

Yemen Situation: UNHCR Emergency Update

Djibouti | Somalia | Yemen

19 October 2026



Seven Years, Mukhtar's Journey from Boatbuilder to Displaced Father | © UNHCR/Abdullah Babrek

Highlights

- Displacement inside Yemen continued to rise sharply, reaching **over 250,000 people** between 1 August and 17 October¹, with Taiz hosting the largest share of those displaced. UNHCR is part of the inter-agency response under the Yemen Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). **Response and contingency planning** is being adapted to evolving displacement trends, with revised displacement scenarios being prepared to guide assistance, strengthen preparedness and support the response to additional internal displacement and cross-border movements.
- As of 17 October 2026, **4,078 new arrivals from Yemen were recorded in the region**, including **3,836 new arrivals in Djibouti and 242 in Somalia** (which includes returnees and refugees), reflecting the continued search for safety by affected populations. Between 8 and 14 October, no new arrivals from Yemen to Djibouti were reported. Following the capsizing of a boat travelling from Djibouti to Yemen on the night of 8–9 October 2026, 139 bodies have been recovered, including 109 who have been identified. Burials have taken place in accordance with religious rites. **82 survivors have been identified and are receiving support based on their needs.**

¹ UNHCR, Yemen Situation: Displacement overview: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/124560>.

Country Updates

YEMEN

Operational developments

- Hostilities intensified further during the reporting period. Shelling intensified in Taiz including in residential areas and around health facilities, while insecurity and restrictions along key routes continue to constrain humanitarian access and movement. In Aden, strikes were reported, including near key civilian infrastructure.
- Displacement continues, reaching more than **250,000 people** between 1 August and 17 October, up from close to **213,000** previously reported. Taiz remains at the centre of the displacement, accounting for **76%** of departures and hosting **52%** of those newly displaced, followed by Lahj (23%) and Aden (13%).
- Among newly displaced families, shelter is the most cited need (35%), followed by food (33%) and cash assistance (22%). By 17 October, UNHCR and partners had assessed **12,283** displaced households across Abyan, Aden, Marib, Lahj and Taiz, including some **2,050 households** without shelter. In response, UNHCR is providing emergency cash assistance and scaling-up emergency shelter support, while working with partners to distribute shelter and essential items to newly displaced families.
- In Kharaz refugee camp, which hosts **9,490 refugees**, schools closed again on 11 October amid the deteriorating security situation. Access constraints continue to affect humanitarian operations and movement to and from the camp. Separately, registration and documentation activities remain suspended in areas controlled by the de facto authorities.

Key elements of the response

- UNHCR and partners continue to expand assistance to newly displaced families. By 18 October, **1,942 families** have received emergency cash, nearly double the number a week earlier, while **shelter cash** and **essential items** are being provided across Aden, Abyan and Lahj.
- Shelter partners have reached **3,166 households** to date. However, significant gaps remain, with some **33,700 families** still requiring shelter assistance, amid severe underfunding of the wider humanitarian response.
- **Protection activities** continue where access allows, including protection monitoring, referrals and case management, legal counselling, psychosocial support and assistance for people with specific needs.

DJIBOUTI

Operational developments

- **The total number of new refugees from Yemen now stands at 3,836**, out of which 3,764 have been profiled. Of these, 76% are women and children, 50% are children, 15% are children under five and about 10% of the have been identified with at least one specific need.
- **The extension of Markazi refugee village is moving ahead.** With the additional 6.1 hectares, the site capacity will grow from 4,280 individuals to 5,630. UNHCR finalized the settlement extension layout, with 100 tents to be installed following deployment of security personnel and fencing to be provided by the Ministry of Solidarity. Urgent priorities are WASH infrastructure, particularly latrines, showers and water points, and reorganization of the existing site to improve tent spacing and reduce related risks.

Key elements of the response

- UNHCR is supporting the Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés (ONARS) with the registration of newly arrived refugees. So far, about 40% of the populations (i.e. some 1,522 individuals) have been fully registered and documented. It is estimated that the registration of the remaining population would be completed within 16 days.

- A Community-Based Protection (CBP) desk was established at the registration center to strengthen the identification, registration, and referral of individuals with specific needs to protection, health, psychosocial support, and other specialized services. Between 9 and 13 October 2026, **some 888 individuals from the most vulnerable groups received essential relief items**. Some 14 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were identified and UNHCR conducted some 11 Best Interests Assessments (BIAs), while UNICEF, UNHCR and ONARS continue to support tracing, assessment and care arrangement.
- Over 1,325 school-aged children have been identified amongst new arrivals, with some 381 children already enrolled into the national education system. **The Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle introduced triple-shift schooling**, as UNICEF is assessing needs for learning spaces, teachers, and materials.
- To date, **some 49 cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) were identified**, including three deaths. Overcrowding, and high levels of malnutrition increase the risk of disease transmission, despite on-going AWD prevention interventions, such as chlorination, disinfection, and door-to-door hygiene promotion through some 20 Djibouti Red Crescent Society (DRCS) volunteers.
- IOM and DRCS continue to support the provision of hot meals, while WFP, UNHCR and ONARS continue to work to integrate newly arrived refugees into food assistance systems.

SOMALIA

Operational developments

- **A total of 242 arrivals from Yemen have been reported across Somalia**, comprising 97 individuals in Somaliland and 145 individuals in Puntland, between 1 September and 18 October 2026. In Somaliland, the arrivals include 59 Yemeni nationals, 37 Ethiopian nationals and one Eritrean national, while in Puntland, the arrivals include 127 Somali returnees and 18 Yemeni nationals.

Key elements of the response

- UNHCR continues to provide reception and immediate assistance to new arrivals. In Somaliland, UNHCR supports authorities in managing the Berbera Reception Centre, providing temporary accommodation, hot meals for up to three nights, registration, documentation, and protection screening for new arrivals. During the reporting period, **UNHCR provided 200 mattresses to strengthen reception conditions at the Centre**. In Puntland, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MoIFAD) facilitated transportation allowances for all 145 arrivals to support their journey to their areas of origin or host communities.
- UNHCR continues to work with government counterparts to strengthen border preparedness and contingency planning by assessing reception capacity and identifying gaps at key entry points across Somalia. In Somaliland, **UNHCR jointly with the Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs (MoRHA), conducted an inter-agency preparedness assessment of key locations along the western corridor**, including Wajaale, Borama and Zeil. The assessment identified gaps in reception facilities, registration and protection screening, access to health and gender-based violence (GBV) services, emergency transportation and essential supplies. **Key recommendations include strengthening reception and protection capacity in Wajaale, Borama and Zeila, improving referral pathways, and developing a costed Western Somaliland Reception and Influx Preparedness Plan**. The proposed plan would prioritize interventions to strengthen reception facilities, registration and protection screening, access to essential health and GBV services, emergency transportation, and assistance for vulnerable new arrivals.

- In Puntland, **UNHCR recently provided office equipment and furniture to the MoFAD to strengthen its operational capacity at the One-Stop Centre in Bossaso** and its office in Garowe. This support aims to improve reception facilities, administrative functions and service delivery for arrivals from Yemen.

Coordination

- Inside Yemen, UNHCR continues to lead the **Protection Cluster** and the **Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster**. At the inter-agency level, UNHCR and partners adapt the response and contingency planning to evolving displacement trends, access constraints, protection risks and shelter needs. **Revised displacement scenarios** are also being prepared as displacement has exceeded initial planning assumptions, including preparedness for a wider escalation that could lead to significantly higher internal displacement and further cross-border movements.
- In Djibouti, the Government is leading the refugee response, with UNHCR supporting the Government and ONARS in coordinating humanitarian partners and strengthening the response. **UNHCR has activated the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM)** to strengthen inter-agency preparedness and response and is working closely with national authorities, UN agencies, NGOs and other humanitarian partners to ensure that people arriving from Yemen can access international protection and receive timely assistance. [The Inter-Agency Response Plan](#) has been endorsed, providing a framework for the coordinated multisectoral response. In line with Djibouti's inclusion policy and UNHCR's solutions-from-the-start approach, new arrivals will access health, education and other services through national systems.
- At field level, the Obock Refugee Coordination Forum, co-chaired by ONARS and UNHCR, serves as the main inter-agency operational coordination platform, facilitating information-sharing, coordination of activities and identification of response gaps. Meetings with refugee leaders also take place on a weekly basis in Markazi.
- In Somalia, **UNHCR leads inter-agency contingency planning at the country level, working with authorities and humanitarian partners** to strengthen preparedness, coordinate reception and protection arrangements, and address gaps identified through assessments in Puntland and Somaliland.

Financial Information

UNHCR operations across the affected regions remain critically underfunded at a time when humanitarian needs and operational risks are increasing.

- UNHCR is seeking **US\$ 32.4 million** for its [Regional response and preparedness efforts](#) in Yemen, Djibouti and Somalia from October 2026 to March 2027.
- **In Yemen**, underfunding continues to constrain the response. UNHCR's 2026 requirements of USD 193.6 million are **only 19% funded**, limiting cash assistance and essential protection services. Meanwhile, the Yemen Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (YHNRP) 2026 is only close to **22% funded** against the US\$ 2.16 billion required, limiting the wider humanitarian response.
- **In Djibouti and Somalia**, limited funding continues to constrain the humanitarian response. UNHCR's 2026 financial requirements of US\$ 12.6 million for Djibouti and US\$110 million for Somalia are **27% and 13% funded**, respectively.

Contact Information

For further information on the situation or UNHCR's response across affected countries, please contact the Regional Bureaux: RBESA-EE@unhcr.org (Eastern and Southern Africa) and menareporting@unhcr.org (Middle East and North Africa).

For more information on UNHCR's response across affected countries, please visit [Operational Data Portal](#) and [UNHCR website](#)

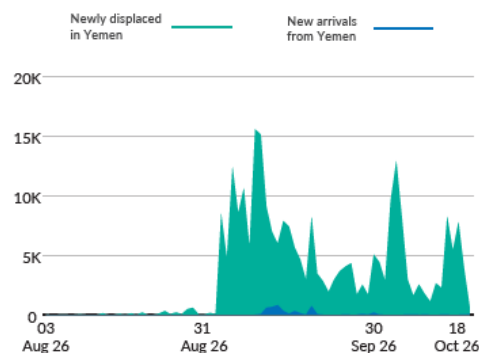
SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since the escalation of conflict in Yemen in September 2026, an estimated **251,000 people** have been newly displaced, adding to the **5.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)** already living across the country. As of 18 October 2026, **4,078 new arrivals from Yemen** were recorded in the region, including **3,836 new arrivals in Djibouti** and **242 in Somalia** (which includes returnees and refugees), reflecting the continued search for safety among affected populations.

Key figures



New arrival trends



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

