

Yemen Situation: UNHCR Emergency Update

Djibouti | Somalia | Yemen

28 October 2026



UNHCR provides emergency cash assistance to a newly displaced family at Al-Firdaws site in Ras Amran, Aden Governorate, Yemen. © Fatah Alraemy.

Highlights

- **Displacement from Yemen continues to rise**, with newly displaced populations reaching **275,245 people** between 1 August and 24 October, exceeding initial planning assumptions. Taiz remains the most affected governorate, accounting for **72% of new departures and hosting 49% of those newly displaced**. Revised planning scenarios are being prepared as the number of people displaced has exceeded initial planning assumptions.
- **Movements across the Gulf of Aden continue**, with arrivals reaching 4,151, including 3,836 to Djibouti and 315 to Somalia as of 25 October¹.
- On 20 October, **the first return flight from Yemen to Somalia** took place since the assisted voluntary programme was halted due to the escalation of hostilities. Some 138 Somali refugees departed from Aden to Mogadishu.

¹ [UNHCR, Yemen Situation: Displacement overview](#)

Country Updates

YEMEN

Operational developments

- **Hostilities and insecurity continued** during the reporting period, affecting humanitarian access and movement in several areas. In Aden, further air strikes were reported on 24 October, including in the vicinity of the international airport, while in Taiz key access routes remain blocked or unsafe, including the main road between Taiz and Aden.
- New displacement has reached **275,245 people between 1 August and 24**, up from **250,000** reported a week earlier. Taiz accounted for **72%** of departures and hosts **49%** of those newly displaced, followed by Lahj (25%) and Aden (14%). Revised planning scenarios are being prepared as displacement has exceeded initial planning assumptions.
- By 21 October, UNHCR and partners had reached **13,265 newly displaced families** through assessments across Abyan, Aden, Marib, Lahj and Taiz. The assessments point to significant needs: Around half of the families included single women heading households, older people or people with disabilities who may require additional support, while some **2,360 families** had no shelter. UNHCR is providing **emergency cash and shelter support** and working with partners to distribute **essential items** to newly displaced families.
- In Kharaz refugee camp, which hosts **9,490 refugees**, November and December food rations have been delivered, while schools remain closed.
- On 20 October, **138 Somali refugees** travelled from Aden to Somalia on the first assisted return flight since the programme was interrupted following the escalation. The programme supports Somali refugees who voluntarily choose to return to Somalia. Requests from refugees for counselling on **voluntary return options** have more than doubled since June, reaching their highest level in September.

Key elements of the response

- All **5,000 families targeted for emergency cash assistance** have been verified and registered. Approximately **3,000 families** have collected their assistance, while payments for the remaining families are under way.
- Shelter partners have provided shelter assistance to **5,585 households** and essential household items to **4,757 households**. Significant gaps remain, with 31,045 households requiring shelter support and 26,406 households requiring essential items. A shipment of **3,000 core relief item kits** is still expected at Aden port by early November.
- In **Kharaz camp, which hosts 9,490 refugees**, November and December food rations were delivered ahead of schedule, while schools remained suspended. The camp is located about 35 kilometres from active frontlines, with insecurity and restrictions on movement affecting refugees' access to services.
- **Protection activities** continue where access allows, including protection monitoring, referrals and case management, legal counselling, psychosocial support and assistance for people with specific needs. This includes support for women and girls at risk of violence and children requiring additional protection.

DJIBOUTI

Operational developments

- Between 15 and 21 October, some **13 new arrivals from Yemen** were reported.
- **Health and nutrition conditions in Markazi remain critical**. As of 20 October, 56 acute watery diarrhoea cases and three deaths had been reported. Screening of 331 children aged 6–59 months identified 79 severe acute malnutrition and 115 moderate acute malnutrition cases, while immunization coverage stands at 49%.

Key elements of the response

- **UNHCR continued to support ONARS with registration.** To date, 1,702 individuals (414 families) have been individually registered.
- **Child protection and education support continue to expand** at Markazi, with 540 children participating in Child-Friendly Space activities and 13 separated children supported, as they stay with extended families. Education authorities have expanded school capacity through triple-shift schooling and the mobilization of refugee teachers.
- **Gender-based (GBV) and community-based protection** activities continue. Consultations with adolescent girls and women highlighted priorities such as skills and empowerment opportunities, stronger social support and equitable access to services.
- **Community-based protection**, community outreach, referrals for vulnerable individuals, establishment of disability and youth committees, and peaceful coexistence initiatives between refugees and host communities continued.
- The expansion of Markazi site continues, through its **6.1-hectare extension** area. Additional tents are being set up, while site reorganization and further infrastructure development are on-going to address overcrowding.
- WHO, UNICEF and health partners continue to **strengthen disease surveillance, outbreak response, vaccination, nutrition and emergency health services**. Consultations for children and pregnant women continue, while acute malnutrition and acute watery diarrhoea remain key public health concerns.
- Food assistance at Markazi is **transitioning from hot meals to cash-based support**. WFP and IOM provided 72,690 hot meals and 8,000 rations of fortified biscuits to new arrivals. WFP will provide cash-based assistance for all refugees at Markazi from November.

SOMALIA

Operational developments

- As of 25 October, 315 **individuals had arrived from Yemen**, including 175 Somali returnees, 102 Yemeni nationals, 37 Ethiopian nationals and one Eritrean national. Of these, 196 arrived in Puntland, 101 individuals in Somaliland, and 18 in Mogadishu.
- On 20 October, **51 individuals arrived by boat in Bossaso, including 48 Somali returnees** and three Yemeni nationals. They were registered by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MoIFAD), with support from UNHCR.
- On 22 and 23 October, **four additional Yemeni nationals were registered** after travelling from Yemen through Djibouti and entering Somaliland via the Wajaale border crossing.

Key elements of the response

- The preliminary assessment established that **all 18 individuals, who have arrived in Mogadishu, are adult males originating from Al-Mukha (Mocha), Yemen**. According to their initial accounts, they fled the ongoing conflict and insecurity, citing fear of potential forced recruitment by armed groups or government forces, as well as other conflict-related threats to their personal safety.
- Following the arrival of **51 individuals by boat in Bosaso** on 20 October, 25 were accommodated at the Reception Centre for three days, receiving hot meals and emergency health support. MoIFAD conducted registration, with UNHCR support, while IOM assisted 25 Somali returnees travelling to Mogadishu, with USD 120 per family. The remaining returnees reunited with family members in Bosaso. UNHCR continues to coordinate with MoIFAD and partners on reception, registration and immediate protection support.
- **UNHCR continues to support the authorities in managing the Berbera Reception Centre**, where new arrivals receive temporary accommodation and hot meals for up to three nights, alongside registration, documentation and protection screening.

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 continue to adapt the response and **contingency planning to evolving displacement trends**, access constraints and identified needs. Revised **displacement scenarios** are being prepared as displacement has exceeded initial planning assumptions.
- 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 **23% 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](#)

