



Background

Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula to be signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. UNHCR established its operations in Yemen in 1992 in response to the large-scale influx of Somali refugees. Yemen faces specific and unique challenges characterized by mixed migration flows; some flee war and persecution in the Horn of Africa while others look for economic opportunities in the Gulf States and beyond. Although Somalis are granted immediate prima facie refugee status, other nationalities must go through a Refugee Status Determination (RSD).

Unrest in Yemen: Impact on Refugees and IDPs

UNHCR's operations have been impacted due to Yemen's political upheaval. Counseling, monitoring and processing asylum claims in Aden remains difficult due to restriction of movement; monitoring of detention centers has been limited; resettlement activities have been affected; and despite record arrival numbers, transporting new arrivals from reception centers remains a challenge.

The 6-year old conflict in the north culminated in the Al-Houthis gaining complete control of Sa'ada Governorate in March 2011. The recent clashes have again displaced families from their homes.

Fighting that began in May 2011 in Abyan Governorate in the south between the government forces and the Al-Qaeda-linked militants has resulted in tens of thousands of civilians displaced to the surrounding areas including Aden and Lahj and within Ayban governorates. In coordination with other international and local aid NGOs, UNHCR is providing assistance to IDPs in Aden who are sheltered in schools and with the host families.

Main objectives

- Effectively protect and provide basic humanitarian assistance and services to all refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs in camps, urban areas and IDP settlements
- Enhance the Government's legal framework and institutional capacity to protect and assist refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs
- Establish the national Department of Refugee Affairs
- Use resettlement as a protection tool and a sustainable solution
- Maximize refugees' self-reliance to increase livelihood options
- Improve reception facilities and assistance for mixed migrants in protection, transportation, registration and basic needs
- Assist and protect IDPs and to develop community based projects in areas of return
- Coordinate emergency humanitarian assistance for persons of concerns due to increased insecurity and conflict

Refugee Population

Prima Facie Refugees

Somali	193,698
--------	---------

Mandated Refugees

Ethiopian	4,732
Eritrean	886
Iraqi	4,313
Others	891
Total	204,520

Additional Information

Somalis registered at GOY-run registration centre out of above caseload	84,511
GoY ID cards issued to Somali refugees out of above caseload	74,682

New Arrivals at Coast for 2011

Months	Somalis	Ethiopians	Others	Total
January	1,735	3,883	40	5,658
February	2,136	5,567	5	7,708
March	2,130	7,342	14	9,486
April	1,571	5,452	7	7,030
May	1,655	5,861	8	7,524
June	1,189	4,397	15	5,601
July	1,118	4,655	2	5,775
August	4,564	6,657	29	11,250
Total	16,098	43,814	120	60,032

Refugees Voluntarily Repatriated as of 31 August

•132 Iraqis • 15 Ethiopians •16 Somalis

Registered Internally Displaced Population through the Government/UNHCR working group as of 31 August

Governorate	Total Active IDPs	Total Returnees(*)
Sana'a	35,492	
Amran	40,336	50
Hajjah	107,694	
Al Jawf	24,491	
Sa'ada	110,000	27,092
Aden	50,906	
Abyan	18,817	
Lahajj	17,858	
Shabwah	586	
Al-Bayda	917	
Total Registered Population	407,097	27,737

*The returnee number (in areas of origin) is based on the IDPs who have registered themselves as returnees with the EU. This number does not represent spontaneous returnees.

Refugees Resettled as of 31 August

Destination	Somali	Ethiopian	Iraqi	Eritrean	Other	Total
USA	110	22	25	3	12	172
Norway	31					31
Netherlands		1			15	16
Canada	77	4	3		1	93
Sweden	5	8		56		69
Denmark				18		18
France		2				2
Ireland		5				5
U.K.	6	13				19
Total	229	63	28	77	28	425

Highlights of the Month

Refugees

- Following the Oromo and Eritrean protests in front of the UNHCR Office in Sana'a demanding resettlement to a third country, UNHCR reviewed the increase in homelessness and loss of livelihoods among refugees due to the current turmoil in the country, and provided quick assistance for vulnerable cases. However, some refugees and asylum seekers are still camping in front of the office and UNHCR continues to look for solutions.
- UNHCR and Save the Children conducted interviews for the Protection Scholarship for outstanding students to attend universities in Sana'a. Up to 72 students attended the entrance exam, 26 passed to move onto the interview stage, and 20 applicants were chosen.
- UNHCR along with UNICEF and UNFPA has begun implementation of the HIV PAF project to target assistance for refugees most at risk.
- Due to civil unrest and insecurity in Sana'a, 570 Somali refugees and 62 Ethiopian asylum seekers were relocated to Kharaz camp. Many of the refugees have expressed frustration at the difficult living conditions in the camp and at the loss of income generating opportunities.
- An increase in New Arrivals along the coast, already surpassing the number of arrivals for the same period in 2010, and the relocation of urban refugees has put a strain on the services in Kharaz camp.
- At the beginning of the most new arrivals from south central Somalia told UNHCR staff in the reception centres that insecurity that was the main reason for making the trek to Yemen, and second most common answer was drought. More recently this has shifted with drought given as the main reason. Living conditions in the Horn of Africa are becoming harsher due to the famine and the ongoing conflict in Somalia. New Arrivals are looking for refuge and safe-heaven in Yemen while others hope to be able to continue their journey onwards to other Gulf States, but the trip towards these locations is as perilous as the Gulf of Aden crossing.



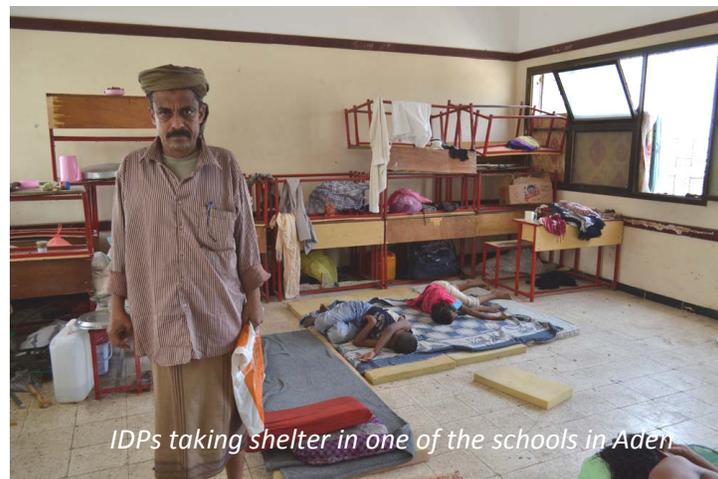
Somali mother and son in Kharaz camp

Partners

Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Human Rights, Health, Technical Education and Vocational Training, University of Sana'a, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV, WFP, WHO, UNDP, UNIDOM, YRC, Save the Children Sweden, ADRA, INTERSOS, CARE, DRC, Oxfam GB, IRD, Al Tadhamon, Al Takamol, CSSW, SHS, IDF, Al Dumir, Ras Marbat, ADPSN, Al Amel, SCWA, Triangle, Islamic Relief Yemen and Qatar Charity

Donors

USA • EC • ECHO • Japan • UK • Italy • Finland • Switzerland • Netherlands • Sweden • Spain • Germany • France • Private Sector Donors

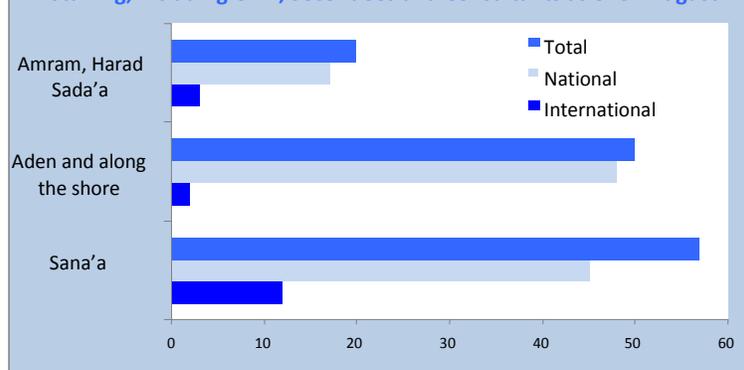


IDPs taking shelter in one of the schools in Aden

IDPs

- UNHCR, partners, and the Government of Yemen's Executive Unit for IDPs conducted verification exercises of IDPs that have taken up shelter within the schools in Aden, and have been working together to look for alternative shelter for the IDPs once the academic school year begins in mid-September.
- UNHCR began a verification exercise of IDPs in the schools in Aden to identify vulnerable cases in order to provide immediate assistance.
- UNHCR set up distribution centres in Aden for IDPs staying in the schools and with host families to receive non-food assistance.
- 30 IDP families (255 individuals) from Sa'ada recently identified as Persons with serious needs were provided with NFIs.
- UNHCR conducted profiling of 132 IDPS families (692 individuals) from Arhab for immediate assistance.
- UNHCR began work on three Quick Impact Projects in Amran with the construction of stone water tanks which will be complete by next month.

Staffing, including UNV, Secondees and Consultants as of 31 August



For further information, please contact:

Teddy Leposky
Public Information/External Relations
UNHCR SO Aden
leposky@unhcr.org

Jamal Al-Najjar
Public Information Associate
UNHCR BO Sana'a
alnajjar@unhcr.org

UNHCR Website: www.unhcr.org
MMTF Website: www.mmyemen.org