

HIGHLIGHTS

- 8,000 people displaced by conflict in Al Dhale'e, but lack of access is hampering humanitarian response.
- 60,000 still displaced in Amran as shaky truce holds and assistance trickles in.
- US\$46 million in crop value has been lost since locusts invaded in June 2013.
- Thousands of people in urgent need of water, sanitation, health and food in Al Jawf Governorate.
- The number of severely acutely malnourished children enrolled in nutrition therapeutic programmes doubled from 2012 to 2013.

FIGURES

People without access to safe water, sanitation	13.1 m
Food insecure people	10.5 m
People without access to health care	8.6 m
Acutely malnourished children	1 m
Internally displaced people	312,134
Returnees	236,147
Refugees	241,288
Migrant / refugee arrivals in 2013	65,319

Sources: UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, WHO, UNICEF, IOM

FUNDING

592 million
requested (US\$)

2 % funded



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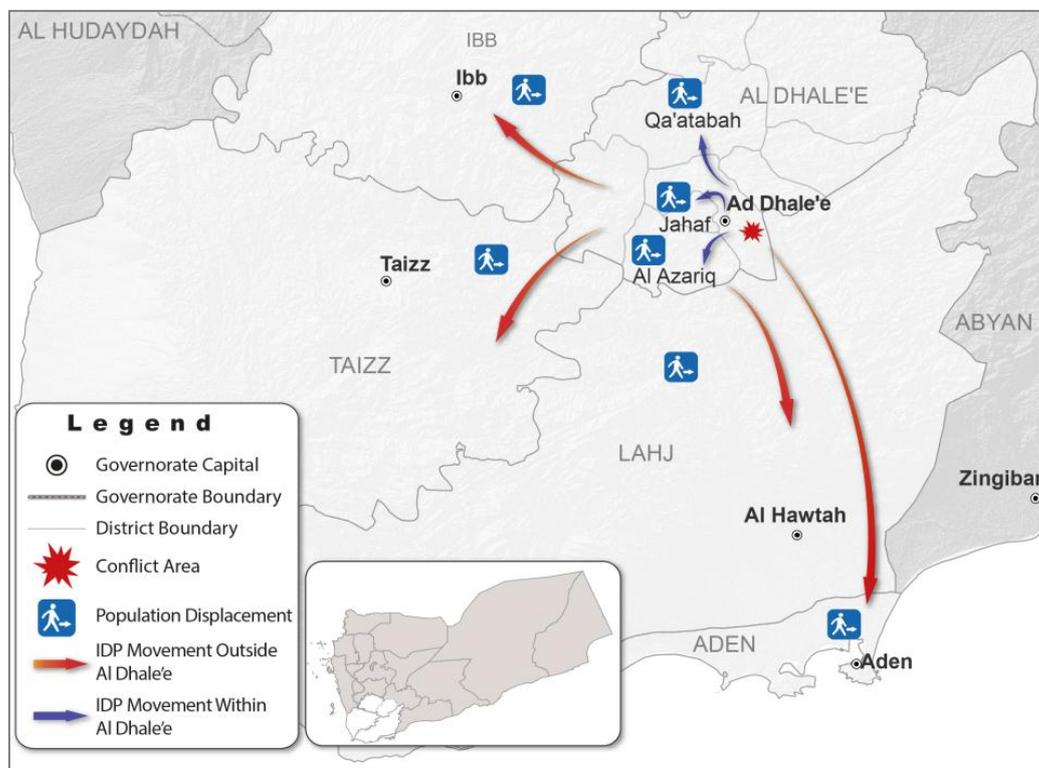
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Attacks against civilians in the south

8,000 people displaced as violence escalates in Al Dhale'e Governorate

More than 8,000 people have been displaced and 40 killed by violent clashes in Al Dhale'e Governorate, southern Yemen, since December. According to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), four hospitals, four schools, a college and an institution for displaced people have been shelled in fighting between government forces and separatist militants. Lack of access to the area has hampered humanitarian response; yet thousands of people are reported to have no access to basic services, food and protection. Electricity supply to several districts has been off for days and many health facilities and schools are not functioning as a result of the conflict.

Displacement in Al Dhale'e Governorate as of February 2014



UN calls for immediate, unhindered humanitarian access

Evidence has been documented of indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks affecting civilians in Al Dhale'e. On 26 February, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, called for investigations into reported human rights violations. She also called

Violence in Al Dhale'e has disrupted health care, delayed a school feeding programme and prevented ambulances from taking injured people to hospital

for unrestricted humanitarian access for UN and other agencies to deliver humanitarian assistance. On the same day, the Government and the UN agreed to field a technical mission to assess humanitarian needs in Al Dhale'e city. The mission is still pending final clearance by the Government.

The clashes in Al Dhale'e started in mid-December sometimes causing government offices, schools, banks and businesses to close. Some displaced people have sought shelter in Jahaf, Al Azariq, Qa'atabah Districts, and within Al Dhale'e city (population: 26,000). Others have fled to neighbouring Aden, Lahj, Taizz and Ibb Governorates. Local sources say more civilians could be trapped in conflict areas in Al Husain and Sannah Districts.

Health care services temporarily halted due to insecurity

The violence in Al Dhale'e has interrupted delivery of humanitarian assistance. On 16 February, an international non-governmental organization (INGO) temporarily suspended basic health care assistance to Al Nasser hospital and nearby villages. On 19 February, ambulances were prevented from transferring patients to Aden for medical treatment. Later, the INGO re-activated the referral system and resumed provision of essential drugs to the emergency wing of the hospital. The violence in Al Dhale'e has also delayed the start of a feeding programme for 32 schools.

Humanitarian response scaled up as tensions rise again in Amran Governorate

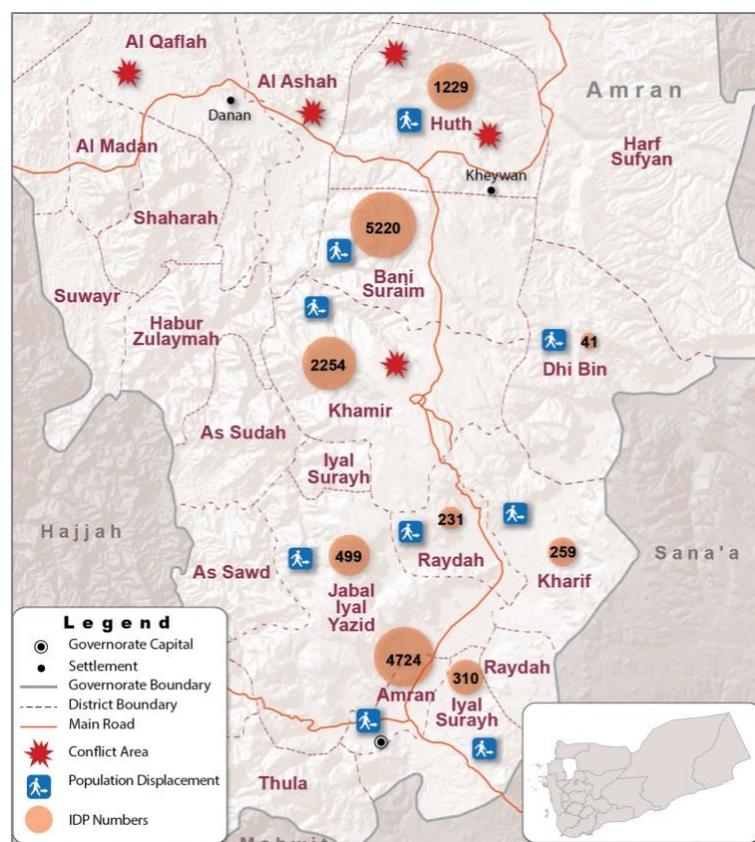
More than 20,000 displaced by recent violence in Amran Governorate

Recent conflict in northern Yemen has increased the number of displaced people in Amran Governorate to 60,000-70,000.

Fighting flared up in November, displacing an estimated 20,000-30,000 people to Amran city and other parts of the governorate. Displacement declined following a truce signed by parties to the conflict on 6 February. By 18 February, 14,787 displaced people had been verified for assistance, 13,843 had registered with the Government's IDP Executive Unit. Another 10,000 had reportedly reached the capital, Sana'a.

In Amran City, humanitarian partners have scaled up activities, but insecurity continues to delay the delivery of

Conflict and displacement in Amran Governorate



Security in Amran remains precarious in spite of the truce signed on 6 February by parties to the conflict, and this has limited access to people in need

life-saving drugs in areas like Al Qaflah and Al Ashah. It has also hindered food distribution outside the city, forcing displaced people to travel long distances to Amran to collect rations.

On 26 February, WFP started distributing one time food rations in Amran City to 1,850 new IDP families (13,000 persons) from these areas. From 15 to 24 February, UNHCR through the Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) distributed NFIs to 1,409 IDP families (9,615 persons).

Families struggling to cope with unpredictable security situation

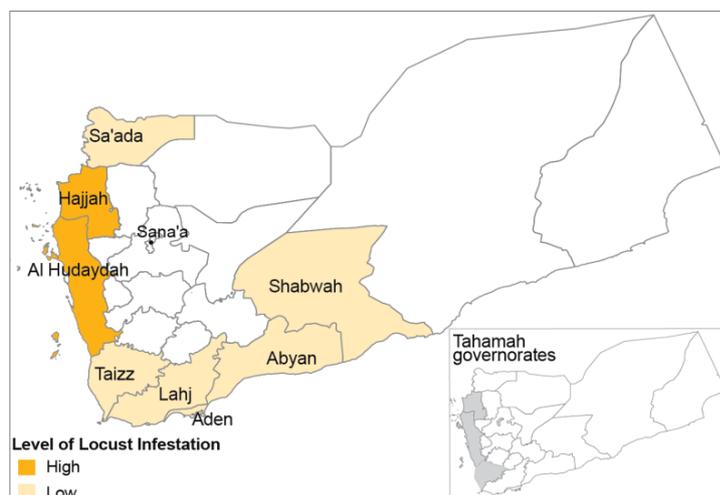
Many displaced children in Amran do not go to school, according to an inter-agency rapid assessment conducted from 6-9 February. The children fled their homes without documents that could enable them enroll in other schools. Others were finalizing their first semester when violence broke out. The assessment team interviewed displaced people from Al Ashah, Al Qaflah and Huth Districts and found that many had sold their gold, weapons and animals for survival. Further assessments are planned to obtain more data on needs.

Despite a truce between parties to the conflict in Amran, the overall situation continues to be unpredictable. On 19-20 February, tensions forced 85 families to flee Raydah District and seek shelter in Kharif, Al Sudahand Jabal Iyal Yazid Districts. There are reports of a build-up of arms and more militias arriving in Amran city and Raydah. On 21 February, three people were reportedly killed in armed confrontations in Amran City. On 19 February, humanitarian partners in Amran met to discuss how to meet the needs of the affected people. They agreed to improve coordination, continue providing food and non-food items and advocate for more humanitarian access.

US\$46 million in crops lost due to locust invasion

Entire sesame crop and 95 per cent of millet lost in Al Hudaydah

Yemen is facing the worst locust outbreak since 2007, with crop losses estimated at about \$46 million since June 2013. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the locusts invaded Shabwah Governorate in June 2013. By the end of 2013, they had also invaded Hajjah and Al Hudaydah Governorates, destroying more than 16,000 hectares, representing 40,500 tons of crops lost, including 16,680 tons of sorghum, 20,430 tons of millet and 3,390 tons of sesame. In January, more than 1,000 hectares were infested in the Tehama region of Hajjah, Taizz and Al Hudaydah Governorates.



Map showing locust infestation governorates. Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Office of Yemen; mapping by OCHA Yemen

Tehama is an important agricultural region comprising 25 districts - four in Hajjah, 18 in Al Hudaydah and three in Taizz, with a population of more than 2.8 million people. There are concerns that damage to crops by the locust infestation could increase their vulnerability to food insecurity. In Al Hudaydah, over 95 per cent of the millet crop has been destroyed, as well as about 100 per cent of sesame and 47 per cent of sorghum.

Crop damage from locusts will increase vulnerability of 2.8 million people in Hajjah, Al Hudaydah and Taizz Governorates

About 6,800 households have so far been directly affected through loss of crops and income from beehives as well as agricultural labour. The infestation could worsen the food security situation of poor households in the affected areas.

Several assessments indicate that new generations of locusts are likely to develop. On 10 and 12 February, rains fell over breeding areas in Tehama and the Gulf of Aden, creating favorable conditions for breeding of locusts. If nothing is done quickly, total infested areas will reach at least 50,000 hectares (about 127,000 tons in crop losses).

Locust control activities facing funding gap of US\$465,000

Teams are on the ground trying to control hopper bands and adult groups on the northern coast of Yemen. FAO has contributed \$500,000 for control operations, while the Yemen Central Region Commission has contributed \$6,000 for a campaign in Aden. The Islamic Development Bank has offered \$300,000 to procure pesticides and sprayers, while Saudi Arabia contributed 15,000 tons of pesticides. The locust control effort is facing a resource gap of \$465,000 to procure more pesticides, spraying equipment and logistics.

Assessment finds dire humanitarian needs in Al Jawf Governorate, northern Yemen

92.7 per cent of surveyed households buy water from tankers daily

Thousands of people in Al Jawf Governorate in northern Yemen are in dire need of water and sanitation services as well as food and health assistance, according to [a report published in January by ACTED](#). Very few organizations are able to assess needs and provide assistance in Al Jawf due to limited access and concerns over security.

The assessment, which was limited due to security concerns, was conducted in Al Hazm (the capital), Khabbwa ash Sha'af, Al Khalq and Al Maton Districts in October and November 2013. The assessment covered 219 households and found critical needs in terms of food security, access to water, hygiene and sanitation.

The assessment found that the salinity level in ground water is high. About 92.7 per cent of surveyed households purchase water from tankers for daily needs. Only 7.3 per cent get water from wells or public water projects. About 21 per cent of the households had received hygiene training, but only 56 per cent had latrines. Even then, there were negative overall attitudes with only 46.5 per cent of people using latrines. About 69 per cent of households reported having at least one person who practiced open defecation.

Low incomes, large families contributing to food insecurity

Food insecurity is serious in Al Jawf, according to the ACTED assessment. All households surveyed reported food shortages, mainly due to low incomes. The average household surveyed had 9.2 people, 48.6 per cent of the people were below 15 years of age, and 20 per cent of the households included pregnant women.

On average, each household has a monthly income of approximately \$85, but monthly food expenditures were as high as \$158. As a result, the most common coping mechanisms were borrowing cash, borrowing food, selling livestock and eating less expensive food.

The assessment found six out of 14 health facilities closed. Some had not received any support for years and had no capacity to treat patients. Some of the health facilities had buildings that need rehabilitation.



The majority of families in Al Jawf do not have access to free water. Photo: UNOCHA

Significant humanitarian needs, but few humanitarian organizations operate in Al Jawf Governorate, because of insecurity

Average monthly household income in Al Jawf is \$85, but food expenditure is as high as \$158

At least one in every three women in coastal areas of Yemen has undergone female genital mutilation.

2014 YHRP launched with call to address gender inequalities

One in three women in coastal areas has suffered genital mutilation

Humanitarian partners in Yemen and the Government launched on 17 February, the [2014 Humanitarian Response Plan \(2014 YHRP\)](#), with a strong call to address gender inequalities in Yemen. The country is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and has a national women's development strategy, but has recorded little improvement in the socio-economic status of women.

Gender-based violence, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is prevalent. At least one in every three women in the coastal areas has suffered female genital mutilation. Early marriage is widespread, and girls have limited opportunities to get an education. Yemen has high maternal mortality ratios partly as a result of the high poverty levels, inadequate access to health care services and low awareness about reproductive rights. There is low utilization of skilled birth attendants.

Donors urged to support the 2014 humanitarian response plan

This year, 105 organizations are participating in the 2014 YHRP, up from 89 in 2013. "The major challenge facing humanitarian efforts in Yemen is the lack of sufficient funding," the outgoing Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, said at the YHRP launch on 17 February in Sana'a. The others are lack of access and insecurity, including the risk of kidnapping of humanitarian workers. "There will never be stability in Yemen unless humanitarian needs, poverty, and unemployment are addressed," he added. Echoing this view, the Minister for Social Affairs and Labour, Ms. Amat Al-Razaq Humad, said: "The crisis of 2011 was largely a result of poverty and unemployment. Poverty has led to an increase in the number of orphans, and other vulnerable groups."

People in need of humanitarian assistance in Yemen. Source 2014 YHRP			
Category	Female	Male	TOTAL
IDPs	156,570	150,430	307,000
Refugees	106,675	144,325	251,000
Returnees	116,280	111,720	228,000
Migrants from Horn of Africa	13,423	134,078	147,500
Yemeni Migrants	36,082	360,419	396,500
Other vulnerable people	6,820,740	6,553,260	13,370,000
TOTAL	7,249,769	7,454,231	14,700,000

Source: Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP)

The Government IDP Executive Unit said protracted displacement was fuelled by insecurity. "IDPs are facing many problems mainly because of the inability of Government to control tribal conflicts," said Mohammed Harmal, Deputy Head of the Unit.

The YHRP requires \$592 million to meet the needs of 7.6 million vulnerable people in Yemen, including displaced people and returnees. Last year, the YHRP was only 53 per cent funded, which affected the activities of various clusters.

The 2014 YHRP was launched in Sana'a on 17 February with the Government strongly urging donors to support the plan

Building resilience in Ibb and Abyan

A conflict transformation working group established

The Early Recovery Cluster has established a new working group on 'Conflict Transformation' to coordinate 12 international and national institutions in developing new interventions to address community-level conflicts. The group plans to address the root causes of local conflicts in Yemen, including lack of access to social services, scarcity of equitable management of natural resources, poverty and unemployment.

The cluster is focusing on building resilience and trust at the community level because of a growing recognition that crises in Yemen are symptoms of deeper underlying causes of conflict. Cluster members are supporting the establishment of conflict analysis and conflict sensitive development approaches, targeting leaders at the governorate and district levels to become facilitators and mediators in conflict transformation.

In Ibb and Abyan Governorates, more than 300 community representatives including youths and women, have been organized into Community Development Committees, and have so far resolved 26 long-standing conflicts.



The Early Recovery Cluster is focusing on building resilience. Photo: UNHCR/Amira Al Sharif

In Brief

Double enrolment in child nutrition programmes since 2012

The number of severely acutely malnourished children enrolled into a nutrition therapeutic programme almost doubled to about 150,000 children in 2013, according to UNICEF. There was also a significant scale-up geographically with an increase in facilities from about 300 in 2012 to 1,358 covering all 22 governorates. The hardest to reach population, including marginalized groups, are being cared for through mobile clinics and integrated services. Over 2,200 health workers and 4,200 community health volunteers have been trained to support the programme.

In spite of these efforts, over a quarter of a million children are severely malnourished every year. The underlying causes, according to UNICEF, include the fact that very few children between six and 23 months consume a minimum of acceptable diet, while exclusive breastfeeding in Yemen is one of the lowest in the world. Nearly a quarter of children in Yemen suffer frequent episodes of acute respiratory infections and 40 per cent of those under the age of five suffer from diarrhea.

CERF funds to be allocated for life-saving activities

The Humanitarian Coordinator has finalized the proposed projects for the allocation of \$14 million that was announced in January for Yemen from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) under-funded window. The funds will support life-saving activities including demining and the removal of explosive remnants of war, emergency provision of livelihood inputs for displaced people and host communities, health care and psychosocial support in hard-to-reach areas, humanitarian air passenger services, and management of complicated acute malnutrition. Other areas include sexual and gender-based violence, and emergency water and sanitation projects in Al Jawf, Abyan, Hajjah and Amran Governorates.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at yemen.humanitarianresponse.info | www.reliefweb.int