



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

PRESS RELEASE

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UNHCR Assistance for Displaced from Abyan

When the IDP crisis, in the south, first began in May 2011, UNHCR mobilized in 24 hours to provide life-saving assistance to approximately 200,000 IDPs, in addition to direct support to the government. Over the last year UNHCR has distributed non food items to over 70,000 in Aden (both in and outside schools), Abyan, Al-Baida, Hadramout and Shabwa Governorates. In Aden UNHCR has also created alternative shelter space for over 600 IDPs that had been living in collective centres in schools, freeing up classroom space for some 6,000 students.

There is a possibility that IDPs may return to Abyan in the foreseeable future. Although some spontaneous returns to Abyan have already taken place, the pervasive presence of landmines and UXOs, a still fragile security situation, lack of basic services, loss of livelihoods and extensive damage to infrastructure are major obstacles to safe and sustainable return at present.

UNHCR has pre-positioned necessary supplies for returnees. On 25 July, 2012 UNHCR handed over a 150kva generator to the Governor of Abyan to be installed in the A-Raziq hospital in Zinjibar where most of the spontaneous returns have occurred. In addition, UNHCR is building the capacity of local authorities to respond to the situation of the returnees. UNHCR, through its partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity, has also opened an office in Zinjibar to provide assistance to those who have returned spontaneously, build response capacity and assist with protection and shelter concerns.



“UNHCR is committed to assisting the IDPs from Abyan wherever they are,” said Mr. Naveed Hussain. During his mission to the south in June, Mr. Hussain, UNHCR’s Representative in Yemen, met with the Governors of Aden and Abyan and noted that as areas become conducive to return and safe humanitarian access, UNHCR is prepared to support voluntary and sustainable returns to Abyan. While UNHCR closely coordinates with the government and other agencies on a response plan for Abyan, the Sub Office in Aden has continued to assist IDPs in their areas of displacement. In early July UNHCR provided a 40kva generator for the Hashid Health Centre in Mansoor District, Aden that has already benefited over 29,000 persons to date, out of which 5,316 are IDPs (mainly women). During her mission to Aden in late July, Fathiaa

Abdalla, the Deputy Representative, oversaw the construction of a movable one-room wooden shelter for a vulnerable IDP woman head of household who was living in a makeshift shelter made out of benches and plastic sheeting adjacent to a school that is being used as an IDP collective centre in Khormaksar district.

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