossaso as UNHCR's implementing partner.
- On 22 August, UNHCR and IOM attended a ceremony at Bossaso Port for the handover of equipment and a rub hall provided to the Puntland Department of Immigration. IOM donated 10 laptops, 10 printers, 10 office desks, 20 chairs and UNHCR the rub hall. The equipment is given for the purpose of improving the initial registration at Bossaso Port and was handed over as a conclusion of a three day training of 10 immigration officers (including two interns).
- A meeting with WFP took place in Hargeisa to look at the harmonization of the registration at the Reception Center as well as on the possibility to support with food assistance the vulnerable new arrivals living in Hargeisa.

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 7.4 M (approximately 11.5% 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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