



## YEMEN SITUATION

### UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #28

13-20 October 2015

#### KEY FIGURES

**2,690,766**

People affected by the conflict (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.

**121,103**

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.

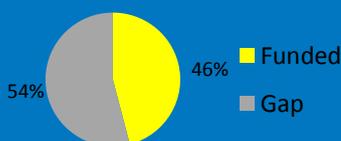
**145,549**

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

#### FUNDING

**USD 153 Million**

Requested by UNHCR for the situation



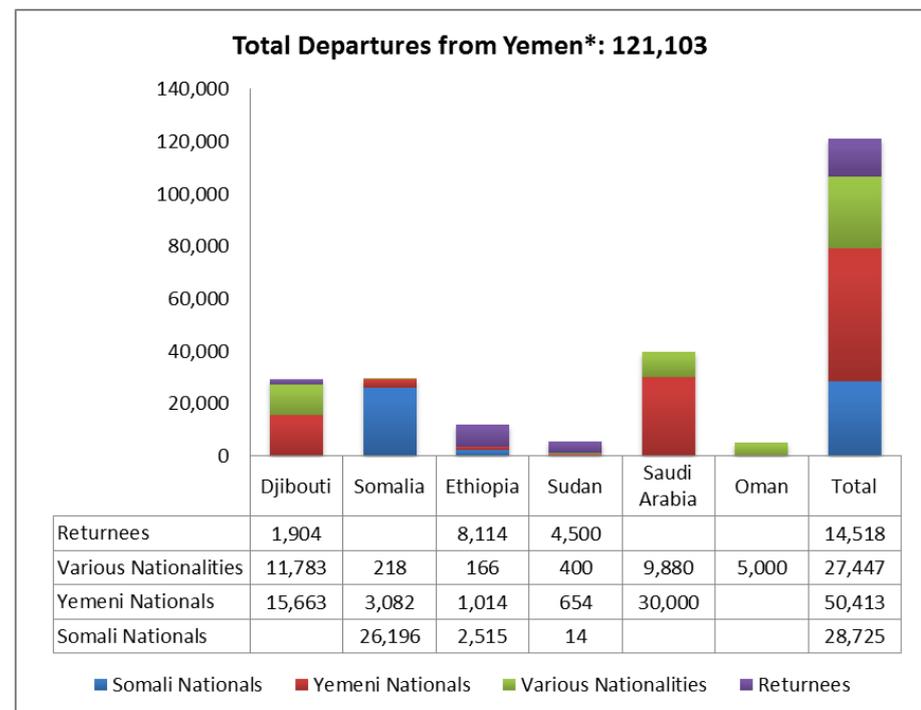
UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for the Yemen Situation Emergency Response, April – December 2015 (16 October 2015), is available [here](#)

#### HIGHLIGHTS

##### Yemen:

- The Office of Education under the Ministry of Education now officially considers the school in Kharaz refugee camp as a centre for ministerial exams for Grade 9 (transitional level exams). Exams began in the camp school on 17 October for over 200 students.

#### POPULATION MOVEMENTS



#### New Arrivals to Yemen

Since the beginning of October, there have been 7,058 new arrivals along the Arabian Sea coast (908 Somalis and 6,150 Ethiopians). In Sana'a, UNHCR registered 67 new asylum seekers, and among them eight were minors. Community Services assessed their protection needs and referred to partners for assistance.

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

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### Operational Context

The Yemeni government agreed to take part in a new round of UN brokered talks with the Houthis and their allies. The Houthis previously indicated their willingness to attend the talks, which could be held in the next few weeks in Geneva. The new push for an agreement comes with pressure to end the maritime blockade of Yemen, which is preventing import of critically needed goods, and stop airstrikes in Yemen, which have led to thousands of civilian deaths and injuries.

The conflict in Yemen remains very intense and dramatic. Bombing persists in Sa'ada, Al Hudayda, and Taizz, where an airstrike reportedly hit the wrong target and killed some 30 persons. On 16 October UNICEF announced that more than half a million children in Yemen face life-threatening malnutrition as the risk of famine grows. The figure, which represents a three-fold jump since the conflict began in March, reflects depleted food stocks compounded by a failing health system unable to care for hungry children or vaccinate them against disease. In addition to 537,000 children under 5 at risk of severe acute malnutrition, 1.3 million are moderately malnourished. Less than 20% of therapeutic feeding centres across Yemen are functional. On 13 October, the first ship in over three weeks docked at the port in Al Hudayda carrying desperately needed fuel, after waiting in international waters for two months.

In Djibouti, boats continue to arrive from Aden, Bab Al Mandab and Dubbab (Yemen) to the port of Obock and the nearby coastline at Mulhuleh and Khor Anger. UNHCR and the Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés (ONARS) work together with the port authorities to facilitate the arrival formalities. Upon arrival at the port, WFP and UNHCR provide new arrivals with water, food and high energy biscuits. Once settled in Markazi camp, UNHCR provides them with standard non-food items.

## Refugee Response



Protection

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### Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR renewed certificates for 145 refugees and registered 27 new-borns.

### Ethiopia:

- As of 20 October 2015, Ethiopia received 3,570 refugees from Yemen: 2,515 Somalis, 1,046 Yemenis, five Iraqis, and four Eritreans.
- UNHCR and the Government Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) registered 1,818 persons of concern to UNHCR: 987 Yemeni nationals, 822 Somali nationals, five Iraqis and four Eritreans.
- Following ARRA's decision to waive nationality screening for Yemeni asylum-seekers considering that all arrivals so far held either national passports or letters from the Yemeni Embassy attesting their Yemeni citizenship, 911 of the registered Yemeni are now recognized as prima facie refugees, while 203 remain asylum-seekers. As a result, of the total registered population arrived from Yemen, 208 are asylum-seekers (203 Yemeni and five Iraqis) and 1,737 are refugees (900 Yemenis, 822 Somalis and four Eritreans).

### Djibouti:

- From 29 September to 19 October, UNHCR Obock registered 1,979 individuals (526 families). This brings the total of refugees at Markazi camp to over 2,560 individuals (709 families). Refugees who have registered in Djibouti city since the decision of the Government to facilitate registration of Yemenis residing in Djibouti-ville on 27 September have reached 251 individuals (129 families) as of 18 October.
- Within its activities to maintain and restore family links, the Djiboutian Red Crescent offered free phone calls to over 337 new arrivals at the ports of Obock and Djibouti. These calls are important to reassure families that their relatives have safely arrived to Djibouti.

## Somalia:

- On 15 October, a cash distribution took place in Omnico (Somaliland) for all registered Yemenis living in Hargeisa (2,036 individuals). In Puntland, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided cash assistance to 1,600 returnee individuals. Each individual received 100 USD, for a maximum of 600 USD per family.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), through UNHCR funding, distributed subsistence allowance to 202 Yemeni families in Bossaso, Gardo and Garowe.

## Education

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### Yemen:

- UNHCR partner Millennium Development Foundation (MDF) successfully advocated and coordinated with the Office of Education to officially recognize the Kharaz refugee camp school as a centre for ministerial exams for Grade 9 (transitional level exams). Previously, refugee students would have to reach neighbouring villages to take the exam. Exams began in the camp school on 17 October for over 200 students. MDF also held a three-day awareness campaign in the camp on the importance of education and to ensure all families were aware that lessons resumed in the camp school.

### Djibouti:

- Catch up classes for 140 refugee children of Markazi camp continue to take place daily at the premises of Al Rahma orphanage in Obock. The catch-up classes are part of the Education in Emergencies programme (EiE) developed by the partners of the inter-agency education sector (UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO, LWF and Al Rahma) and are for children from grades one through seven who need to catch up on classes they missed out on at the end of the previous school year because of the conflict in Yemen.
- With the sudden rise in the arrival of refugees to Obock, the number of children in school is expected to increase over the coming weeks. Al Rahma orphanage which is being used as a school for the refugee children still has the capacity to accommodate an additional number of children.

## Health

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### Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR partner International Medical Corps provided medical consultation and essential medicines to 164 refugees, medication to 59 refugees with chronic medical conditions, mental health and psychological support to 19 refugees, and referral care for 88 refugees.
- In Basateen and Kharaz refugee camp, UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) provided medical services and essential medicines to 350 refugees, routine immunization for 48 children, reproductive healthcare services to 117 women, mental health and psychological support to 18 refugees and referred four refugees to the hospital.

### Djibouti:

- From 12 to 19 October, 286 patients were treated at the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) health center in Markazi camp. Six patients were transferred to Djibouti city for third level care.
- AHA screened 152 children from 6 to 59 months for malnutrition. The global acute malnutrition rate was 22.3 per cent and the severe acute malnutrition rate was 7.8 per cent for the new arrivals.

## Water and Sanitation

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### Djibouti:

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has procured materials for the construction of an additional 130 family shared latrines and 100 family-shared showers. The materials are expected to be delivered at Markazi camp and construction will begin once they arrive.

## Nutrition and WASH situation in Sana'a, Basateen and Kharaz refugee camp in Yemen

### Nutrition

The escalation of the conflict in March 2015, led to the deterioration of health services, food security, sanitation and hygiene, and most of the affected population have limited access to safe water. Although UNHCR continues to provide nutrition services at all supported health facilities, nutrition programmes are seriously compromised especially in Kharaz refugee camp, Basateen and Sana'a, where nutrition activities were affected by the level of insecurity. UNHCR-supported nutrition programmes have been subject to shortage of therapeutic supplies and food rations, while insecurity hindered the accessibility of nutrition services in Basateen clinic. When the conflict escalated in Aden, a large number of refugees fled Basateen areas to safer locations in Aden, Lahj, Hadramout and other governorates, which compromised their access to health, nutrition, water and sanitation services. Displaced refugees are particularly vulnerable for malnutrition, especially children under 5, pregnant and lactating mothers. During the conflict in Aden, UNHCR carried out mobile clinics, which provided basic health and nutrition services, to assist refugees in their relocated areas within Aden town.

UNHCR will continue to strengthen and support the nutrition program at supported health facilities and advocate for UN agencies (WFP and UNICEF) to expend supplementary feeding programs in urban area such as Sana'a and Hadramout governorates. As the situation on the ground has evolved, UNHCR is planning to again conduct nutrition surveys, to ensure the food security and nutrition programmes are based on needs and evidence.

### WASH

Nearly 90 per cent of refugees residing in Kharaz camp use public tap water through boreholes, where quality of water is highly variable. Shortages of fuel and power supplies severely compromised water supplies in urban areas and Kharaz camp during the peak of conflict in Aden as roads to the camp were inaccessible. The sanitation situation is challenging in all affected areas, including refugees' settlement areas. Garbage collection and disposal systems are malfunctioning in the majority of urban areas. Poor sanitation, overcrowding, and limited access to clean water lead to an increase in prevalence of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, and households are thus more vulnerable to communicable diseases.

As preventive measures, UNHCR health partners carried out cleaning campaigns in the Basateen area, maintained water supplies in Kharaz camp, and continue providing hygiene promotion and awareness sessions at all UNHCR supported health facilities, including refugees settlements areas through outreach activities.

## Food Security and Nutrition

### Djibouti:

- On 19 October, UNHCR and WFP started a three-day dry food distribution for refugees at Markazi camp. This is the third food distribution cycle since Al Rahma ended the provision of hot meals in mid-September. The first was on 16 September and a short cycle of food rations to last for 20 days took place at the beginning of October to cover the needs of the new arrivals.

### Somalia:

- The World Food Programme (WFP) distributed 68 metric tons of food (three hot meals daily) through the reception centre in Bossaso. Moreover, WFP registered 20 households (120 individuals) into their database SCOPE in order to receive food assistance through electronic voucher cards.

## Shelter and NFIs

### Djibouti:

- The 300 Refugee Housing Units (RHU) will soon be set up, with expected completion by early November. UNHCR and partners mobilized the Markazi community to assist with the setting up of the RHUs.
- UNHCR, in cooperation with ONARS, distributed 3,200 liters of kerosene to 1,600 individuals (two litres per person), which will allow the population of Markazi to prepare their own meals. UNHCR had previously distributed cooking stoves and kitchen sets to refugees in Markazi camp. In addition, UNHCR distributed 260 kitchen stoves to new families arriving in Markazi for 260 families.

# IDP Response in Yemen

## Protection

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- On 12 October UNHCR and InterSos trained partners and key Protection Cluster members on the in-depth protection monitoring and assessment methodology developed by UNHCR and enhanced through pilot testing in the field.

## Education

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- The Office of Education in Sana'a informed UNHCR that schools opened for staff on 5 October to begin preparing for the new academic school year, which was postponed to 1 November. Preparations include finding alternatives for IDPs who are accommodated in schools; and the rehabilitation of those schools once they have been vacated.

## Shelter and NFIs

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- UNHCR distributed CRIs to 11,470 IDPs (408 IDPs in Sana'a, 1,330 IDPs in Hajjah, 2,800 in Lahj and 9,732 IDPs in Al Jawf). UNHCR partner SHS distributed CRIs to 2,800 IDPs in Lahj. UNHCR partner Yemen Red Cross (YRC) conducted a field assessment in Khamir district (Amran), and found 435 IDP families living in the open in need of shelter kits, while UNHCR's partner Al-Amal conducted an assessment in Az Zaydiyah, Al-Hudaydah, and found 4,362 IDPs living in the open and in need for CRIs and emergency shelter. UNHCR partner SHS distributed CRIs to 2,800 IDPs in Lahj. Some 350 IDPs who had been living in the open temporarily moved into schools while looking for alternative accommodation. These families were largely fishermen communities living around the area of Bab-al-Mandab transit centre.
- UNHCR was informed by Al-Amal that some 350 families from Karesh (Lahj) were displaced into Toban (also in Lahj) and Aden; most sought shelter with relatives. Some other 140 families moved into government buildings in Al Huta city (Lahj) as their homes were damaged. UNHCR's partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) reported that some 130 IDP families have been displaced from Sana'a, Ibb and Taiz into Qatabah district, Al-Dhale. Most families have roots in Qatabah and are staying with relatives or friends.
- As of 8 October, in the north of the country (Sana'a, Al hudaydah and Sa'ada), UNHCR has available stocks for 20,342 IDPs, while in the South (Aden) for 116,375 individuals. UNHCR received emergency shelter kit items for 175,000 people in the Al Hudaydah warehouse, and 16,504 sleeping mats, 73,768 blankets, 10,417 kitchen sets, and 35,262 buckets to the Aden warehouse. UNHCR released CRIs for 16,436 IDPs from the warehouse in Sana'a for distribution in Al Jawf.

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## Working in partnership

### Yemen:

- UNHCR Yemen participated in a meeting (via telecom) with EUNAVFOR representatives in Geneva to discuss mixed migration issues in the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea, with a view to enhance coordination and cooperation on search and rescue operation in the region. UNHCR Yemen also coordinated with Combined Maritime Forces to proceed towards more predictable coordination and information-sharing, building upon the meeting in Bahrain by the RRC, UNHCR Yemen and IOM.

### Regional Refugee Coordinator Office:

- The RRC went on mission to Ethiopia from 12 to 16 October where she met Yemeni and Somali refugees in Addis Ababa and Jijiga to get a better understanding of their plight. In Addis Ababa, the Yemeni refugees raised a number of issues, including harassment, children's limited access to education and inadequate assistance for a dignified life in urban areas. A follow-up meeting was arranged with protection staff to relay the concerns shared by refugees. All refugees interviewed in Jijiga came illegally to Ethiopia, some with the assistance of khat traffickers. Some have proper documentation (passport, with/out visa, ID cards), others do not, while others have had their documents confiscated in Jijiga. All the refugees came

through Mokha/Hargeisa, boarding any boat, and intending to reach a big town, such as Addis Ababa. According to refugees, life is difficult in Jijiga, due to lack of assistance and difficulty in communicating (different languages). The visit highlighted the fact that Yemenis are on the move, in the region and beyond. The refugees spoke about the difficulty in getting to Hargeisa and Addis Ababa as a result of harassment and detention, among other problems. They wanted to go to Addis Ababa to be reunited with family members or because of the perception that the city had better jobs prospects. Some of the Yemenis hoped to go on to Europe.

### Djibouti:

- On 13 October, UNHCR, ONARS, NRC and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) met and advocated for a coordinated needs assessment and the formation of a protection network at Markazi camp with regular follow up on protection cases. Partners discussed the installation of new latrines and water facilities by NRC, the distribution of hygiene kits by NRC and DRC and the involvement of new arrivals from the four sectors of the camp in the water management committee. Partners also took into account the increased capacity of the camp and the need for an urgent system for garbage disposal.

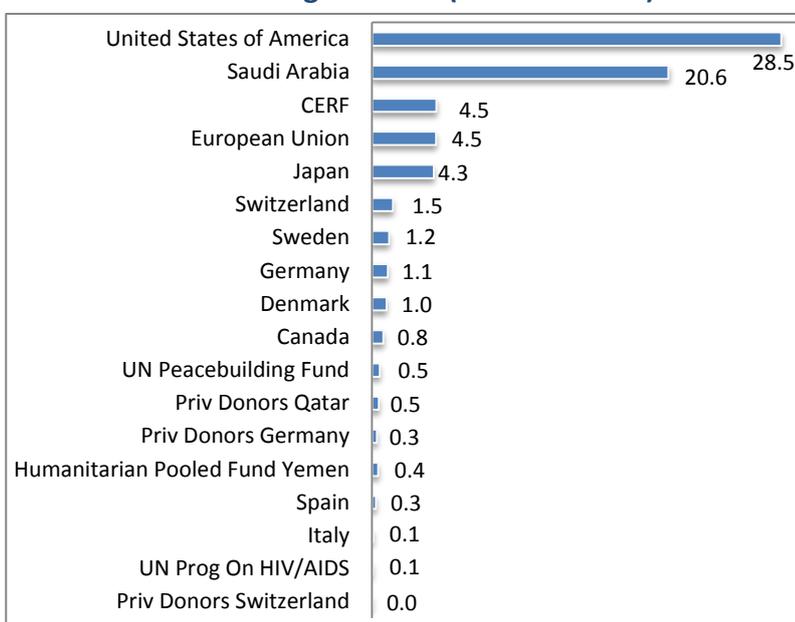
## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 6 October amount to some **US\$ 70.2 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) | Priv Donors Sweden (12 M) | Finland (10 M)

**Funding received (in million USD)**



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