Population Movements

According to reports received by UNHCR in Aden, around 500 families have fled the Damt frontline, in Al Dhale’e Governorate. Damt is located half way between Aden and Sana’a, about 150km from each. Many civilians still remain in villages near the frontline, where fighting has intensified.

An increasing number of internally displaced persons (IDP) fleeing conflict in Al Hudaydah have settled in Farizi village, in Al Buraiqeh district (west of Aden). UNHCR visited Farizi, where IDPs requested support to obtain civil documentation such as identity cards and birth certificates. They are also in need of food and cash assistance.

On 19 November, the 23rd boat departed from the Port of Aden with 141 Somalis on board, as part of UNHCR’s Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme. So far in 2018, through this programme, 2,239 individuals have travelled from Yemen to Berbera, Somalia. The primary reasons for wanting to return include the lack of livelihood opportunities and family reunification. Since 2017, 3,053 people have travelled to Somalia through the ASR programme, while over 5,500 Somalis have been counselled on conditions in their country of origin, available assistance and return procedures.

UNHCR Response

As winter approaches, UNHCR continues to identify families in need of seasonal support. Families living at high altitude, in governorates such as Dhamar, Amran and Sana’a are being prioritised for assistance due to their exposure to the cold. UNHCR has provided core relief items (CRI) to over 250 families and more than 10,000 families will soon receive cash-based assistance to cover their basic needs during the winter.

In response to the situation in Al Hudaydah, the Shelter Cluster has pre-positioned almost 5,000 CRI kits, over 1,000 tents and 500 emergency shelter kits in two warehouses in Al Hudaydah city. Emergency cash assistance was distributed to around 70 households in Al Hudaydah. In neighbouring Hajjah Governorate, over 300 CRI kits were distributed to newly displaced families in Aflah Al Yaman district.

In Aden, around 3,500 households received cash assistance during the reporting period. Based on recent needs assessments, UNHCR and partners have identified an additional 1,800 families to be assisted in the coming weeks.

UNHCR continues to implement Quick-Impact Projects (QIPs) in Yemen. In Dhamar Governorate, IDPs and host community members jointly decided to use a QIP to improve the road conditions around the UNHCR-supported community centre. The decision-making process is a key part of UNHCR’s QIPs which aim to promote social cohesion between IDPs and host communities. The project was designed with the support of local authorities. Across Yemen, UNHCR supports eight community centres, which provide psychosocial support and legal counselling, and serve as a venue for focus group discussions and other forms of communications with communities.

Children participate in a focus group at the UNHCR-supported community centre in Amran Governorate. (Photo: UNHCR/Heymar)

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