

Migrating to Yemen-How One Injured Migrant Gets Help

Vol. 6

2017

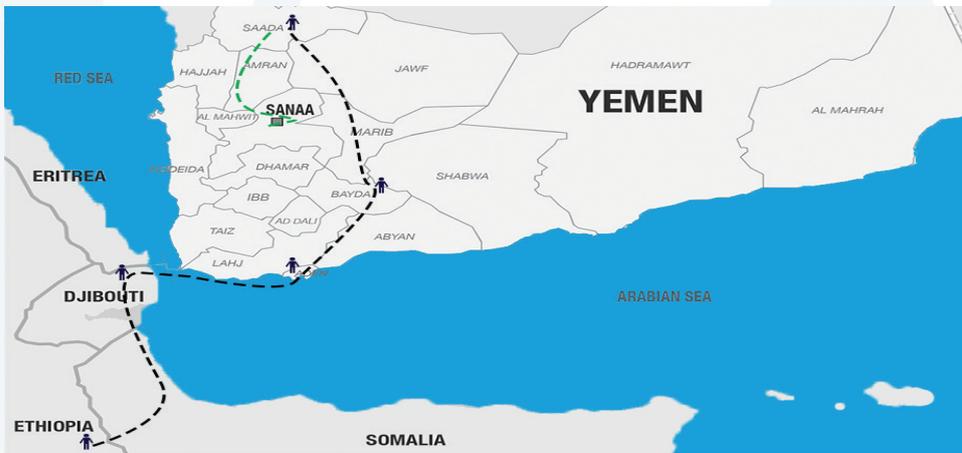


المنظمة الدولية للهجرة
وكالة الأمم المتحدة للهجرة
International Organization for Migration
The UN Migration Agency

When IOM met Ali Ismail, 20 Years old, he had been in Yemen for 3 months. He told IOM that had no idea about the war in Yemen. He said he used to live with his wife in Harer, Ethiopia where he worked selling Qat, a mildly narcotic plant that is chewed by many people in the region. However, his poor income pushed him to migrate and find work in Yemen, improving his family's economic situation. He found a migrant smuggler, paying around 15,000 ETH Birr (approximately USD 750) that he had earned from selling Qat.



He then was transported overland from Ethiopia to Djibouti. He entered Yemen by crossing the Red Sea from Djibouti in the smuggler's boat to Aden's coastal area. He continued his journey to Rada'a, Al Baydah, where he worked on a Qat farm for 15 days. Ali Ismail decided to go to Sa'ada because he heard it was famous for Qat farms, and unbeknownst to him Sa'adah has been de facto military zone of Yemen's conflict since it began in 2015.



Ali Ismail worked for two months on the Qat farms in Sa'adah. Once while he was under a tree, waiting for the heat from the sun to cool off, a bullet hit him in chest. He is unsure who shot him. One of his friends who worked on the farm took him to a hospital in Sa'ada where he got first aid.

Unable to walk and being bed-ridden, he could not receive all of the necessary medical assistance because the hospital in Sa'adah lacked equipment, medical staff, electricity, etc., which was a consequence of the conflict. In Yemen, much of the public health sector has collapsed under the strain of the conflict, and specifically because the government does not have the financial resources to support the system.

With a help of a friend, Ali Ismail traveled to a Public Hospital in Sana'a, but he was turned away because he did not have money to be treated there. He had spent all his savings to be treated in the Sa'adah hospital and transported to Sana'a.

Someone from the Ethiopian community in Sana'a told Ali Ismail's friend to take him to IOM's medical clinic in Sana'a. When Ali Ismail was brought to the IOM clinic, the health team assessed and admitted him to one of the Sana'a hospitals. IOM's programme will cover the cost for his hospital treatment. A week later, Ali Ismail was released and transferred to IOM's temporary shelter where he continues to receive care. Ali Ismail has asked IOM to help return him to Ethiopia, once his health condition gets better and he is fit to travel.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM.Clinic



These generous donors have supported IOM's humanitarian assistance projects.