

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #38

April 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

Yemen:

- From 10 to 13 April 2016, UNDSS and UNHCR conducted a security assessment in Aden.
- In mid-April 2016, floods and landslides affected over 49,000 individuals across Yemen, damaging houses, crops and vital infrastructure. UNHCR coordinated the shelter and relief items response for nearly 15,000 persons.

Djibouti:

- Almost 830 Yemeni refugees, originating mainly from Bab Al Mandab, spontaneously returned from Obock (Djibouti) to Yemen as of the end of April 2016.

Ethiopia:

- The seventh relocation of Somali refugees from Jijiga to Melkadida camps was completed on 15 April 2016. A total of 672 Somali refugees have now been relocated.

Somalia:

- UNHCR monitors spontaneous returns of Yemenis from the port of Berbera and learned of 40 individuals who returned to Yemen on 23 March, despite unsafe conditions.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Arrivals from Yemen*



Movements of/to	Djibouti	Somalia	Ethiopia	Sudan	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Total
Yemenis	19,636	3,980	1,326	1,144	30,000	5,000	61,086
Somalis	297	27,872	2,515	43	-	-	30,727
Other nationalities	13,665	268	171	1,301	9,880	46,000	71,285
National returnees	1,964	-	8,758	3,800	-	-	14,522
Total	35,562	32,120	12,770	6,288	39,880	51,000	177,620

New Arrivals to Yemen

In April 2016, 11,245 people arrived in Yemen, representing an eight per cent increase compared to March 2016. Most of the new arrivals, about 9,300 individuals, occurred along the Arabian Sea coast. Ethiopians continue to represent the majority of new arrivals, 10,227 individuals, followed by 1,016 Somalis and two Djiboutian nationals. The 2016 yearly total of new arrivals so far is 39,962 persons, compared to 44,098 over the last four months of 2015.

Despite the high arrival figures, the sea journey remains dangerous. Five individuals drowned in deep water off the Yemeni coast in April (three in the Arabian Sea and two in the Red Sea). So far in 2016, 32 individuals went missing or have died at sea in Yemeni waters.

*Statistics provided by IOM, Governments and partners; Saudi Arabia and Oman: Figures provided by the Governments, pending verification by UNHCR

KEY FIGURES

3,201,633

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.

2,755,916

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

177,620

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

268,097

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

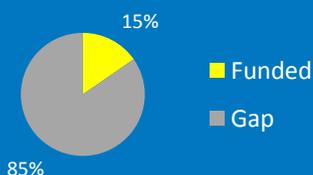
457,224

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



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

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The cessation of hostilities in Yemen took effect on 11 April 2016 and the UN-led peace talks began in Kuwait on 21 April following the delayed arrival of delegates representing the Houthis and former President Saleh. By late April, the talks' most tangible result was the creation of a De-escalation and Coordination Committee and Local Committees to work on compliance with the cessation of hostilities, leading to improvements despite reported occasional clashes (e.g. in Al Jawf, Marib, Hajjah, Al Bayda and Taizz). On 25 April, a UN Security Council Presidential Statement supported the peace talks, urged all parties to comply fully with the truce and called on Yemeni parties to restore state institutions and political dialogue.

In mid-April, floods and landslides affected over 49,000 individuals across Yemen, damaging houses, crops, vital infrastructure and killing 24 persons. UNHCR coordinated the shelter and relief items response reaching about 15,000 persons.

Meanwhile, Coalition-affiliated forces continued an offensive against extremist elements in the southern governorates. Reportedly suffering many losses, Al-Qaeda militants left the port city of Mukalla on 24 April and moved west into Shabwah. Against this background, a UNDSS-UNHCR security assessment was conducted in Aden between 10 and 13 April. The aim was to ensure security mitigating measures at office premises in the UN enclave, at accommodations and mobile security support are in line with an effort to re-launch a scheme of short duration missions by international staff.

On 6 April 2016, UNHCR in Djibouti received a delegation of officials headed by Mr. Abdul Raqeb Saif Fateh, Chairman of the High Relief Committee (HRC) and Yemeni Minister of Local Administration. They were accompanied by the Executive Secretary of the Djiboutian *Office nationale d'assistance aux réfugiés et sinistrés* (ONARS). The mission aimed at visiting the camp facilities, discussing urgent needs and return options to Yemen with refugees.

According to immigration police in Obock, Djibouti, over 500 Yemeni nationals originating from Aden arrived in Djibouti from 11 to 24 April 2016. Rather than seeking asylum, they transited through Djibouti before travelling onwards to other countries. Moreover, some spontaneous returns of Yemeni refugees to Yemen continue to be observed. Almost 830 Yemeni refugees originating mainly from Bab Al Mandab spontaneously returned from Obock as of late April 2016. The conditions of return continue to be assessed as unsafe, both at the departure point because of rough seas and upon arrival in Yemen because of insecurity. In early April 2016, a few vessels were not allowed to leave Obock port by the Djiboutian coast guard. Refugees waited for two days before making the trip to Bab Al Mandab and Al Mokha in Yemen.

Refugee Response



Protection

Yemen:

- In Sana'a and Aden, UNHCR renewed about 260 refugee certificates, issued about 120 refugee and asylum-seekers certificates and registered close to 40 new-born refugee children. In Sana'a, UNHCR conducted best interest assessments for 15 children and some 90 home visits took place to ascertain living conditions and specific needs of refugee children and their families/legal custodians. In Aden, UNHCR conducted counselling for 90 refugees and asylum-seekers on resettlement and refugee status determination and interviewed ten cases.
- On 6 April 2016, UNHCR and the Bureau of Refugee Affairs (BRA) signed a Joint Letter outlining the modalities of their cooperation and UNHCR's support to the BRA for the first six months of 2016. The BRA will continue registration of Somali refugees and registration of asylum claims from non-Somalis, while UNHCR will continue Refugee Status Determination (RSD) for non-Somalis.
- UNHCR continued working on detention monitoring and access. On 6 April, UNHCR advocated with the Aden Deputy Head of Police for access to recently arrived Ethiopians who are in detention to allow for screening and identification of asylum-seekers. The police showed willingness to support UNHCR and requested material assistance for the government reception centre in Aden. A follow-up meeting is planned. In Sana'a, UNHCR's partner INTERSOS obtained the release of some 100 Ethiopians from the central prison. Many of them had recently arrived in Yemen with documents issued at the Mayfa'a reception centre or registration appointment slips. UNHCR requested the Minister of Foreign Affairs to release over 200 Somali and Ethiopian refugees and asylum-seekers detained in Sana'a and Hudaydah.
- On 17 April, a group of Somali nationals detained in Hudaydah returned to Somalia. UNHCR was unable to ascertain the voluntary nature of the return. UNHCR is advocating for the release of some 200 additional Somali and Ethiopian refugees and asylum-seekers detained in Sana'a and Hudaydah and called for the setting-up of a mechanism to ensure the voluntary nature of any future return movements to Somalia can be objectively assessed.

- UNHCR conducted a training session in Sana'a on needs assessments methodology for about 40 partner staff, including assessment and child protection/education officers, psycho-social counsellors and gender-based violence focal points. The training aimed at developing staff capacity for refugee needs assessments and improving quality of assessments.
- To improve conditions at the reception centre in Sana'a, UNHCR started offering refreshments to persons with specific needs and children, also placed two complaint boxes and will prepare a child-friendly space within the waiting area.
- UNHCR organized a training in Sana'a for 35 civil registry staff members and UNHCR's partners Social Development Foundation (SDF) and INTERSOS. The training covered protection issues such as UNHCR's protection mandate, Refugee Status Determination, documentation, birth registration and mixed migration.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR carried out a capacity building session on international protection principles for 28 participants: 19 gendarmerie and nine partner staff. The session looked at child protection, sexual and gender-based violence and mixed migration.
- With the assistance of UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) identified about 70 beneficiaries for the DRC cash grant project. The project is designed to enable persons with specific needs (PWSN) to be self-reliant by initiating income generating activities. Each of the identified individuals was given basic business management skills and almost all received an initial grant of USD 100 to start their own business. The beneficiaries include elderly, single mothers and persons living with chronic diseases in Markazi camp, Obock.

Ethiopia:

- In April, some 25 new Yemeni refugees arrived and were registered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. From the escalation of the conflict in March 2015 up to 2 May 2016, a total of 1,326 Yemeni refugees have arrived in Ethiopia.
- The seventh relocation of Somali refugees from Jijiga to Melkadida camps jointly organized by UNHCR, IOM and the Government's Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) was completed on 15 April 2016. A total of 672 Somali refugees have now been relocated from Jijiga to Melkadida camps.

Somalia:

- In April, over 300 individuals of various nationalities arrived in Somalia from Yemen. Among them, in collaboration with local authorities and partners, UNHCR registered some 238 as refugees in the Berbera and Bossaso Reception Centres.
- Among the new arrivals to Somaliland, two Somali women were identified as persons with specific needs. Both were referred to UNHCR's partners Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland (CCBRS) and IOM for further assistance.
- UNHCR monitors spontaneous returns of *prima facie* Yemeni refugees from the port of Berbera and was informed that 40 individuals returned to Yemen in late March 2016, despite unsafe conditions. Prior to their departure, the returnees did not seek advice either from the authorities or UNHCR but reported that they were leaving Somaliland as they were dissatisfied with living conditions there. Refugees and asylum-seekers recently complained to UNHCR that they have been victims of extortions, robberies and rapes while in Somaliland.
- The Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRR&R) requested additional funding for registration activities from UNHCR and suspended registration activities in the meantime.

Education

Yemen:

- UNHCR's partner the Social Fund for Development (SFD) conducted a four-day training for 40 teachers, social and health workers on children with disability and inclusive education, one of the activities under the Educate a Child Special Project.
- The SFD held a community mobilization session focusing on the importance of education, particularly for girls, targeting refugees and the host community. The 35 participants (18 refugees and 17 Yemenis) are expected to convey the message to their communities and raise awareness on the importance of education for both girls and boys.

Djibouti:

- During April, between 130 and 165 children out of an enrolled 338 children attended classes at Al Rahma School. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) keeps track of attendance rates, which vary daily.
- The education working group set 7 May as the date of the final exams for primary school students.

Ethiopia:

- Urban refugees, including Yemenis, have access to public schools in Addis Ababa, in which the gross enrolment rate amongst refugees stands at 87 per cent.

Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR's partner International Medical Corps (IMC) provided health care support to some 1,500 refugees and 1,170 Yemenis from the host community, including psychological support, life-saving and specialized referral services as well as community outreach counselling and awareness sessions on malnutrition, poliomyelitis, diarrhoea management and safe motherhood for around 700 refugees and 500 Yemenis.
- In Kharaz camp and the Basateen area of Aden, UNHCR's partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) provided health care support to over 3,900 persons, including reproductive health services, mental health and psychological support services, and vaccinations as well as community outreach awareness sessions on *inter alia* antenatal care, hygiene, nutrition and HIV/AIDS. Over 140 staff members received training on TB, dengue fever and mine risk. At Mayfa'a reception centre, more than 10,150 new arrivals were vaccinated.
- As a part of the nation-wide polio vaccination campaign, almost 1,600 children under five years were vaccinated in Kharaz camp.

Somalia:

- Yemeni refugees in Puntland receive medical assistance through UNHCR's Implementing partner *Gruppo per le Relazioni Transculturali* (GRT) during and after biometric registration with UNHCR. *Médecins du Monde* (MDM) operates eight Mother and Child Health centres where all persons, returnees included, can receive free primary medical assistance. In Somaliland, eight Somali and Yemeni individuals were referred to IOM for medical assistance. A Yemeni refugee passed away after a long terminal sickness. UNHCR provided a contribution to the family to cover part of the funeral expenses.

Djibouti:

- In April 2016, about 730 refugees were treated at the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) outpatient clinic in Markazi camp, most commonly for communicable diseases (e.g. respiratory infections; diarrhoea). Twelve women visited the Mother and Child Unit, five for antenatal care and seven for family planning sessions. Seven children were immunized against measles.

Ethiopia:

- Yemeni refugees living in Addis Ababa under the Urban Programme have access to local health facilities on par with nationals.

 Food Security and Nutrition

Djibouti:

- Two nutrition screenings were conducted in Markazi camp in April 2016. Some 500 children under five years were screened, over 30 children were identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 50 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).
- UNHCR's partners, AHA, WFP and the National Nutrition Programme (PNN) started a blanket feeding programme in Markazi camp benefitting over 165 children under five, 35 pregnant and 15 lactating women.
- In April, UNHCR's partner WFP distributed dry rations to over 2,000 refugees in Markazi camp and Obock town.
- Measures are in place to provide families who are planning to return to Yemen and whose children receive nutritional therapeutic care with a nutritional scorecard and crucial nutrition products for treatment to ensure a continuum of care as they return.

Somalia:

- New refugee arrivals are eligible for three meals a day for up to five days. The Puntland Students Association provides cooked meals in Reception Centre 2 in Bossaso, Puntland, while DRC provides this service in Somaliland.

 Water and Sanitation

Djibouti:

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has installed six water tanks in Markazi camp, each of a capacity of 10,000 litres, guaranteeing 32,000 litres of water per day for the refugees in Markazi camp.
- NRC and AHA conducted personal hygiene promotion sessions where about 130 children were sensitized on hygiene at school.

IDP Response in Yemen

Protection

- UNHCR's partner Yemeni Women's Union (YWU) organized a week-long training session in Sana'a for YWU field-based staff, including Governorate Coordinators and District Coordinators, engaged in the population movement tracking (PMT) activities. UNHCR trained on PMT assessment methodology and tools.
- UNHCR conducted a field visits to Al Buraiqeh district (Aden) to monitor the protection conditions of IDPs from Al Wazi'iyah district of Taizz (29 families including 161 individuals). UNHCR identified critical needs for food and water. Three 3 adults and one refugee girl were identified for referral to specialized services. Moreover, UNHCR found that IDPs are residing in unfinished buildings in isolated areas, demonstrating the challenges faced by IDPs from Northern governorates (e.g. Taizz) to be accepted by the host community in Aden.

Shelter and NFIs

- Since the beginning of 2016, UNHCR has provided NFI/shelter assistance to 169,164 IDPs in 15 governorates.
- In April, through partners Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Humanitarian Forum Yemen (HFY), and National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response (NFDHR), UNHCR distributed NFIs to over 13,000 individuals in Amran governorate (Amran, Jabelyazid, and Dhi Bin districts), Amanat Al Asimah governorate, Taizz governorate (including in Al Mudhaffar, Salh, and Al Qahirah districts in the city enclave) and in Dharawan area, Sana'a. UNHCR also transported NFI kits to Al Bayda governorate through its contractor Al-Hadi company for a distribution targeting 800 IDP families in Ar Ryashyyah district.
- UNHCR and its partner National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response (NFDHR) conducted a needs assessment for IDPs staying in a spontaneous settlement in Dharawan area, Sana'a. The assessment found that 156 families (1,017 individuals), mainly displaced from Sa'ada and Taizz governorates or Nihm district of Sana'a, are in need of NFIs and emergency shelters as their shelters were damaged by the recent flooding.
- Following a series of meetings with local authorities, UNHCR was allowed to distribute NFIs to 630 IDP households constituting 4,045 individuals in Sa'ada city.
- On 13 and 14 April, heavy rains across the country caused floods and landslides affecting over 49,000 individuals and damaging houses, vital infrastructure and agricultural land. Over 50 water wells and pumps were damaged and many livestock were killed. As the lead agency of the Shelter/CCCM Cluster, UNHCR coordinated the humanitarian response. UNHCR and partners conducted rapid assessments in Amran, Sana'a, Marib, Hajjah, and Al Hudaydah governorates and identified urgent needs for shelter, NFIs, food, mobile health clinics, health and hygiene equipment and WASH facilities.
- UNHCR's partner YRCS provided NFIs to 10,137 affected individuals in Amran governorate. Furthermore, UNHCR and partner Al Amal provided 4,618 individuals with NFIs in Al Hudaydah governorate. UNHCR also finalized preparations to complement MSF-Spain NFIs distribution with shelter kits and tents to cover shelter needs of 246 IDP families affected by floods in Hajjah governorate. Meanwhile, UNHCR's operational partner in Marib governorate, Sama Al Yemen reported that an estimated 1,600 IDP families in Dhanah valley need assistance in terms of shelter kits and water.



UNHCR and Al Amal conducting needs assessment of floods victims in Az Zuhrah District, Al Hudaydah governorate, 20 April 2016 ©UNHCR/M.Alwan

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- An Information Management session for partners was conducted explaining the roll-out of ActivityInfo, a tool to track and monitor performance data reported by partners. Partners will be required to upload data on-line directly onto the ActivityInfo system, which will be accessible to relevant UNHCR staff and facilitate monitoring and reporting of performance against established targets. ActivityInfo was launched for the Protection Cluster in 2015 and will be rolled out by UNHCR as of June.

Djibouti:

- A protection working group with partners ONARS, DRC, LWF, *Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti* (UNFD) and AHA took place to establish a referral pathway mechanism to identify and address protection incidents.

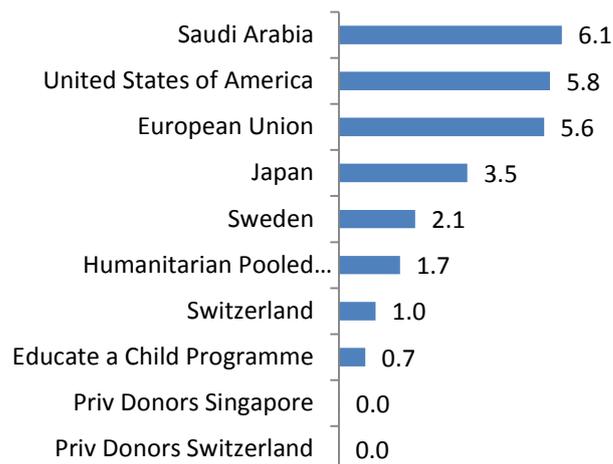
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 29 March *Funding received (in million USD)*

2016 amount to some **US \$ 26,403,036 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 2016: Sweden (78 M) | United States of America (78 M) | Netherlands (46 M) | Norway (40 M) | Australia (31 M) | Denmark (24 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Germany (13 M) | Priv Donors Spain (12 M)



Contacts:

Jérôme Elie, Reporting Officer, Middle East and North Africa Bureau, 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 +254 20 422 2705

