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Information bulletin

Somalia: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of Issue: 20 April 2015	Point of contact (name and title): Ahmed Gizo, Country Representative, IFRC Somalia
Date of Disaster: 28 March 2015	
Host National society: Somali Red Crescent Society	
Number of People affected; approximately 2,000 people	Number of people to be assisted: 2,000
Other partner organisations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): ICRC, Government of Somaliland and Puntland, UNHCR, IOM, DRC, NRC, WFP, UNICEF	

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) has immediately responded and will request in the coming days for assistance through International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) international disaster response mechanisms.

The situation

On 26 March 2015, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led a coalition of ten countries and launched air strikes in Yemen against the Houthi Shiite Rebels and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdalla Saleh. As a result of the conflict, thousands of people including Somalis estimated to be 500,000 in total (including 244,000 registered refugees in Yemen according to UNHCR) have been affected by the crisis. Somalis and Yemenis affected by the crisis started fleeing the country through the ports of Al Mukalla and Mukha in Yemen and on Saturday 28 March 2015, at 10.00 am, the first boat (public business boat) reached the Port of Berbera, Somaliland, with 32 people (19 men, 13 women). The group comprises Yemeni nationals, included elderly men and children. They claimed to flee the recent conflict in Taiz, Yemen. They are Qahdani and Ibb tribes from Mukha, Taiz region. Somaliland immigration authorities reported that all arrivals had travel documents. They departed from Mukha, Yemen on 27 March and arrived Berbera port in Somaliland on 28 March, 2015.



Figure 1 SRCS Bosaso Branch, Puntland health team providing First Aid for returnees from Yemen at the reception centre

By 10 April 2015, the total number of arrivals in Somaliland and Puntland had reached 914, these include;

- 155 Yemen Nationals.
- 751 Somali Nationals
- 2 Ethiopian Nationals
- 6 Djibouti Nationals

Somaliland

To ensure reception and assistance for the new arrivals in Somaliland, a Task Force was established led by the Somaliland Ministry of Interior (MOI) and co-led by UNHCR, including IOM, DRC, NRC, UNOCHA, WFP,

UNICEF, Somali Red Crescent Berbera branch, Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Somaliland (CCBRS) and Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (MRRR).

New arrivals. On Friday 10 April, at 6:40am, the Berbera Port Authority and Somaliland Immigration department received a boat with 12 new arrivals from Mukha, Yemen. They were 3 Yemeni men, and 9 Somali nationals (8 Female, 1 Male). The Somali nationals are all from Mogadishu. All individuals in the group (Somalis and Yemenis) were living in Sana'a, Yemen.

Route and means of travel. The returnees/refugees from Yemen have reported that it's becoming difficult to reach Mukha, which is the only point of departure as other ports like Aden are currently closed. They have reported that they have paid additional money to the owners/brokers of the boat to be able to travel as there are many persons on the waiting list for departure.

Protection information and special needs. The only Somali man arrived on 10 April reported that he was detained in Aden at a check point known as Osmania, controlled by the Houthis, with other three Somali men who were traveling with him to Mukha port for departure to Berbera. He was released after few hours of detention, but believed all the others were killed by the Houthis as they have started to targeting Somalis.

Assistance provided and identified gaps. As soon as the group reached Berbera, the Port Authority and Immigration Officers supported by SRCS Berbera branch volunteers provided necessary reception support including easing immigration and other arrivals procedures. The Immigration Authority also reported immediately to UNHCR, the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and the other members of the Somaliland New Arrivals Task Force, any case in need of assistance. Volunteers from the SRCS Berbera branch were deployed to the port to provide First Aid and stabilize any person in need of medical care. New arrivals were informed of the reception services available at Berbera and only Somali returnees stayed for a short period at the reception centre before their onward journey to other destinations.

Potential new arrivals. The group arrived to Berbera on 10 April has indicated that about 300 new arrivals may reach Berbera, as they were still boarding commercial boats in Mukha, Yemen. Another group of 142 people arrived Berbera port on 14 April, 2015. *Information courtesy of UNHCR and IOM.*

Puntland

New arrivals. On Friday 10 April 2015, at 17:30, a boat (the Mukalla 1) carrying 247 persons (85 men, 93 women and 69 children) arrived at the Port of Bossaso, Puntland. Six of these individuals had Yemeni citizenship (2 men, 3 women and 1 child), while 241 were Somalis. Approximately 80% were from South Central Somalia. Also on 10 April, a fiberglass boat known as Bina, carrying 30 persons (6 men, 5 women and 19 children), docked at Bargal and Alula towns, Bari region, from Mukalla, Yemen. All arrivals were Somalis from Puntland, with the exception of 3 persons from South Central Somalia.

Route and means of travel. According to the Puntland Ministry of Interior, Local Government and Rural Development there are more than five entry points at the north-eastern coast of Puntland. The main ones include Bosaso, Bargal and Alula.

Protection information and special needs. On the boat there was one pregnant woman who was transported to a health centre in Bossaso for delivery. There was also one elderly and disabled person.

Assistance provided by other humanitarian actors and identified gaps.

The reception at Bosaso Port is currently managed and coordinated by the Puntland Ministry of Interior, Local Government and Rural Development in collaboration with UNHCR and the other Task Force members. The IOM facilitated transportation of the returnees from the port to the reception centre, where registration and additional assistance were provided. WHO led a medical team, including Save the Children UNICEF and SRCS Bosaso branch that provided polio and measles vaccinations to all new arrivals. Nutritional screening for children has been done routinely and so far no malnourished children were identified. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provided refreshments at the port and wet food at the reception centre. Save the Children International (SCI) has been using its already pre-positioned NFI supplies (blankets, mosquito nets and sleeping mats) for distributions and is procuring additional NFI kits. SCI has also conducted an

assessment to identify health service providers in Bossaso for any referrals. Food for the returnees was provided for the first two days by DRC at the reception centre, beyond that food remains a gap where SRCS Bosaso branch supported by IFRC provided a meal for 65 returnees when no one seems to step in to fill the gap. Resources to support those willing to return to their areas of origin are also lacking.

WHO and UNICEF polio teams in Bargal at the Somali north-eastern coast managed to vaccinate 30 people who arrived from Bargal. Psychosocial support teams from the NGOs TASS and GRT conducted screening for women and children and provided counselling and emotional assistance to 30 persons requiring support. They also supported 3 children who had been separated from their families. *Information courtesy of UNHCR and IOM.*

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) has joined the humanitarian coordination teams and task forces led by the Governments of Somaliland and Puntland together with the UN Agencies and INGOs. The NS has deployed its mobile health teams and disaster management teams (Branch Disaster Response Teams) to the entry points at the ports where transit centres have been established.

The SRCS is currently running fixed and mobile clinics in Puntland and Somaliland with IFRC support. The clinics are currently using medical stocks and First Aid materials prepositioned for running the regular activities of the Integrated Primary Health Care Programme to respond to the emergency where the existing mobile health teams were re-deployed temporarily to the arrival sites or transit facilities to provide First Aid and primary health care services until more permanent structures are put in place in case of need. These stocks need to be replenished. The SRCS Bosaso branch with IFRC support offered the following NFIs items from the prepositioned stock in the branch which needs to be replenished 100 kitchen sets, 100 jerry cans, 200 blankets, 100 buckets.



SRCS Mobile health team volunteers providing medical care services to returnees from Yemen:/ SRCS

The ICRC NFI kits prepositioned in its warehouse in Bosaso and could mobilize family kits within two weeks. There is also a possibility for the ICRC to support targeted households with cash transfers to cover their immediate needs and/or facilitate their return to their area of origin. In case transit facilities are established, the ICRC would have the capacity to install water distribution systems to supply clean water if water is available and could provide basic health and malaria kits.

With the ICRC support, the SRCS has the capacity to immediately deploy volunteers at the arrival sites to offer phone call services for the returnees/refugees to establish contacts with their relatives in Yemen, and Somalia/Somaliland.

The team of SRCS staff and volunteers have been dispatched to meet the returnees at their vessels before they dock at the ports. As of 16 April, SRCS volunteers continued to provide First Aid services, vaccination and health check-ups at the vessels. At the reception centre, the Mobile health units with health staff and volunteers have been providing primary health services to the new arrivals.

The SRCS tracing team has also been providing Restoration of Family Link (RFL) services to the returnees to call their families in Yemen, within Somalia and other countries.

Clean up campaigns at the reception centres by SRCS volunteers in Bosaso and Berbera is continuing on a daily basis in anticipation of more returnees/refugees expected to arrive in the coming days.

In Berbera port, Somaliland, the SRCS branch is part of a Regional Coordination body established by the Somaliland Government to coordinate the response to the influx from Yemen. The SRCS branch has been assigned the following tasks:

- Vaccination and health services in collaboration with UNICEF, MoH, WHO.
- Provide mobile phone services for Restoration of Family Links (RFL) supported by the ICRC.
- Sanitation and hygiene promotion in the transit centre.

The SRCS will need more financial and technical support from IFRC and other movement partners to be able to respond to the emergency effectively, To be able to conduct further detailed assessment and deploy more volunteers, replenish the First Aid materials and medical supplies, NFIs,.

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For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

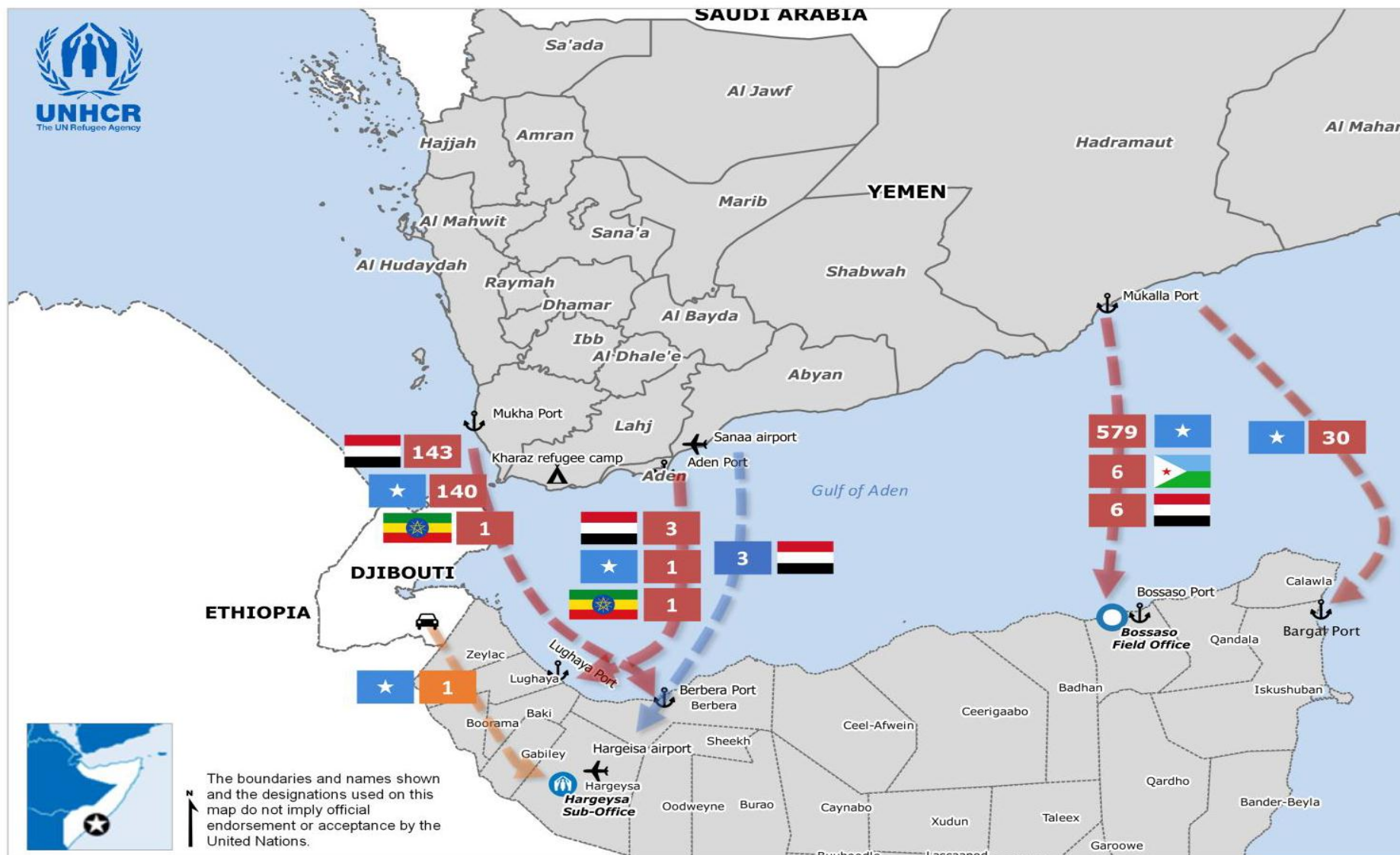
All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.



Map showing the transit routes for the returnees coming from Yemen to Berbera Port, Somaliland and Bossaso Port, Puntland. Map courtesy of UNHCR.