



PRESS RELEASE

An interagency appeal for support to people fleeing Yemen

Nairobi, 9 December 2015 – The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) launched an interagency appeal for USD 94,130,731 to provide protection and assistance, in 2016, to refugees, returnees and migrants fleeing the conflict in Yemen.

The appeal was launched at a donors meeting held in Nairobi today. Mr Mohamed Abdulkarim A. Assad, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Yemen in Kenya, was the guest of honour at the event that brought together ambassadors, donors and representatives from various organizations.

Mr Johannes Van Der Klaauw, UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, explained to the gathering the humanitarian consequences of the conflict that escalated in March 2015.

An estimated 80% of the population require protection and assistance, including 2.3 million people internally displaced. Meanwhile around 170 000 Yemenis, refugees and third country nationals have fled to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and some Gulf countries.

“The suffering that this conflict is inflicting on people is heart-breaking. I hear first-hand accounts of it whenever I speak with women, children and elderly people who have made the perilous crossing to reach Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia, said UNHCR’s Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Yemen situation, Ms Claire Bourgeois. “Host communities very selflessly welcome the new arrivals, sharing their meagre resources with them.”

She commended neighbouring countries for providing asylum and assistance to the refugees, returnees and migrants, and donors for offering support, concluding, “But the bottom line is that refugees must ultimately regain their rights and lead a dignified life in asylum”.

IOM’s Permanent Observer to the United Nations in New York, Mr Ashraf El Nour stressed the need for IOM and UNHCR to engage jointly with governments for a comprehensive response and inclusive dialogue in order to capture the migration and humanitarian dimension of the crisis. He said, “The Horn of Africa remains among the hottest spots for mixed migration, including refugees, stranded migrants and food-insecure people. Yet, for 2015 less than 50% of the response plan for new arrivals is funded. This might further fuel displacement as the conflict drags on.” With no peaceful solution in sight, and humanitarian needs overwhelming the capacities of affected nations, it is time to give a regional dimension to preparedness and contingency planning.

The interagency appeal aims to give nine participating agencies and 48 partners the capacity to continue delivering food, shelter, water, sanitation, protection, emergency education and other assistance to people arriving in the Horn of Africa from Yemen. It anticipates 164,000 arrivals by December 2016.

For further information, please contact:

Petra Neumann, IOM RO East and Horn of Africa pneumann@iom.int or Tel: +254 20444174 ext. 109

Dorothy Lusweti, UNHCR Djibouti, lusweti@unhcr.org or Tel: +253 77 20 23 26

Web portal-RRMRP- Regional Refugee and Migrant Response: <http://data.unhcr.org/yemen>