

HIGHLIGHTS

- 967,000 children under the age of five are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition, with 267,000 children at risk of dying without proper nutrition interventions.
- A huge outbreak of measles is now under control, reports WHO.
- 13 children were killed and another 12 injured by land mines or unexploded ordnances (UXOs) in the first three months of 2012.
- UN Deputy Humanitarian Chief Catherine Bragg visited Yemen.
- More funds, capacity building for national NGOs and early recovery are some challenges facing the Yemen humanitarian team going through the mid-year review of the 2012 Humanitarian Response Plan.

FIGURES

# of food insecure	10 m
# of global acute malnutrition	966,848
# of child measles deaths	170
# of children vaccinated against measles	7.65 m
# of refugees	220,928
# of IDP (Newly displaced not included)	470,212

Sources: WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR

FUNDING

455 million
requested (US\$)

42% funded



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Malnutrition threatens lives of 267,000 children

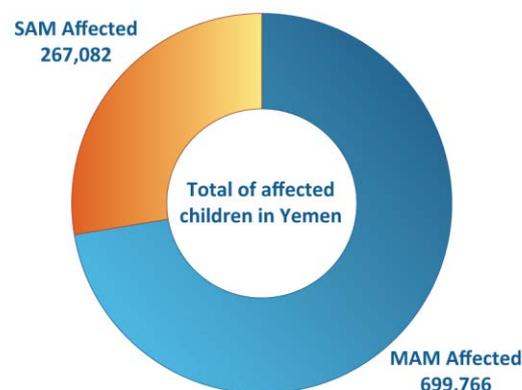
The scale of the malnutrition challenge in Yemen is enormous, where an estimated 966,848 children under 5 are victims of acute malnutrition. More than a quarter of these children may die, and many more are at risk of life-long impairment, if they do not very quickly receive life-saving assistance.

Some US\$40 million is urgently required to save the lives of the estimated 267,082 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Another estimated 699,766 children are affected by moderate acute malnutrition and are at risk of long-term physical and cognitive impairment if they do not receive urgent assistance.

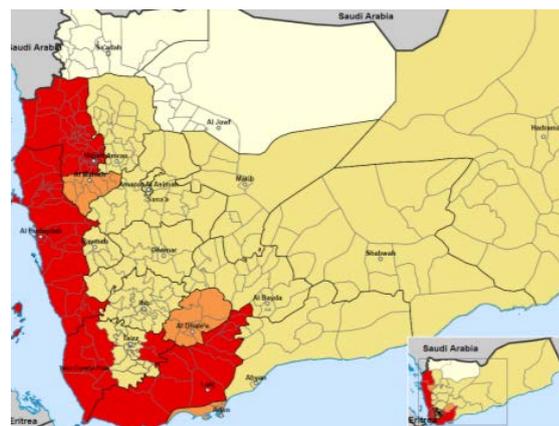
Shift in geographic focus

There has been a shift in geographic focus from the end of 2011 to April this year. This new prioritization is based on updated prevalence of acute malnutrition obtained through recent nutrition surveys conducted by Nutrition Cluster partners. These data are now the basis for planning and are much more reliable, according to the Nutrition Cluster Coordinator. These data clearly show that the situation in several governorates is critical and needs our full attention. No single governorate in the country is classified within the acceptable level of acute malnutrition.

In the north, there are no new data on malnutrition in two governorates, Sa'ada and Al Jawf (please see map), but it is predicted that the situation there is also critical and needs to be included in the list of prioritized areas for nutrition programmes.



A revision of acute malnutrition caseloads based on the updated nutrition SMART surveys and CFSS 2011 found that an estimated 966,848 children under 5 years are affected by global acute malnutrition (GAM) in Yemen. 267,082 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), while 699,766 are affected by moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)



In November 2011, nutrition planning was based on the assumption that malnutrition was a problem mainly in the north of Yemen. This revised map from the Nutrition Cluster from April 2012 shows that malnutrition levels are critical in a belt of governorates both in the south, west and north. Levels are serious in Al-Dhale and in Al-Mahwit and poor in the rest of the country.

For nutrition, less than one third of the requirements have been funded.

Hudaydah more than double the emergency threshold for nutrition

In Hudaydah Governorate, the global acute malnutrition rate stands at 32 per cent, more than double the 15 per cent rate that normally makes the humanitarian community sound the emergency alarm. The positive news for Hudaydah is that the local nutrition sub-cluster has developed a detailed, district-level micro-plan for response, with WASH, health, and food security components mainstreamed within the nutrition projects.

Many more actors in the field – and around the coordination table

The Nutrition Cluster has completed a mapping of health facilities with functioning nutrition services. Reporting from NGOs is generally good, but more efforts are needed to get timely data from government structures. Too few nutrition actors has historically been a challenge, but this trend appears to have reversed. While in early 2011, seven nutrition members participated in the cluster, which covered the whole country, the Nutrition Cluster today counts 25 members, and sub-clusters with coordinators are operating in Sa'ada, Hudaydah, Aden and Haradh.



Not the kind of picture we would like to see of a small child, but there are 267,000 children like her in Yemen, affected by severe acute malnutrition. Untreated, children are at high risk of dying.

The list of challenges faced by the Nutrition Cluster is long. Delayed and limited funding is at the top of the list. The Cluster requires \$71 million through the 2012 Consolidated Appeal to address the most pressing nutrition needs in Yemen. While the food and agriculture sector now stands 67 per cent funded, less than one third of nutrition requirements have been funded. In both these closely-related clusters, needs are expected to be adjusted upwards during the 2012 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan mid-year review process. The expected upward revision is based on new assessments and documented new needs.

Increase in children killed by land mines

13 children killed and 12 injured in first quarter of 2012

13 children were reported killed and another 12 injured by land mines or unexploded ordnances (UXOs) in 12 reported incidents in the first quarter of 2012, according to a UNICEF press release. Earlier that week, another three children were killed by a roadside bomb in Hadramaut. Furthermore, in the last week of April landmines injured four sisters in Razez in Sa'ada. One of the sisters died in hospital the next day.

2012 first-quarter casualties approaching 2011 annual total

Victims of land mine accidents during the first quarter of 2012 were from the governorates of Abyan, Aden and Lahj in the south, from Hajjah in the north and from Sana'a. In 2011, UXOs and mines killed 28 children and injured nine. UNICEF in Yemen refers to the number of landmine accidents as "extremely alarming," stating that the casualties for just the first three months of 2012 are fast approaching the total for 2011.

During the 30 April initial workshop for the mid-year review of the 2012 Humanitarian Response Plan, a working group on early recovery highlighted the need to further strengthen mine risk education and mine awareness as well as start mine clearance in earnest. Remaining challenges are related to humanitarian access, government participation, reporting mechanisms and funding limitations.

Measles outbreak under control, says WHO. 98 per cent of the target population was reached in vaccination campaign.

7.6 million children vaccinated against measles

Drop in vaccination coverage a result of decline in basic services

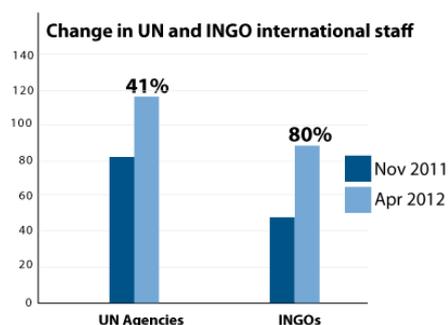
Measles vaccination coverage declined and cases of measles re-emerged as a direct consequence of the decline in basic services in Yemen since 2011. Twenty per cent of the facilities that normally provide immunization services are no longer functioning. A huge outbreak of measles in the last quarter of last year affected more than 5,500 children across the country and caused around 170 deaths among children.

The measles outbreak is now under control thanks to a successful vaccination campaign made possible with support from the CERF, the Measles Initiative/UN Foundation and the efforts of the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF and WHO.

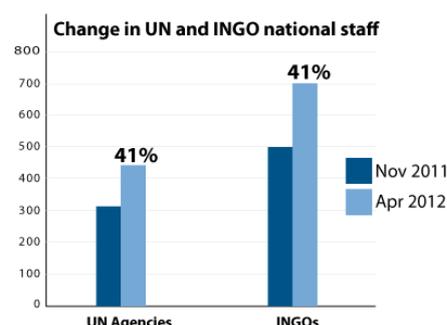
Two phases of the national measles campaign were implemented during March and April 2012. During the two phases of the national campaign, around 7,649,697 children from 6 months to 10 years were vaccinated. The target population was 7.9 million children, meaning that coverage stands at around 98 per cent, according to the World Health Organization.

Response capacity increases

There are now sixty agencies and organizations based in Yemen to take an active role in responding to the acute humanitarian crisis in the country. Over the first months of 2012 several new international organizations have set up offices in Yemen.



The number of international staff working for UN agencies and international NGOs in Yemen increased by 55 per cent from November 2011 to April 2012 to 205 staff members, a 41 per cent increase for the UN and 80 per cent for INGOs. (Source: OCHA)



Both UN agencies and INGOs increased their number of national staff with 41 per cent from November 2011 to April this year, up to 443 national staff in the UN and 704 in INGOs. (Source: OCHA).

An overall increase of 55 per cent in the number of international staff in INGOs and UN agencies was the finding of an informal review led by OCHA of the capacity of humanitarian partners in Yemen. The review was conducted to understand how and where agencies had responded to the call to scale up capacities, in line with the strategic objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan. The review showed that UN agencies had increased international staff by 41 per cent, to 117 staff, while INGOs in April 2012 had 80 per cent more international staff than in November 2011, to a total of 88 international staff. The increase comes as a result of strong advocacy efforts by the Humanitarian Country Team to increase response capacity and capability.

Also numbers of national staff have increased to a total of 1,272 for all organizations. Both UN agencies and INGOs have had a 41 per cent increase in numbers of national staff in the five months since November last year. At the same time, cooperation with Yemeni non-governmental organizations has been broadened and strengthened, and capacity building is being scaled up. Cooperation with NGOs is part of the key strategies of the 2012 Humanitarian Response Plan and is critical, particularly in strategically important locations where humanitarian needs are high and access for international agencies is limited.

Addressing the needs of non-displaced Yemeni families is vital to bringing stability back to Yemen and avoiding further deterioration.

Cairo meeting on Yemen humanitarian needs

In response to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, the League of Arab States, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Humanitarian Forum on 6 May 2012 hosted a meeting in Cairo to discuss the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

The conference concluded that the crisis in Yemen has reached a level where it affects millions of people including displaced, refugees and migrants, but also typical, non-displaced Yemeni families in rural and urban areas.

Addressing the needs of these families is vital to bringing stability back to Yemen and avoiding further deterioration. Hunger and suffering are key generators of conflict.

Participants committed to scaling up activities in order not to repeat the mistake of “too little too late” seen in the Horn of Africa. They also called for increased operational space for humanitarian and development actors and for a forward-looking, longer-term strategy.

Several recommendations called for measures to enhance the voice of Yemeni civil society – both local and diaspora-based – on the humanitarian and development agenda of their home country. Engagement and involvement of the beneficiary community was highlighted as essential – especially youth and women.

The conference brought together leading humanitarian organizations from Arab and Muslim countries, embassies of western countries, the multilateral system and agencies in the Humanitarian Country Team in Yemen. The aim was to have a strategic discussion and make recommendations to inter-governmental organizations, Governments, NGOs and others in parallel to the Friends of Yemen meeting, which will take place in Riyadh on 23 May.

The Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Sheikh Ahmed, headed a delegation of the Humanitarian Country Team and addressed the invitees at the opening of the meeting. OCHA made a presentation on behalf of the HCT, participating in the Cairo meeting as part of an advocacy process to make the humanitarian situation in Yemen better known and better funded.



Seven projects receive ERF funds in April

The Emergency Response Fund has approved seven projects since the beginning of April, five of which were funded with a total amount of \$1,052,517. Two other projects are in process of receiving funding for a total of \$400,838.

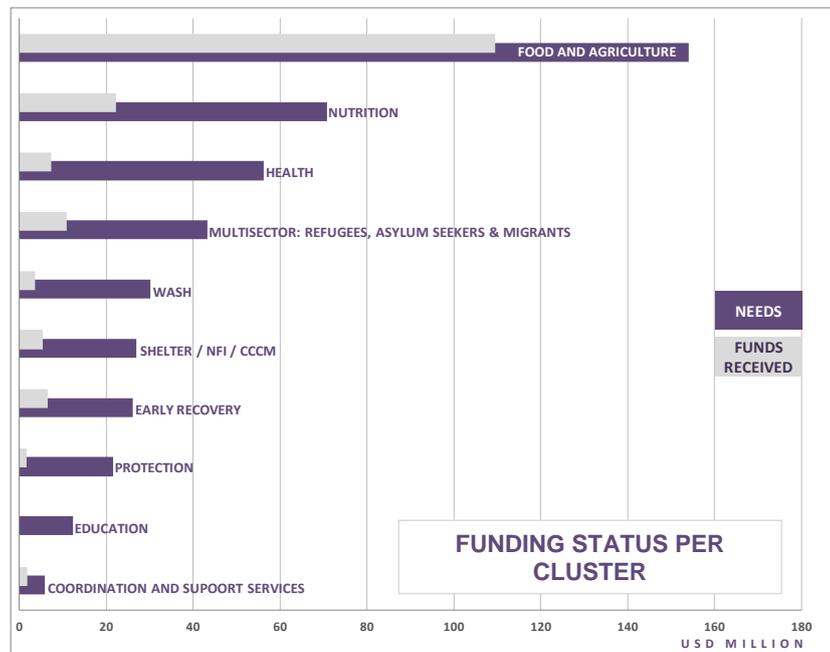
3,387 children (2,633 girls, 754 boys) affected by the ongoing political crisis in Sana'a will be provided with immediate psycho-social support by Mercy Corps through the ERF. Oxfam GB received ERF funding for two projects to work on improving the health of displaced communities in Aden districts by improving the water and sanitation situation for IDPs and their host communities. The humanitarian situation of IDPs and vulnerable communities affected by conflict, crisis and displacement in Hajjah Governorate will also be improved by CARE International Yemen through the fund. The Humanitarian Forum Yemen, a network of local Yemeni NGOs, received funds from ERF to facilitate the speedy delivery of essential food items and hygiene kits to affected communities in Taiz.

In the first four months of 2012, three national NGOs have received ERF funds, compared to four allocations to national NGOs for the whole year in 2011. Currently, four projects are under consideration: two for Islamic Relief to respond to food and agriculture, shelter/NFI and nutrition needs in the central areas of Yemen; one for UNDP to respond to health needs in the north; and one for the Yemeni Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) to provide non-food items to displaced people in the south.

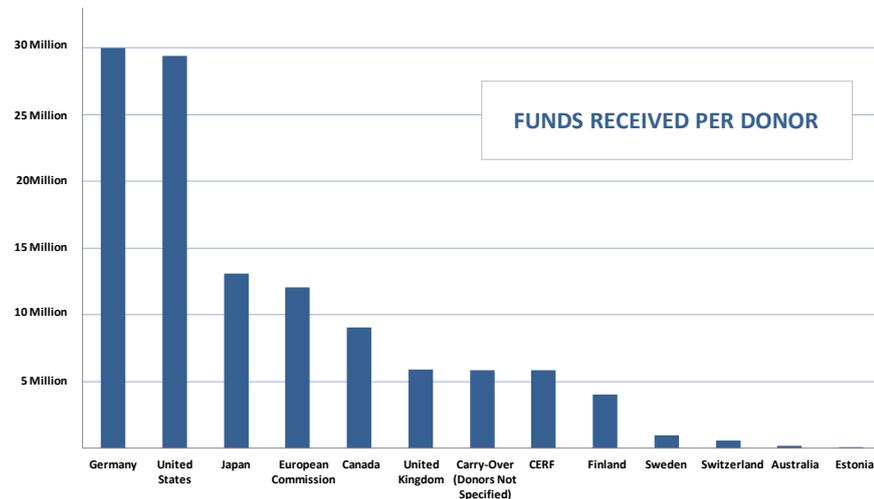
Many clusters are seriously under-funded. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster has received only 12 per cent.

Yemen HRP: \$265 million still unfunded

Funding for the 2012 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan on 8 May had reached \$189 million, or 42 per cent of total requirements. This means that there has been a positive development since early April, when the Response Plan was only 20 per cent funded. The total funding received in the first months of 2012 is equal to all the funds received for projects in the Response Plan for 2011. However, the funding gap remains large: \$265 million, or 58 per cent of total needs. It is also expected that the ongoing mid-year review of the 2012 Humanitarian Response Plan will result in higher funding requirements to address a documented deteriorating situation.



Funding by sector: Some clusters still stand at zero funding for their planned programmes, five months into the planning period. (Source FTS).



Funding by donor, as reflected by OCHA's Financial Tracking Service on 4 May 2012. A series of recent contributions from major donors have helped reduce the overall funding gap.

Many clusters are still under-funded. For example, a critical sector such as water and sanitation and hygiene has received only 12 per cent of the requested funds for planned initiatives. Health activities are 13 per cent funded, and protection only 8 per cent. Education has received no funding at all. The low funding levels of these critical sectors significantly impair the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver much needed assistance.

Vulnerable people need all the support they can get until recent political developments start to bear fruit.

UN Deputy Humanitarian Chief visits Yemen

After a mission to Yemen on 16-17 April, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Catherine Bragg, underscored the need for strong commitment from the international community to support the millions of people in Yemen facing a worsening humanitarian crisis. This was ASG Bragg's third visit to the country in 18 months.

"I am very concerned by the acute humanitarian situation in Yemen, despite the recent, positive political developments," said Ms. Bragg. "Millions of vulnerable people need help with health care, clean water and basic sanitation, food and nutrition. They will need all the support they can get until we start seeing the fruit of political developments", she said.

Catherine Bragg travelled to Yemen to assess developments since her last visit in November 2011 and to discuss with partners, including the Government and donors, how to further strengthen the humanitarian response, despite serious security constraints.

Meeting UN agencies and partners in Yemen, ASG Bragg discussed strategies for overcoming the challenges posed by growing humanitarian needs. "I am encouraged to see that the capacity of the humanitarian community in Yemen to respond has been expanded since my last visit," noted Ms. Bragg.



ASG Catherine Bragg visiting projects in Aden during her visit to Yemen in November last year (Photo: OCHA/Eman Al-Awami).

Mid-year review: rising needs require funding

The worsening humanitarian situation in Yemen is informing the Mid-Year Review of the 2012 Humanitarian Response Plan, which began with a well-attended workshop on 30 April for all clusters and focal points of UN agencies and international NGOs. The review process will be finalized by mid-June.

It is expected that programming and requirements will rise further and that funding from the international donor community will have to be substantially increased to meet new needs.

Humanitarian programming will also have to be re-prioritized in terms of geographic focus based on deeper analyses down to the district level in the different clusters and incorporating findings from recent assessments. Complementary efforts are underway to develop methodologies across clusters for greater efficiency in delivery of assistance.

Discussion in the mid-year review introductory workshop focused on the need for closer inter-cluster cooperation in many areas, mainstreaming protection and early recovery, and practical ways to work more closely together across clusters. There are continued challenges to ensure humanitarian access, which highlight the importance of continuing to establish more partnerships and to further build the capacity of local NGOs to expand delivery options for humanitarian assistance.

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