



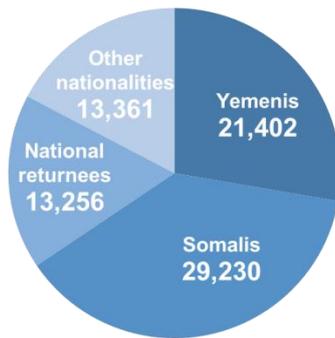
YEMEN SITUATION

REGIONAL REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN UPDATE

December 2015 – Update 1

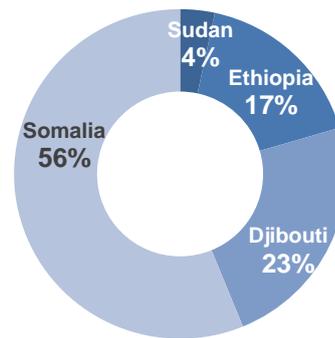
Population of concern

A total of **77,249** arrivals from Yemen to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan (1 Dec 2015)



Funding (2015 RRMRP)

USD 36.4 million requested (USD 94.1 million requested for 2016 RRMRP)



RRMRP MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The situation in Yemen continues to deteriorate since fighting intensified in late March 2015. Yemenis, returnees and migrants were fleeing the country in considerable numbers and 77,249 steadily arrived in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan by Dec 1, 2015. To address the needs of persons fleeing Yemen in receiving countries, the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RRMRP) brings together the plans and appeals of nine agencies, including co-leads UNHCR and IOM, and 48 partners in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

Through a consultative approach, UN, NGOs, donors and Government officials identified four regional objectives for the RRMRP, each with a set of impact and output indicators to track achievements over the course of the regional response. While countries receiving arrivals from Yemen have also developed their own indicators, based on their unique context and programming, each country is concurrently working to address the regional objectives in order to provide a consolidated and coordinated regional response. This report provides a regional progress update as of 1 November, 2015, and combines the results from each country. Additional specific indicators and achievements per country can be found in the 2016 RRMRP document, which can be accessed at <http://data.unhcr.org/yemen>.

Thanks to the support of governments, donors and partner agencies, progress against many of the indicators is on track to meet the specified targets. In 2016, efforts will be further strengthened and enforced by the joint implementation of the Proposals for Strategic Action in the Gulf of Aden, and ongoing cooperation and coordination amongst partners. For other indicators, there has been less progress and more efforts are required, specifically in reception arrangements, psychosocial support and support for sustainable re-integration pending durable solutions, indicating the need to further strengthen funding, advocacy and efforts towards realizing those objectives in 2016.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE

Refugees, migrants and returnees fleeing from Yemen have access to safe, humane movements, and access to territory and asylum, enabled through a harmonized, comprehensive and coordinated approach in the region to identify persons in need of protection and assistance.

Regional Achievements and Targets



* The Gulf of Aden Strategy will be operationalized in 2016

The 2016 Target includes progress and activities from 2015 through to end of 2016

Rationale: To identify the extent to which migration law, policies and practice contain protection safeguards relevant to persons of concern. The indicator seeks to understand the impact on persons of concern through measuring: i. developments in legal frameworks in the country and region; and ii. developments or changes in policy, both nationally and regionally.

The Domestic laws, policy and practice in Djibouti, Sudan and Ethiopia ensure, to a considerable degree, that the majority of Yemenis and, to a lesser extent, Somalis amongst mixed migratory flows obtain timely access to protection. **Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia** are signatories to the 1951 Convention, 1967 Protocol and AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.

Djibouti is currently in the process of elaboration of a draft national refugee law. However, Djibouti grants Yemenis prima facie refugee status. Monitoring and identification of persons with specific needs at ports of entry is conducted with the presence of UNHCR. **Djibouti** is considering the revision of law 210 (December 2007) to differentiate smuggling and trafficking with the assistance of UNODC in collaboration with IOM.

Ethiopia has, in addition to being a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, also legislated a domestic Refugee Law, the Refugee Proclamation 2004. It largely incorporates the provisions of both the 1951 and the 1969 OAU convention, save for making reservations with regard to rights to engage in wage earning employment and for refugee children to access secondary education at par with the nationals.

Ethiopia grants prima facie refugee status to Yemenis. Yemenis and Iraqis coming from Yemen are to be assisted under the Urban Refugee Program, while Somalis and Eritreans are to be assisted in existing refugee camps. The delay in registration by ARRA in Jijiga poses challenges in terms of providing protection and assistance to arrivals from Yemen. The Government does not allow UNHCR to register or provide assistance to Yemenis and Somalis arriving from Yemen in Jijiga until they are registered with ARRA. In the case of those granted prima facie refugee status, the government

conducts nationality screening before registration. The Ethiopian Government recognizes Somali refugees who were recognized in Yemen as prima facie refugees. Other nationalities undergo individual RSD. In the case of those granted prima facie refugee status, the government conducts nationality screening before registration.

Somalia is a state party to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol. Prima facie certificates were distributed to all Yemeni new arrivals. An overall verification exercise is planned for 2016.

Sudan made reservations regarding the 1951 Convention regarding freedom of movement, and employment Sudan does not consider Arab nationals as refugees, but are hosted as “brothers and sisters.” The prima facie concept is not applicable to the Yemenis arriving in **Sudan**. Sudanese Asylum Act is not applied to Arab nationals, thus there is no access to asylum procedures. No documentation is provided to Arab asylum seekers. However, they can apply for foreigner ID cards only.

There were 74 advocacy interventions conducted in 2015 and an additional 113 interventions planned for 2016 (total of 187 by end of 2016) by UNHCR and partners for continued access to protection and differentiated procedures existing for the identification, referral and treatment of those who fled Yemen with specific protection needs.

In **Djibouti**, three protection workshops were organized in Obock in order to enhance capacity building of authorities, security forces and partners on protection principles and mixed migration issues. UNHCR conducted advocacy to the Djibouti authorities for population of concern to have access to the territory.

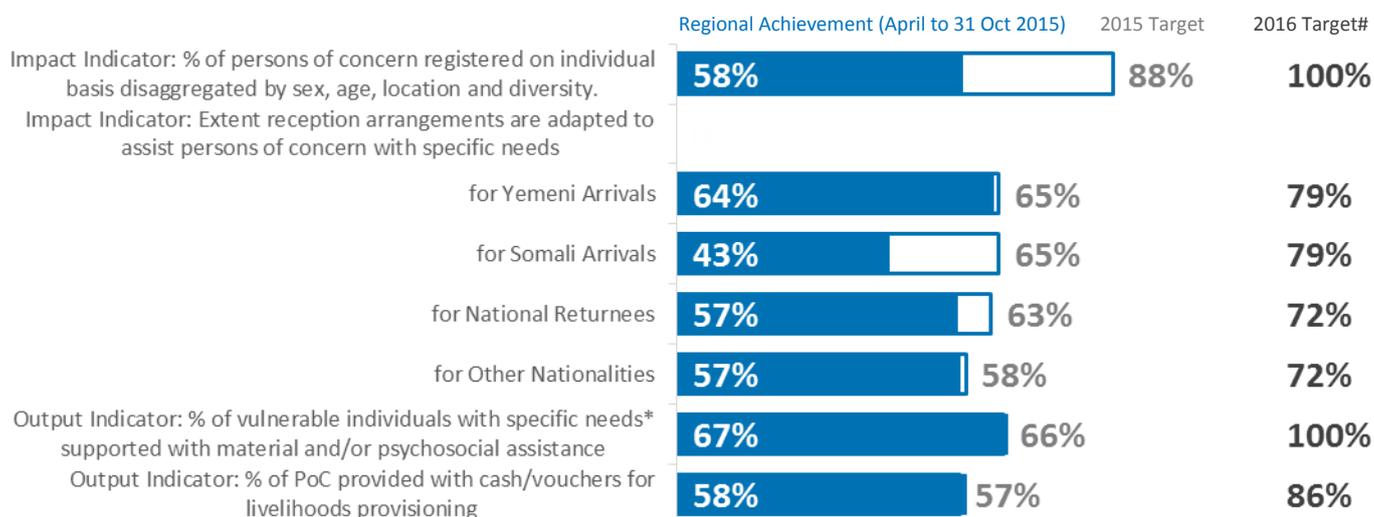
In **Ethiopia**, there are ongoing regular advocacy interventions with the Government counterpart ARRA, and meetings in this regard take place once a month to address key issues of refugee protection. Though these meetings, the office successfully advocated for the Government to grant prima facie status to Yemeni refugees and there are also advocacy to recognize Yemeni nationals who arrived prior to the cut-off date for prima facie recognition, as refugees sur place. In 2016, the advocacy will focus on empowering the Yemeni refugees to be self-reliant and, with the support of UNHCR, engage in livelihood activities.

In **Somalia**, at the field level, two advocacy activities per month are conducted. Advocacy is conducted on rights and responsibilities of new arrivals to Somaliland; on self-reliance; on right to seek asylum; on free movements; on SGVB prevention and response; on registration for all new arrivals; on rescue at sea; on dangers on crossing to Yemen by sea and road; mixed migration, etc.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO

Affected populations, especially vulnerable populations and those with specific needs and those faced with protection risks, have access to protection and assistance upon arrival, regardless of their migratory status, and enjoy a dignified stay in the country with access to basic services and freedom of movement.

Regional Achievements and Targets



The 2016 Target includes progress and activities from 2015 through to end of 2016

Rationale: The first impact indicator provides a snapshot of the available sex, age, location and diversity disaggregated data on persons of concern. Such disaggregated data is crucial for many aspects of planning and implementing targeted and effective programming in both emergencies and protracted situations. This indicator determines whether disaggregated data is available, but does not measure the quality of that information. The second impact indicator indicates the degree to which persons of concern with specific needs are identified in a timely manner upon arrival and provided with adequate support. Such persons include children, women and girls at risk, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, the mentally or physically ill, victims of trauma, sexual or gender based violence, or trafficking, national and indigenous minorities and LGBTI persons. Where such support is not provided, this may influence the physical and mental well-being of PoC in a manner which negatively impacts the pursuit of their asylum claim and or the return of migrants to their country of origin.

Registration

UNHCR is using the standard registration database for refugees and returnees, ProGres. Registration is organized with the Government as in **Djibouti** and **Somalia** or without the Government as in **Ethiopia** and **Sudan**. In the latter case, the Government has its own database. The equipment was deployed in each location at point of entry before the end of October 2015. Moreover, UNHCR is adding biometrics that will be used later on to track refugees going to different registration centers including in the country of origin.

Some delay in registration is not only due to the delays in receiving equipment, but also due to different policies adopted by governments. In **Djibouti**, the Government did not want to register refugees in urban areas for the first six months, initially adopting a policy of encampment. Registration of Yemeni refugees in Djibouti-city has been authorized end of September 2015. At the Migrant Response Centre, IOM is registering all migrants willing to be returned to their home countries on disaggregated data. The data, with additional information gathered, are helpful to the Embassy of their nationality to conduct ID verification and to issue them travel document once the procedure of identification are completed. IOM supported the establishment of the first immigration office at the port of Obock which fingerprints all persons disembarking at the port of Obock.

In **Ethiopia**, Government registration of Yemeni new arrivals or Somali refugees from Yemen is prerequisite for UNHCR's registration and assistance.

In **Somalia**, arrivals are registered by immigration, after which a joint registration is conducted in reception facilities. Somali returnees and Yemeni refugees then have access to onward transportation to their final destination, while migrants of other nationalities are supported to return to their home country.

Reception

At each disembarkation area, there is a reception center set up to identify and provide specific assistance to those with special needs. Major needs identified across receiving countries in the Horn are the psychosocial support to those coming due to traumatic experiences in Yemen; child protection, as well as health care, especially for chronic diseases. In Djibouti, other actors are providing support to address specific needs, including the National Red Crescent assisting individuals to call their family, WHO reinforcing hospital facilities in Obock and addressing immediate surgical needs, and UNHCR partners and IOM providing counsellors to provide psychosocial support to individuals.

After the immediate needs are identified in the reception centres, arrangements to address those needs are different from one country to another based different factors including the policies adopted including camp versus urban policy.

In **Djibouti**, those who cannot sustain themselves can remain in the refugee camp. There is, however, a gap in **Djibouti city**. The Government recently has agreed to register those one holding a valid passport and who came after mid-March 2015. However, there are some who are in transit in Obock, and decided to move to the city. Except for medical assistance, there is so far no appropriate assistance to those in the city and it is certainly a challenge that needs to be addressed in 2016. At the Migrant Reception Center in Obock, shelters still need improvement especially those dedicated for most vulnerable cases (women, unaccompanied children and medical cases).

In **Ethiopia**, Yemeni refugees are absorbed into the regular Urban Assistance Program where they are provided with a monthly subsistence allowance and also supported to access education and health services in public facilities. This is mainly done through DICAC, the humanitarian arm of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. JRS is further identifying refugees in need of additional support and providing them with supplementary assistance.

A major concern in **Ethiopia** is the high rate of Somali refugee children from Yemen coming into Ethiopia. They are accommodated in one of the existing Somali refugee camps, as per the Government of Ethiopia decisions and where all assistance to minors can be provided. The Government policy is to relocate all the Somali refugees from Jijiga to Dollo Ado where they will be registered and included in the assistance program of the refugees in the Somali camps. The relocation is already underway.

In **Somalia**, Yemeni refugees are absorbed into regular programs, including legal, SGBV, health, education, vulnerability cash assistance and livelihoods. They are receiving specific cash assistance to cope with daily assistance and a NGO partner will continue to follow these at-risk cases in the area where they settle. Arrivals have access to health and psychosocial assistance as well as referrals to hospitals if needed. Vulnerability assessments are being conducted to assess any further support needed for special cases.

In **Sudan**, upon the request of the Sudanese Government and given the scope and impact of the humanitarian crisis, UNHCR is proposing a dedicated assistance programme for Yemeni refugees, aimed at providing effective protection and durable solutions for this population, in close partnership with IOM, its UN sister agencies and its NGO partners. This project will address the needs of both Yemeni refugee and host communities, drawing on the resources that already exist in Khartoum, as well as those that can be leveraged internationally.

Overall, a major challenge in each country is to ensure that there is no discrimination in assistance amongst similar caseload of different nationalities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE

Refugees, migrants and returnees have access to durable solutions such as regularization of stay, voluntary return and reintegration, local integration, resettlement for vulnerable individuals with specific protection needs, as well as promoting labour mobility schemes.

Regional Targets and Achievements

	Regional Achievement (April to 31 Oct 2015)	2015 Target	2016 Target#
Output Indicator: # of intention surveys conducted after the arrival (not registration -DJI, ETH, SUD only)	1	1	6
Output Indicator: # of decisions of administrative or judicial bodies leading to reappropriation of land, housing, property or documentation of PoC (SOM only)	0	0	0
Output Indicator: # of development projects that benefit PoC (SOM only)	7	7	11
Output Indicator: # of joint assessments/programmes that UNHCR participated with Development actors (SOM only)	7	7	11

The 2016 Target includes progress and activities from 2015 through to end of 2016

Rationale: This indicator provides a snapshot of the extent to which Comprehensive Solutions strategies have been identified and agreed at country or regional level. This is particularly important because such solutions are the most effective way to protect the rights of refugees and IDPs and for UNHCR and its partners to work together efficiently.

The priority during 2015 was orientated towards increasing reception capacity, provide registration and appropriate documentations, having reception area that meets the needs of people fleeing Yemen. This will remain a priority for new arrivals. However,

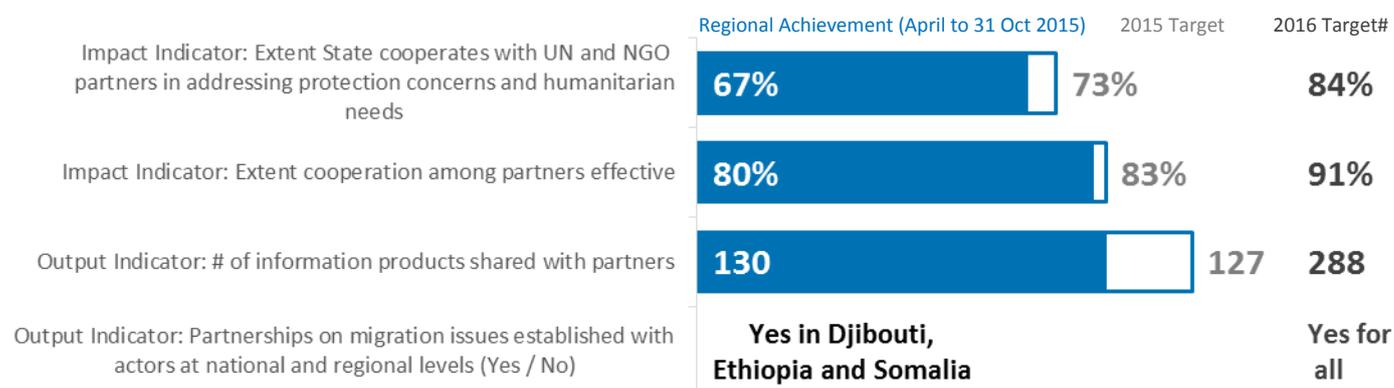
Intention survey and joint assessments are essentials to include the voice of the POCs in programming and planning. Those assessments should be ideally conducted on a regular basis to ensure the smooth transition from emergency relief to long-term durable solutions and development. In 2015, Sudan conducted intention survey in July and Somalia conducted one in November. Participatory assessments will be conducted by UNHCR and partners in 2016 as part of the planning cycle to support the implementation of a rights-based and community-based approach in search for solutions to the protection problems of all people of concern.

In **Somalia**, there are seven development projects/programmes that are already ongoing which will directly or indirectly affect the refugees and returnees. Four additional projects will commence in 2016. Yemeni refugees are provided with opportunities for income generation, through small scale business establishment, business training and business plan development and language and computer training. CRI support is also provided and emergency cash assistance for the extremely vulnerable. A number of Somalis returnees are receiving support in three main areas: 1) agriculture (seeds and farming tools), 2) pastoralist (livestock restocking) and 3) skills development support for tradesmen, who also receive trade tools.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOUR

Strengthen partnerships (at national and regional levels) to address the complexities of mixed migratory flows and promote dialogue and cooperation among source, transit and destination countries as well as support existing coordination mechanisms with regional organizations and initiatives (IGAD, EU, AU, GCC, OIC, Khartoum process, and Sana'a Declaration).

Regional Achievements and Targets



The 2016 Target includes progress and activities from 2015 through to end of 2016

Rationale: The first impact indicator assesses the extent the Government cooperates with IOM, UNHCR and its partners to address protection and humanitarian needs of persons of concern.

The second impact indicator assesses the level of the engagement of partners in IOM-UNCHR led operations. Effective partnerships and coordination have an important impact on refugees and other persons of concern. This indicator focuses on UNCT/HCT, non-governmental, national and international partners, both implementing and operational.

In each country, there are mechanisms of coordination between the government and the humanitarian actors. Each of the countries already hosted refugees and therefore, the new caseload of refugees/returnees/migrants are integrated into the pre-existing mechanism or are discussed in a specific forum.

In **Djibouti**, coordination with the *Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés* (ONARS) resulted in the registration of the urban refugees and camp coordination. ONARS and UNHCR co-chair a coordination meeting on Yemen situation which includes concerned humanitarian partners. It is organized twice per month at Djibouti level and on a weekly basis in Obock.

In **Ethiopia**, UNHCR's main government counterpart and implementing partner in Ethiopia will continue to be the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) as well as well-established coordination forums such as the Refugee Task Force, and stakeholder meetings at field offices and camps levels.

In **Somalia**, the Yemen Task Forces were specifically created in Berbera, Bossasso and nationally in Mogadishu. These task forces specifically coordinate the activities at the reception centre and during disembarkation. Afterwards, the coordination for protection and assistance for refugees or returnees is done through the already existing mechanism in the country. The Yemeni Task Force coordinated with the Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRR&R) for the registration. In Mogadishu, the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs, established under the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs of the Federal Government of Somalia, and developed draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Joint Technical Task Force comprising technical focal points of the Federal Government of Somalia's Emergency Task Force and the UN/NGO inter-agency Task Force on Yemen situation. UNHCR,

and Puntland New Arrivals Task Force member, Puntland Ministry of Interior registered all new arrivals at the Reception Centre.

In **Sudan**, UNHCR is advocating with the Government of Sudan for Yemenis to retain their rights as Arab nationals (freedom of movement, right to work) while advocating for to have specific rights as per the 1951 Convention.

At the **regional level**, two major planning/review workshops were conducted in August and November to agree on the planning figures, examine the protection responses carried out, identify what has enabled the responses, how it has complemented existing protection work and identify remaining protection gaps. A session on Information Technology to discuss data/information management for the purpose of enhancing protection monitoring, analysis and responses and a session was held to endorse the recently developed IOM – UNHCR Proposals for Strategic Action for the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea with a special focus on the Yemen situation.

UNHCR and IOM hope to generate a tangible and sustainable impact on State practice in the region, with the immediate actions being to: (i) establish a contact group composed of focal points from each agency at global, regional and national levels that will be responsible for leading the operationalisation of the Strategic Actions, which, among others actions, will, (ii) guide the adjustment of the ToRs of local/national/regional Mixed Migration Task Forces (MMTFs); and (iii) prepare a regional roundtable on key elements of the Strategic Actions during the first quarter of 2016.

Information Products

All the documents, maps, statistics, response plans, funding, reports and situational updates are shared with the partners on a regular basis using a web portal that was established for the wide dissemination among the wider public of such information. Efforts are underway to move towards an interagency information sharing portal where NGOs, IOM, UN can have access rights to contribute directly to the portal.

Contacts:

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Links: Regional portal - <http://data.unhcr.org/yemen>