

YEMEN SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #35

January 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR launched a [Supplementary Appeal](#) outlining a total of USD 172.2 million in financial requirements for the Yemen Situation, including USD 115.5 million in additional requirements, for the period January – December 2016.

Yemen:

- UNHCR Aden resumed regular activities on registration and documentation of asylum seekers and refugees after over 10 months of suspension due to the conflict.

Somalia:

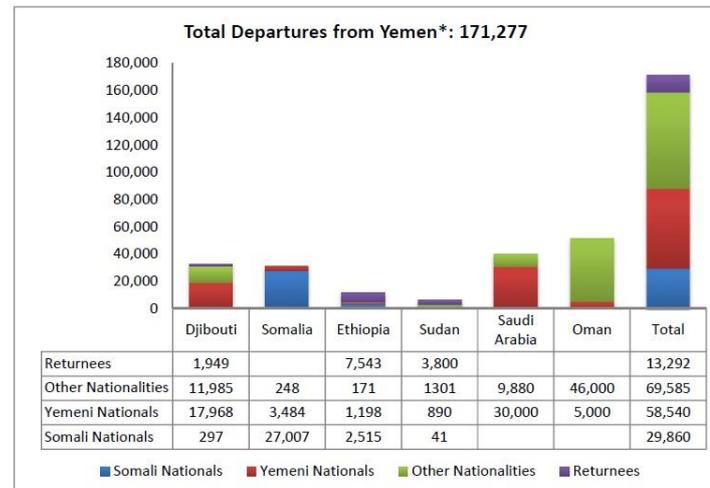
- On 8 January, the Ministry of Interior officially opened the second Reception Centre in Bossaso, Puntland.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR border monitoring revealed a decrease in new arrivals in late January.
- As of 1 February Markazi camp is in need of electricity or alternative energy source.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Departures from Yemen



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

New Arrivals to Yemen

In January, 10,588 individuals (85 per cent of Ethiopian origin) arrived along the coasts of Yemen. Thirty-six individuals died at sea on 8 January off the coast of Somaliland while on their way to Yemen. The boat was carrying 106 people (mostly Ethiopians). UNHCR and partners provided immediate emergency assistance to the 70 survivors.

While in 2015 new arrivals seem to have shifted primarily to the Arabian Sea coast and increasingly to Lahj governorate, new arrivals still reach the Red Sea coast but not all are encountered and recorded, nor assisted due to lack of access. Military activity near Bab-al-Mandab transit centre continues to impede the resumption of protection monitoring and patrolling along the Red Sea coast. Yet, daily patrols and screening along Lahj's coast resumed in January. Protection challenges for new arrivals continue with risks of detention particularly in the centre and north of the country, threats of expulsion and allegations of forced recruitment of non-Yemenis among fighting militias.

KEY FIGURES

2,947,763

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.

2,509,062

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

171,277

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

267,424

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

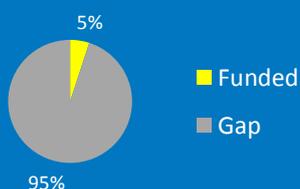
331,602

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

Armed clashes and intensified airstrikes continued across the country, affecting civilians and infrastructure, including some UNHCR national staff residences in Sana'a. On 10 January, a projectile hit a *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF)-supported health facility in Sa'ada, resulting in six deaths and multiple injuries. The UN Secretary General condemned the incident, the third time an MSF-supported facility was hit in three months. The humanitarian situation is still extremely dire, despite reported increased imports of food and fuel in January. The conflict is having a particularly dramatic impact on the agriculture sector, with the Food and Agriculture Organization estimating that about 14.4 million individuals, over half of Yemen's population, are now food insecure, a 36 per cent increase since late 2014. Added to the conflict, the security environment remained volatile, especially in the south where targeted killings still occur regularly, while extremist groups gained influence.

From 10 to 14 January, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen was in Sana'a to encourage the resumption of peace talks. During his visit, seven prisoners were released, including the Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training and two Saudi teachers. Welcomed by the UN Secretary General as a key confidence-building measure, this gesture did not herald a reopening of the peace talks. Efforts were also deployed to advocate for the cessation of hostilities in Taizz and for unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance. On 21 January, the Humanitarian Coordinator and a UN delegation visited Taizz and Ibb governorates, including Taizz city, witnessing that food and other basic goods are in short supply. From 20 to 21 January, the Yemen UNHCR Representative met, in Riyadh, with the Government of Yemen, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, the EU donor community accredited to Yemen and the UN Country Team in Saudi Arabia.

Refugee Response



Protection

North Africa:

- UNHCR registered 1,375 Yemenis in Egypt (53 refugees and 1,322 asylum seekers) and 468 Yemeni asylum seekers in Morocco as of 31 January 2016.

Yemen:

- In Sana'a, UNHCR renewed certificates for 262 refugees, registered 42 new-born refugee children, undertook best interest assessments for 19 children, carried out 81 visits to ascertain living conditions and needs of refugee children and their families/legal custodians and provided one time financial assistance to eight male unaccompanied or separated children.
- In Sana'a, UNHCR partner International Relief and Development (IRD) provided advanced financial assistance to 20 refugee cases in difficulty and one-off emergency financial assistance to 16 cases. IRD conducted 1,002 assessments and 441 reassessments for cases in worsening situation. InterSos provided financial assistance to 126 cases in Basateen (Aden) and 191 cases in Kharaz camp. Recipients included child protection and GVB cases as well as persons with specific needs.
- On 26 January, UNHCR met with line ministries and Al Houthis to discuss recent arrests and detention of foreign nationals in Yemen. UNHCR advocated so that persons holding refugee or asylum seeker documents would not be arrested nor detained. UNHCR offered to conduct joint registration with the Bureau of Refugee Affairs in detention centres and plan to reach out again to local authorities and law enforcement officials on the legal value of UNHCR documents.
- After over ten months of suspension, Sub-Office Aden resumed registration activities on 24 January using a temporary proGres server. UNHCR registered 76 Ethiopians and one Syrian, renewed certificates for 13 refugees and issued 77 refugee and asylum seekers certificates. About 200 cases are scheduled for registration interviews.
- Regarding the departure of 56 refugees to the Emergency Transit Centre in Slovakia for resettlement to the United States, UNHCR is in contact with the Slovakian Embassy in Cairo for the visas and with ICRC for travel documents.

Djibouti:

- UNHCR continued border monitoring activities revealed a decrease in new arrivals at the end of January. During the week of 24 January, 184 individuals arrived in Djibouti from Aden, compared to the week of 17 January when 367 new arrivals (including 300 Yemeni nationals) reached the port of Obock. The majority of arrivals from Aden is not willing to seek asylum in Djibouti but are using it as a transit country before traveling elsewhere.
- As part of its activities to restore and maintain family links, the Djibouti Red Crescent (CRD) offered phone call services to some 300 refugees in Markazi between 18 and 29 January.
- UNHCR continues to advocate for issuance of birth certificates. As a result of negotiations with the Obock Council, birth certificates for seven new-born refugees were issued during the reporting period.

Ethiopia:

- With the exception of one family assessed to be unfit to travel, all the Yemeni refugees who had been registered in Jijiga, totalling 85 individuals have been relocated to Addis Ababa and included in the Urban Refugee Program. Approximately 1,763 unregistered Somalis from Yemen still remain in or around Jijiga, mostly around Shedder camp. UNHCR is advocating for their registration.
- A total of 529 Somali refugees from Yemen have been relocated to Melkadida from Jijiga and are currently being registered and accommodated in Kobe refugee camp. The remaining 310 Somali refugees from Yemen are scheduled to be relocated in the upcoming few weeks.
- Yemeni refugees who are registered in the urban refugee program are being provided with monthly assistance and formal and non-formal education programs provided by partners. Yemeni refugees, together with other urban refugee communities, continue to receive counselling, referral and support on protection, registration and assistance. New arrival Yemeni refugees benefit from *prima facie* recognition by the government of Ethiopia.

Somalia:

- In Puntland the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) started the distribution of subsistence cash allowances to 454 Yemeni refugee households in Bossaso, Gardo, Garowe and Badhan. DRC also provided emergency refreshment for the new arrivals at the point of entry, while the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) provides new arrivals with the opportunity to communicate by phone with their families in Yemen or in South/Central Somalia and Somaliland.
- With the support of DRC, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland (CCBRS), Africa Action Help International (AAHI), IOM, the Migration Resource Centre (MRC) and Legal Clinic, UNHCR raised awareness among refugees and asylum-seekers on the importance of having their original refugee/asylum-seeker certificates at all times and the need to approach the Ministry of Resettlements, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction to renew documents if they have expired or been lost. UNHCR registration staff and MRR&R staff are ensuring the renewal of all asylum seeker/refugee certificates.

Education

Yemen:

- UNHCR received 300 school kits (school bags and basic stationery) from UNICEF. UNHCR is planning to distribute school kits to 1,850 refugee children in Sana'a with specific needs through partner Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF).

Djibouti:

- A total of 292 children sat mid-year exams indicating that the number of refugee children actually attending the Obock Al Rahma School decreased from the 328 students attending in December. Fifteen refugee students are enrolled in the Yemeni School in Djibouti city. Rumours are circulating in the camp that families are moving to Djibouti city and that some are returning to Yemen.
- In Obock Al Rahma School, a ceremony took place on 28 January to honour best performing students and to initiate the creation of a parent-teacher committee. The ceremony recognized distinguished teachers and parents, and was organized by education partner, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), in collaboration with Al Rahma Association. UNHCR and UNICEF equipped two of the school's classrooms and a library with furniture and educational materials.

Ethiopia:

- In the 2015/2016 academic year, 96 Yemeni children are enrolled in kindergarten, 177 in primary school and 22 in secondary school in Addis Ababa.

Health

Yemen:

- UNHCR partner International Medical Corps (IMC) health facilities in Sana'a provided medical consultation and essential medicines to 1,287 refugees and Yemenis, psychological support to 130 refugees, reproductive health to 48 women, GBV clinical management for three refugees, and life-saving and specialized referral services to 70 patients.
- UNHCR partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW)'s health centres in Basateen/Aden and Kharaz camp provided medical consultation and essential medicines to 2,745 patients, reproductive health to 427 women, mental health and psychological support to 154 refugees, routine vaccination for 141 children, as well as health education sessions for 673 refugees. CSSW also contributed to the national polio, rubella and measles vaccination campaign: 6,276 children under 5 years received polio vaccine; 9,834 children of 6 months to 15 years received rubella and measles vaccines.

- At Mayfa'a reception centre, UNHCR partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) provided medical consultations and essential medicines to 2,669 new arrivals, polio vaccine to 12,869 children, measles vaccines to 49 children and tetanus toxoid to 1,289 individuals. UNHCR is looking into refurbishing the decreasing stocks of essential medicines for new arrivals in the reception centre.

Djibouti:

- From 17 to 23 January, 324 refugees were treated at the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) clinic in Markazi Camp. The unit is supported by UNFPA.
- The UNFPA reproductive health team opened a surgical unit in Markazi camp where caesarean births can be carried out. It is staffed by a gynecologist, a midwife, and a nurse.
- On 23 January, a second ambulance, medical equipment and supplies donated by UNICEF were delivered to the *Centre Médical Hospitalier (CMH)* which serves Obock and Markazi camp. A ceremony took place hosted by the Minister of Health in cooperation with community leaders the Prefet of Obock, and health staff.

Ethiopia:

- All registered Yemeni refugees have access to health services in public facilities with necessary referrals for those with complicated cases that could not be treated in these facilities.

Somalia:

- In Puntland, health assistance for Somali returnees in transit (specifically children) has not been provided since Save the Children International (SCI) stopped assistance at the reception centers due to the budget constraints. A Task Force meeting has been called to see how it can be addressed.



Food Security and Nutrition

Djibouti:

- The monthly distribution of dry rations for January took place on 22 and 23 January after heavy rains in Obock damaged a portion of the stock. WFP served 2,823 individuals residing in Markazi camp and Obock town. A week later, WFP conducted an exceptional food distribution to 47 newly registered refugees at Markazi camp.
- A total of 36 children with severe acute malnutrition and 46 with moderate acute malnutrition are enrolled in the nutrition program in Markazi camp.
- A campaign against anemia was launched on 24 January in Markazi camp following a recommendation by UNICEF and UNHCR. All children in the nutritional program receive iron supplement syrup in accordance to their weight as per the WHO's International Nutritional Anemia Consultative Group's (INACG) guide for Iron/Folic Acid distribution.
- On 20 January, AHA distributed 102 packets of mineral water and 60 packets of diapers to families with children under the age of two. Over 100 children received formula milk donated by the Ministry of Interior and the *Office national d'assistance aux réfugiés et aux sinistrés (ONARS)* and sensitized parents on its proper use.

Somalia:

- In Puntland, WFP resumed its wet feeding programme for new arrivals at the second Reception Centre through its partner Puntland Students Association. Three meals are provided per person per day for a period of five days starting from the arrival day.



Water and Sanitation

Djibouti:

- Over 200 latrines currently function in Markazi camp, including those replaced by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).
- The camp supply of water is guaranteed by three bladders of 15,000 liters each. On 28 and 29 January, the water was cut from Obock so NRC trucked water from the nearby village of Oulma, 30 kilometers away from Obock.
- Hygiene sensitization campaigns to stop water contamination at the household level were held, including hand washing, washing of vegetables, kitchen utensils and the cleaning of jerry cans. In addition, the cleaning and maintenance of latrines and proper disposal of household waste was promoted.
- Following the distribution of mosquito nets in Markazi camp and the identification of two malaria cases, NRC hygiene promoters conducted a door-to-door sensitization on the causes and prevention measures of vector-borne diseases.

Somalia:

- In Puntland, IOM continues to provide drinking water for new arrivals at the reception centre. Starting from February 2016, Mercy USA will be providing drinking water at the Reception Centre for an initial period of three months. The issue of water scarcity has been resolved.

Shelter and NFIs

Djibouti:

- UNHCR and ONARS have allocated 239 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) in Markazi camp to date.
- NRC completed the construction of 90 communal kitchens that are ready to use. Four additional kitchens are being constructed.

Somalia:

- In Somaliland, 100 family tents, assorted Core Relief items (CRIs) and hygiene kits were distributed to Yemeni refugee families in Bossaso following a joint selection process conducted by the Ministry of the Interior, Mercy USA, UNHCR, and Yemeni community leaders. The items provided will enable Yemeni refugees to benefit from more adequate housing.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Djibouti:

- From 1 February, Al Rahma Association will cease to provide kerosene for Markazi camp generators due to lack of funding. Kerosene is the camp's source of electricity. ONARS appealed to partners to provide solar panels for the whole camp.

IDP Response in Yemen

Protection

- The UNHCR and AMIDEAST-run Tawasul call centre received approximately 262 calls in January. The highest needs raised were in relation to food, NFIs and financial assistance. Other needs raised include medical services, shelter and issues such as lack of employment. The majority of callers were IDPs with a smaller number of host community members. The primary purpose for calling was to request information in relation to cited needs.
- UNHCR held meetings with several partners to discuss protection project proposals for the IDP response in 2016, including with the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Al Bena. Partners were further briefed on the reconceptualization of the community centre activity recently undertaken. The new concept – Protection and Basic Assistance Mechanism (PBAM) – is dedicated to protection monitoring at the household level. It will also include targeted assistance activities, as well as community-based protection networks.
- From 18 to 24 January, a UNHCR mission to Sa'ada trained six staff members of the official Executive Committee for IDPs on field assessments, distributions and Post-Distribution Monitoring in preparation for the resumption of CRI and emergency shelters distribution. UNHCR also contributes to efforts to activate the sub-national clusters.

Shelter and NFIs

Yemen:

- In January, UNHCR and partners reached 43,542 individuals with CRIs and shelter assistance in Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Amanat Alasimah, Hajjah, Ibb and Taizz governorates.
- UNHCR brought 67 trucks with CRIs into Taizz governorate and city. 45 made it to the points of distribution within the governorate and distributions occurred as per the agreed distribution plan in five of the 11 districts of the governorate. There are some 400,000 IDPs from Taizz city in those 11 districts. As of late January, UNHCR was still negotiating the entry of the remaining 22 trucks, 11 of which were intended for distribution in the three districts of the Taizz city enclave. [NB: the distributions ultimately took place in February].
- On 27 January, UNHCR inspected two collective centres rehabilitated in Sana'a through partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) respectively hosting 21 and 14 IDP families. ADRA completed the rehabilitation of a third centre, which the Executive Unit for IDPs plans to convert into a reception centre for newly arriving IDPs.
- Sub-Office Aden disbursed the first payment to 300 out of 500 IDPs in Aden to rehabilitate their damaged homes. The project started in December and the first payment to IDPs is still on-going. Two additional payments are scheduled for the 500 IDPs depending on verifications of the rehabilitation process.

Working in partnership

Yemen:

- UNHCR staff continued their mission to Ibb, which started in mid-December 2015. During the mission, UNHCR and UNICEF met with the Rector of Ibb University, Prof Dr. Tariq, who noted that many of his students are vulnerable IDPs. UNHCR obtained information on the location of the IDPs so that partners can perform needs assessments. Dr. Tariq suggested that an unfinished school building and a piece of land on the campus grounds could be used to accommodate IDPs. UNHCR visited the location and agreed to review the suggestion with the Executive Unit for IDPs and the Governor's office in Ibb and to look into the IDPs' needs for CRIs, WASH items, water and food.
- Led by UNICEF, a common UN office will soon open in Ibb (one of the six in-country UN operational hubs together with Aden, Al Hudaydah, Mukalla, Sa'ada, Sana'a), with UNHCR international and national staff working in the premises. As UN lead agency for Aden, UNHCR continues to work on the resumption of long-term international presence in the city.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

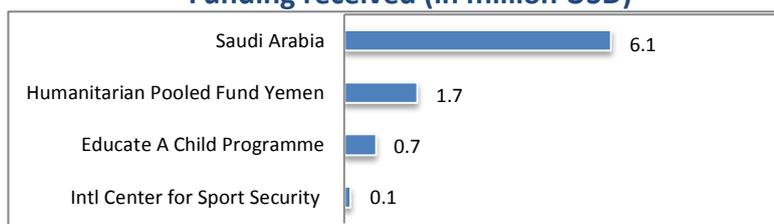
Total recorded contributions for the operation as at 31

January 2016 amount to some **US \$ 8.6 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) | Netherlands (46 M) | Norway (40 M) | Australia (31 M) | Denmark (24 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Germany (13 M)

Funding received (in million USD)



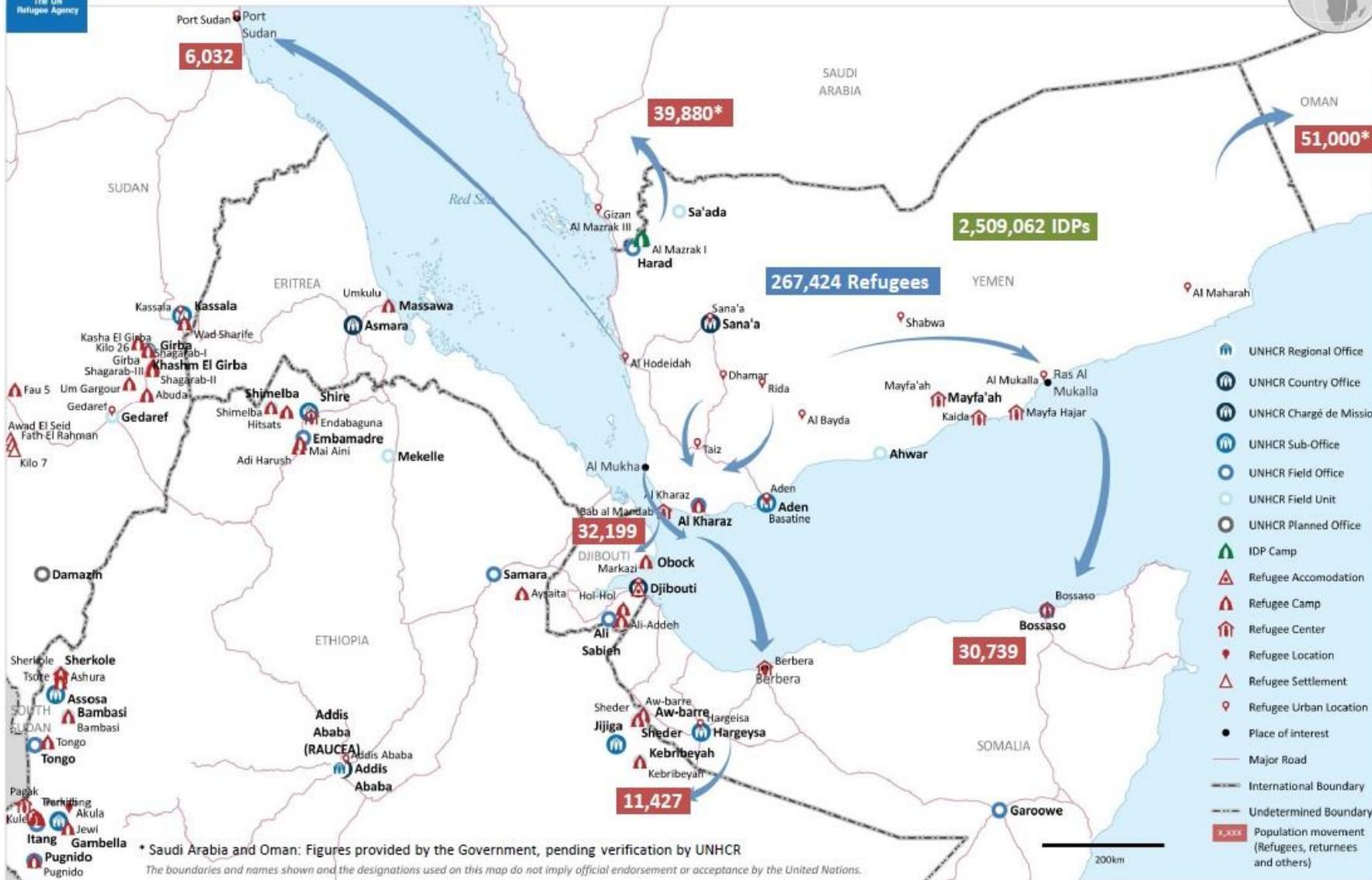
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Yemen Situation: Regional Map (total population movement out of Yemen: 171,277)

31 January 2016



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