



In August, UNHCR and the Yemen Red Crescent conducted 16 distributions like this one of NFIs to 10,799 IDPs in Amran. © Yemen Red Crescent

HIGHLIGHTS

263,933

Registered refugees as of 15 September

8,705

Registered asylum seekers as of 15 September

1,439,118

Internally Displaced People as of 15 August

48,348

New arrivals to Yemen in 2015 as of 31 August

Population of Concern

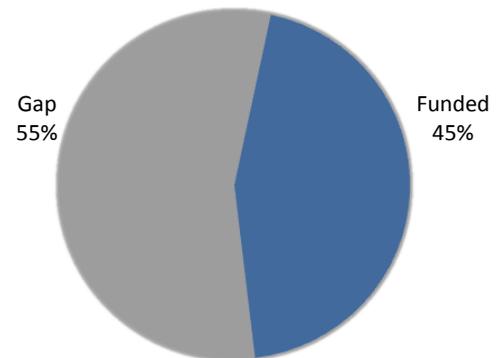
A total of **1,711,756** refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs

By country of origin

Country	Refugees	Asylum Seekers	Total
Somalia	249,584	-	249,584
Ethiopia	6,067	7,229	13,296
Iraq	3,397	127	3,524
Syria	2,988	614	3,602
Other	1,897	735	2,632
Yemen (IDPs)	-	-	1,439,118
Total	263,933	8,705	1,711,756

Funding

USD 105.6 million requested



UNHCR Presence

Staff:

113 national staff | **22** international staff*
3 emergency deployees (international)
* 13 international staff in Sana'a and 9 working from Amman

Offices:

Branch and Protection Offices in Sana'a; Sub-Office Aden; Field Office Kharaz refugee camp; Mayfa'a Reception centre; Yemen Operational Centre in Amman, Jordan

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

One of the poorest countries in the region, Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Since late March, the already severe conditions in the country substantially worsened with the escalation in the armed conflict. Over 150 days into the conflict as of mid-September, the World Health Organization documented some 5,039 deaths and 25,653 injuries, including refugees and aid workers. However, the actual numbers are believed to be much higher. Half the population is facing food insecurity; over 15.2 million people lack access to basic health care, and over 20 million lack access to safe water thus contributing to the spread of preventable diseases such as dengue fever, polio and acute diarrhoea. Fuel price in Sana'a has tripled since the escalation of the conflict in March, while more than 400 schools have been damaged and some 3,500 schools have been temporarily shut down.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Refugees

- As of 31 August, **6,655 individuals registered** their intent to seek asylum/refugee status along the Red Sea and Arabian Sea coasts: 5,287 Somalis and 1,368 non-Somali asylum seekers were screened and provided temporary documentation as they make their way to UNHCR Aden, Sana'a or one of the Government of Yemen registration centres.
- The most vulnerable refugees such as women at risk, unaccompanied minors and separated children, and refugees with medical conditions continue to be identified through UNHCR's resettlement programme. UNHCR has submitted 64 individuals for resettlement consideration in 2015. To-date, **113 individuals have departed** to their country of resettlement.
- The number of the persons of concern in need of financial assistance has drastically increased due to the conflict. UNHCR has expanded the financial assistance programme to include more persons with specific needs and increased the individual amount of assistance; as of 31 August, **2,823 individuals** (1,680 in Sana'a and 1,143 in Aden) **have received financial assistance**.
- UNHCR continues to support two healthcare facilities in Sana'a, a medical clinic in the Basateen neighbourhood of Aden and the medical clinic in Kharaz refugee camp located in Lahj Governorate. In June, the medical clinic in Basateen was damaged and UNHCR's partner covered greater Aden with a mobile clinic (treating refugees and IDPs on the spot) until the clinic reopened in August.
- Kharaz refugee camp received some **3,000 urban refugees during** the conflict with the current population at 17,663 refugees. Access to the camp has been a major challenge with insecurity on the roads to the camp. UNHCR and partners have been closely coordinating to transport fuel to the camp to provide electricity to run the camp and pump water from the wells. In two instances, UNHCR's partner sent medical supplies to the camp by sea after failing to travel via road. WFP has faced major challenges in dispatching food to the camp. In August, a two-month ration was provided to the refugees.
- UNHCR led two missions in August and September to Aden to assess the feasibility of re-establishing UN international presence in the area. Despite the existing challenges of access to water, electricity and communication networks, IDPs and refugees are returning to Aden. UNHCR and partners are in the process of resuming previously suspended activities.

New Arrivals and Mixed Migration

- Since late March, **102,838 Yemenis, refugees and third country nationals have fled Yemen** and reached countries in the Horn of Africa and the Gulf (over 51,000 Yemenis and over 28,400 Somalis).
- Along the Arabian and Red Sea Coasts, UNHCR and partners received **48,348 new arrivals** at the Mayfa'a Reception Centre, Kharaz Reception Centre and Bab-al-Mandab transit centre from the beginning of the year to 31 August. Activities at the Ahwar Reception Centre were transferred to Mayfa'a reception centre in response to new arrival disembarkation trends. Upon screening the new arrivals, **1,810 individuals were identified as persons with specific needs or at risk** and provided with further support and referrals.

IDPs

- As of 15 August, **1,439,118 persons have been recorded as internally displaced** prior to and as a result of the current conflict, with Hajjah governorate hosting the highest number of IDPs (298,788 individuals), followed by Al Dhale'e (235,656 individuals) and Aden (195,325 individuals). Since April UNHCR has co-lead with IOM the Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM) to track new displacement. As part of this responsibility, UNHCR engages in training of operational partners on displacement tracking and data collection methods.
- UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and in response to the dire need of IDPs, but also of the host communities, cluster partners focus on the systematic evaluation of protection needs and have been conducting assessments across the country at the community level and in-depth household level. Through Community Centres operated by partners and located in Sa'ada, Hajjah and Amant Al Asimah (Sana'a City), UNHCR has provided a range of targeted services underpinned by **protection monitoring, including psychosocial, legal and cash assistance and sensitisation, training and capacity building activities reaching 32,794 individuals**. The need for safety also features as a priority in assessments and there are frequent instances of secondary displacement. With the current level of internal displacement and the damage to civilian infrastructure that has occurred as a result of the conflict, it is unlikely that return will be possible in the short-term. Host communities are also unlikely to be able to absorb IDPs considering that they too have been significantly affected by the conflict, which has been exhausting their own coping mechanisms.
- UNHCR leads the CCCM, NFI, and Shelter Cluster countrywide and recently **adopted a shelter strategy to respond to the basic shelter needs as a result of the conflict**. Since the beginning of the conflict in late March up to 31 August, in different parts of the country UNHCR and cluster partners have **distributed NFIs (mattresses, blankets, sleeping mats, plastic buckets, and kitchen sets) to over 167,601 individuals, emergency shelter materials (plastic sheets) to over 84,259 individuals, tents to over 3,668 individuals, and provided cash assistance for rental subsidies to over 2,492 individuals**. Despite extremely challenging circumstances, UNHCR and partners are doing their utmost to deliver essential life-saving supplies and services in an impartial and neutral manner. Given the ongoing conflict and unpredictable security situation, NFIs in transit in the country are fully insured.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Canada](#) | [CERF](#) | [European Union](#) | [Humanitarian Pooled Fund](#) | [Japan](#) | [King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre](#) | [Spain](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [UN Peacebuilding Fund](#) | [UN Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) | [United States](#)

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