

This report is produced with inputs from the Humanitarian Country Team and humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Yemen country office and covers the period from 11 November 2011 to 30 November 2011. The next report will be issued on or around 10 December 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh signed a power transfer deal that would see him stepping down from office within months. The deal was widely welcomed.
- Violent clashes between government and opposition forces continued in key cities, most notably in Taiz. The UN in Yemen issued a statement condemning the violence in Taiz.
- Three staff of the French charity Triangle Génération Humanitaire were released after being held for nearly six-months by suspected al-Qaeda militants.
- The number of refugees and migrants arriving in Yemen by boat rose to 12,545 in October. This brought the total arrivals between January and November to 84,656 – higher than the previous annual record of 77,000 in 2009.

II. Situation Overview

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh signed a deal to transfer power that would see him stepping down from power within months. Under the agreement, Saleh will hand over his powers to Vice-President Abdo Rabbo Mansour Hadi. A spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General remarked, “This Agreement marks an important step for the people of Yemen in moving their country forward towards a better future.” Violence, however, broke out in the capital Sana’a the day after the signing.

A Security Council meeting on Yemen scheduled on 28 November reiterated that all those responsible for violence, human rights violations and abuses should be held accountable. It also emphasized the need for increased and unimpeded humanitarian access to address the growing crisis and called on all the Yemeni parties to work together to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Yemen.

Violent clashes between government and opposition forces continued in key cities and other areas of Yemen, putting civilians at risk, leading to the breakdown of essential public services and contributing to an intensifying humanitarian crisis.

On 11 November, clashes broke out between government forces, protestors and armed opposition groups in Taiz, 160 km south of the capital, Sana’a. At least 16 civilians– including three women and three children– were killed, while 48 other civilians were injured. Al Rawda hospital was also hit.

The United Nations in Yemen issued a statement on 13 November calling for the protection of civilians in Taiz, condemning the killing of women and children, and the occupation and attacks on schools and hospitals.

In Sana’a, tens of thousands took to the streets as protests continued against the government. The capital itself remains divided into three zones - one controlled by the government, the others by General Ali Mohsen and the prominent Al Ahmar family.

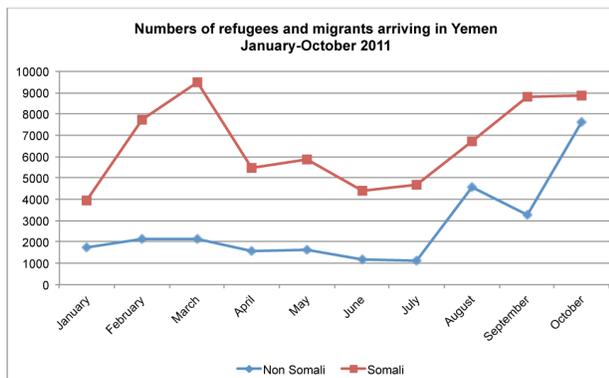
The violence in Taiz erupted whilst UN special advisor Jamal Benomar was visiting the country. During the reporting period, however, a breakthrough occurred when Saleh and the opposition reached a power

transition agreement. His efforts followed last month's Security Council Resolution condemning human rights violations by Yemeni Authorities, and calling on all parties to sign and implement the GCC proposal.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni government agreed on 15 November to form a joint national committee to conduct 'independent and transparent' investigations into allegations of human rights violations, as recommended by the Human Rights Council. A report issued from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights cited a series of human rights concerns related to nationwide civil unrest during 2011, following a mission to Yemen in mid-2011. The High Commissioner also called for international investigations to take place.

Along Yemen's coasts, the number of refugees and migrants arriving by boat rose to 12,545 in October. This brought the total arrivals between January and November to 84,656 – higher than the previous annual record of 77,000 people in 2009.

The latest monthly arrivals are the highest since UNHCR began compiling data about the mixed migration route between the Horn of Africa and Yemen in January 2006. Of this year's arrivals, 23,079 are from Somalia, with the remaining largely from Ethiopia. UNHCR expects the numbers for 2011 to increase further.



Data provided by UNHCR, October 2011

Suspected al-Qaeda militants released three staff of the French NGO, Triangle Génération Humanitaire, from captivity on 13 November. According to the charity, the two women and one man, were kidnapped in Sayoun, 600 km east of Sana'a on 28 May 2011.

Three ICRC staff were kidnapped in the governorate of Lahj on 22 November, including one female international and two Yemenis. All were released unharmed two days later. However, the siege of a Salafist centre continues in Damaj in Sa'ada Governorate by Al Houthi militants. Fatalities – including one woman – have been reported in the siege that has so far lasted over one month.

Up to 18,000 IDPs remain in schools in Aden, with children still unable to resume their education. Solutions have been found for around 60% of the affected children, but tensions between IDPs and host communities are growing.

The tenth round of household level social protection monitoring showed mixed results, with some indicators having improved. Yet these improvements coincide with the receipt of quarterly allowances from the Social Welfare Fund (SWF), and so may be reflective of this support rather than an improvement in the context. The mean consumption of grains, bread, chicken, and eggs increased compared with the previous round, and the number of households reporting at least one member going to bed hungry due to lack of food considerably decreased (25.8%) compared with the previous round (40%).

Several international NGOs with proven, significant humanitarian experience are trying to establish programmes in Yemen. Four have applied for registration, namely the International Rescue Committee, the International Medical Corps, Action Contre La Faim (Action Against Hunger) and the Norwegian Refugee Council. One other, Merlin, is planning to apply for registration.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



EDUCATION

Needs/Situation: More than 50 schools continue to be occupied by armed groups in Yemen, while about 80 are closed due to security concerns. In Sa'ada, agencies reported that most children are not receiving adequate quality basic education. In Taiz, at least four schools have been affected by recent violence. One school was burnt down after students refused it to be occupied by a pro-government armed group. The

Government has signed a decree allowing IDPs to remain in schools in Aden. Students whose schools are occupied will be relocated to alternative facilities.

Response: Over 100,000 students who were initially denied access to schools hosting displaced populations in Aden and Lahj, 58 392 (55.5%) now attend school following the removal of IDPs from some schools, the relocation of students to other schools, evacuation of some classrooms in IDP-hosting schools and use of alternative venues like mosques and empty buildings. Plans are underway to rehabilitate schools, provide learning and teaching materials, and sanitation materials, and support a Back-to School campaign to enable more children to resume their education. Tents are being provided as part of the solution, and some schools are holding multiple shifts to accommodate more students.

Gaps & Constraints: Some 32 schools are still reportedly closed in Aden due to occupation by IDPs, and no solution has yet been reached apart from provision of tents.



SHELTER, NON FOOD ITEMS (NFIS), CCCM

Needs/Situation: Some 30% of targeted groups in the north are in critical need of shelter and water. In Al Mazrak, about 18,000 IDPs in camps on the outskirts of Haradh are relying entirely on shelter/NFI items provided by aid agencies. In Sana'a, an assessment was completed for the districts of Bani Al Hareth and Bani Hwat in which 172 IDP families and 55 host families were identified as in urgent need of NFIs and WASH assistance.

Response: In Haradh, kitchen utensils were distributed to IDP families and plans are underway to build 70 pilot latrine molds. Plans are underway to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, on 25 November 2011.

NFI assistance continues in most areas, both to respond to new arrivals and for replenishment. Cluster partners assisted 1,769 IDP families in Al-Mazraq camps 1 and 3, 20 families newly displaced to Amran and 1,239 newly registered IDPs in Al-Bayda as well as 2,182 new IDPs in Al-Tawahi District of Aden. The distribution of extra blankets for winterization have begun in the two camps in Harad while plans are underway to provide extra blankets to remaining IDPs outside camps in Harad as well as other locations in the North in the coming weeks.

Post-distribution monitoring in Shiekh Othman was conducted alongside a rapid visit in Abyan to assess the situation and needs for response. Two proposals have been submitted to the ERF by local NGOs for immediate NFIs assistance to 2,317 IDPs in Taiz and 2,830 IDPs in some parts of Abyan.

Gaps and Constraints: The demand for shelter will increase when winter sets in. In Sana'a, the constant movement of IDPs is posing difficulties in the delivery assistance while in Haradh, access to land by IDPs has delayed the implementation of small income generating initiatives including petty trade (open market). Discussions with the government and community leaders are ongoing to resolve the issue.



FOOD

Needs/Situation: The prices of food, water and fuel have continued to rise, with rice averaging an increase of 52% since January across the country. This increase, combined with the current political stalemate and civil unrest, have exacerbated an already critical food security situation in Yemen where 96% of families are net food buyers who spend 30-35% of their income on bread.

Response: In Hajjah, food assistance to more than 17,000 IDP households is underway. Distributions are expected to start in the coming weeks in Sa'ada as well.

Gaps & Constraints: In the North, 30-50% of the affected population has problems accessing food. Fuel shortages have also resulted in significant increases in the prices of basic food items; a situation compounded by the declining purchasing power of households.



NUTRITION

Needs/Situation: A nutrition survey targeting children under 5 was recently finalized in Hodeida. Survey results will be available in the coming days. In Aden, a survey of 148 IDPs in schools found 8.1% of cases suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) without complications, while 12.1% suffered moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). In Lahj, eight SAM and 23 MAM cases were found among 69 children.

Response: Training for the Comprehensive Food Security Survey (which will also collect data on anthropometric nutrition measurements) has been completed. Teams of enumerators are now in the field. A total of 120 teams will cover 6,900 households in 690 clusters across all governorates except Al Jawf. Training in outpatient therapeutic programme services was launched in Lahj and Al Dhale to strengthen the OTP and TFC staff capacity to deal with malnutrition in the emergency context. Twenty staff from Al Dhale and 24 from Lahj were trained. Nutritional support that was dispatched for MAM beneficiaries has reached 39 out of a planned 119 health centers in Hajjah, Al Hodeida and Al Baida.

Efforts are also ongoing to sustain operational Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) services countrywide by releasing new batches of nutrition supplies to treat severe acute malnutrition. CMAM services are being scaled up in three districts in Hajjah, while 5 extra mobile teams are operational in Hajjah, Amran, Aden and Lahj providing CMAM services.

Gaps & Constraints: Security considerations have limited access to the remaining health centres in Amran, Sa'ada, Hadramout, Al Jawf and Abyan. The number of partners is also limited.



HEALTH

Needs/Situation: Diarrheal diseases, skin problems and measles were reported in the north. In Sa'ada, the departure of MSF-Spain from Al Razez Hospital, has affected health provision. The development came as several actors including MDM, MSF-France and Save the Children scaled back operations in Sa'ada. In Taiz, medical facilities have been affected by violence. Al Rawda hospital was hit during violence on 11 November 2011. In total, at least three hospitals have been attacked or occupied by armed groups in the past month. Across the country, the Ministry of Public Health and Population in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF conducted a National Immunization Campaign from 14th to 17 November, targeting around 4.5 million children under 5 in all 22 governorates.

Response: Twenty-four health workers from all 15 districts of Sa'ada were trained on integrated management of childhood illnesses. By the 3rd day of the polio campaign, nearly 3.8 million children had been vaccinated, representing coverage of 90% of the target population. Over 3,300 Imams were involved in the campaign that was launched by the Vice President.

Gaps & Constraints: The limitations imposed by the prevailing security situation on operations by various actors in Sa'ada, will continue to affect service delivery. The polio campaign, for example, in Sa'ada and Al Jawf, had to be delayed to this week.



LOGISTICS:

Needs/situation: The process of reaching a global custom agreement with the Yemeni government, which started in September 2010, is ongoing. The steps so far taken include the submission of necessary documents, explanation of the necessity and impotence of these documents, and training for customs officers. The shortage of fuel (particularly diesel) continues in the country, causing long queues for fuel when it is available. Fuel prices in petrol stations have reportedly increased from 150 YER per litre to 350 YER per litre.

Response: Follow up contact was made with the custom authority this week, and the information obtained is that the documents are under review. The Logistics Cluster distributed 18,500 litres of diesel and 6,220 litres of petrol to 11 UN agencies and INGOs during the month of Nov. The Logistics Cluster will start the process

of procuring fuel for the coming two months under an SLA (Service Level Agreement) and pro-forma invoice with agencies through a WFP special account.

Constraints: The Logistics Cluster is looking for possible alternative routes for the UNHAS flight to the North (Hardah district).



PROTECTION:

Needs/Situation: The killing of protestors in Taiz on 11 November highlights once more the issue of protection of civilians in Yemen. There have been attacks and occupation by armed groups of hospitals and schools in recent weeks in the city. In Haradh, an increase in the presence of armed fighters was observed during the reporting period. The UN in Yemen urged all armed actors involved in conflict in Taiz to exercise restraint and uphold the principles of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law to ensure safety and protection of civilians and to respect the neutrality of civilian buildings, particularly schools and hospitals.

In the north, the use and recruitment of children by armed forces and groups remains an important concern, although local media reported this week that the association of children was present among various forces in Sana'a. Roadblocks erected by rival tribes have also affected the circulation of goods.

Response: The incident in Taiz was widely condemned and prompted the Humanitarian Coordinator's office to issue a statement in response.

Gaps & Constraints: There is need to improve IDP profiling in the north. There is also need to monitor patterns of displacement and return, and possible human trafficking.



CHILD PROTECTION

Needs/Situation: At least 109 children have reportedly been killed since the beginning of the civil unrest, and around 300 injured by live ammunition. On 11 November, three children were among those killed in Taiz, bringing to at least 7 the number killed in violence in Taiz over the past month. In Sana'a, Amran Hodeida, surveys show that the number of children who are afraid of playing outside the house has decreased. This might be due to an increased sense of security among children in the targeted communities, especially given that violent security incidences relatively decreased in these areas compared with previous weeks.

Meanwhile, a three day pre-testing for the Global Child Protection Working Group Rapid Assessment Tools conducted in two schools in Aden, found child protection issues, such as recruitment, violence, sexual abuse and relatively high incidents of child marriage. This initiative will be replicated in 21 schools in Aden. Armed clashes continue to severely impact the lives of children. A joint Rapid Assessment on the impact of the current civil unrest on students, teachers and schools in Sana'a, supported by both the education Cluster and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster, found that 82 schools had reportedly been attacked by armed groups, out of which 54 were occupied by armed groups, 21 were shelled and 7 were being used as military shelters.

Response: More than 27,000 children (8,244M, 6,634F) received psychosocial support through recreational, sports and education activities in Sana'a, Hajja, Sa'ada, Amran, Aden and Lahj. Protection partners are also providing legal aid and assistance to 44 children (11F, 33M) in five governorates (Taiz, Sana'a, Hodeida, Lahj and Ibb), including 10 rape and sexual violence cases, and 9 homicides. In total, 27,396 children received psychosocial support through recreational, sports and education activities in 43 child-friendly spaces based in schools and 50 in homes or communities.

Additionally, 8 incidents of children being exposed to child labour and child marriage were identified and received psychosocial support, followed by awareness raising with their parents in Sa'ada and Amran. Peer educators were equipped with messages on child protection and are disseminating these messages in Sana'a and Aden, and community members in Al Hodeida were equipped with information on how to ensure protection of children from violence, abuse, and exploitation.

Advocacy efforts continue on different fronts. The bi-monthly Global Horizontal Note of Yemen was submitted to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict

indicating 162 grave violations affecting 63 boys and 13 girls. Also some 53 attacks on schools, 17 on hospitals and 6 denials of humanitarian access were reported in Sana'a (113), Taiz (23), Abyan (19), Ibb (3), Aden (2), Amran (2), Hajja (2) and Dhamar (1) between the period 1 September to 31 October 2011.

A joint Rapid Assessment on the impact of the current civil unrest on students, teachers, and schools in Sana'a is currently underway. According to the initial reports, in total 82 schools are reported to be attacked by armed forces or armed groups, out of which 54 schools are occupied by armed forces or armed groups, 21 schools were shelled, 7 schools are being used by military shelters and 3 children were killed in schools. Due to this, 2,259 children are not able to attend schools. The next phase will be verification.

Gaps & Constraints: There is a need for more systematic assessment of needs and quality and timely response across the sector.



GBV:

Needs/Situation: An increase in GB violence related to civil unrest has been reported by SAF. In the past two weeks, the deaths of women and children have been reported in Taiz and Sana'a. Three rape cases were also reported in Sana'a. Sexual harassment has increased due to the current situation.

Response: UNFPA with its partner Women National Committee are preparing for the 16 days of activism which will start on 25 November 2011, which marks the international day for the elimination of violence against women. Several awareness activities will be conducted through the media (TV, Radio and newspapers) while brochures and IEC materials will be distributed.

Gaps & Constraints: Coordination among all the stockholders, including relevant authorities, remains a challenge to GBV response. The availability of the data related to GBV and the reporting of the cases is another big challenge.



WATER SANITATION HYGIENE

Needs/Situation: Around 5,500 IDPs are living in caves, in 18 villages of Arhab district in Amran governorate suffering from cold and unhygienic condition, and at times relying on unsafe water sources. Solid waste disposal and vector control in the camps and other vulnerable locations needs attention. Sewerage system in Aden schools is at capacity, requiring greater attention. IDPs living in Aden schools will soon need cleaning materials, and a government organisation responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste is in need of support due to limited funds and human resources.

Response: An estimated 100,000 IDPs and host population received WASH support (25,000 in Haradh, 10,000 in Amran, 38,000 in Sada'a, 25,000 in Aden, Abyan and Lahj, and 2,500 in AlJawf). Work continued to combat Cholera and AWD-affected regions of Ibb and AIDhale. Response is on-going in Basatein and other pockets of Aden in support of the refugee population. A rapid facilities assessment of water and sanitation was conducted in two buildings, which may be used as alternatives schools in Aden. The buildings have capacity to accommodate 3000 students though requires construction of more than 20 latrines and rehabilitation of the eight existing latrines.

Operation and maintenance of existing pipeline networks and water trucking continued as normal. 21 sites were selected for water tank rehabilitation projects in 2 districts of Al Jawf Governorate. Provision of daily water supply continued for IDPs in Amran and Hajjah. Newly displaced Arhab IDPs were also reached through water supply in Amran.

IDPs were supported in maintaining existing latrines, both in camps in the north and schools occupied by IDPs in the south. In Haradh, latrines have been modified by replacing plastic sheets with mud walls to improve protection and sustainability.

Hygiene Awareness sessions were conducted in 5 districts of AlJawf, which was followed by distribution of hygiene kits and water filters to the most vulnerable; some received also soap and tooth brushes. 4,500 IDPs in Amran received hygiene awareness messages, and an improvement in hygiene practices has been

observed. Monthly consumable kits were distributed for 116 IDPs families in Transit camp. In Aden distribution of consumable materials for 984 households living in schools and 187 Hygiene Kits for the new arriving IDPs was carried out.

Gaps & Constraints: Some WASH activities in Sa'ada have been delayed over the past month following restrictions by Al Houthi and capacity constraints. Difficulties remain to finding alternative solutions that will enable relocation of IDPs from schools.



EARLY RECOVERY

Needs/Situation: The current situation has created livelihood hardships for large groups in conflict-affected areas. IDPs and host families both in the north and the south have lost their sources of income, and urgently need early recovery support to restore their livelihoods and be able to survive the current economic crisis.

Response: The Early Recovery Cluster has developed several projects to provide emergency livelihoods support, focusing on bridging the support package received through humanitarian agencies. Also included are projects on demining and removal of ERWs.

Gaps & Constraints: There are significant concerns regarding the funding of these projects and the ability to secure such funds in such a short time.



MULTI-SECTOR (REFUGEES/MIGRANTS)

Needs/Situation: Along Yemen's coasts, the number of refugees and migrants arriving by boat rose to 12,545 in October. This brought the total arrivals between January and November to 84,656 – higher than the previous annual record of 77,000 people in 2009.

Response: Refugees from Somalia continue to cite conflict, insecurity, drought and the resulting famine as the main factors driving them to leave their country. Most arrive in Yemen unaware of the situation there, where insecurity makes further movement difficult and risky. Most Ethiopians say they left home because of a lack of economic and livelihood opportunities, but some have indicated they feared persecution or insecurity in their regions of origin. As well as affecting refugees and migrants, the insecurity and fighting in many parts of Yemen also poses additional challenges and risks for partners and staff.

Gaps & Constraints: As far as refugees and migrants are concerned, there is an increasing trend of abductions, extortions, kidnappings and sexual assaults. While Somalis are automatically recognized as refugees upon arrival, many Ethiopians are taken by smugglers to other Gulf States or held for ransom before they can have any contact with authorities or UNHCR.

IV. Coordination

Plans to launch the 2012 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (Consolidated Appeal – CAP) in Geneva on 14 December are continuing.

Training on conducting rapid needs assessments was conducted in Sana'a, primarily for Taiz-based local NGOs. The training was based on a multi-sector assessment tool under development. The tool will be applied in a rapid assessment to be conducted of the humanitarian situation in Taiz later this month.

V. Funding

The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (CAP 2011) is 60% funded. A total of US\$ 173 million has been pledged thus far.

290 million
Requested (US\$)

60.1 %
Funded

Currently, coordination and support services are the best-funded

sectors (97%), with nutrition (72%), food and agriculture (70%), and WASH (72%) also well-funded.

A contribution of nearly USD 1 million has been made by the Government of Australia to the OCHA-administered Emergency Response Fund for Yemen.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS, <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing fts@un.org

VI. Contact

OCHA Yemen

Raul Rosende: Head of Office

Tel: +967 737 555 507, E-mail: rosende@un.org

OCHA New York

Ms. Signe Bendix Jepsen: Humanitarian Affairs Officer

Middle East and North Africa Desk

Coordination and Response Division

Tel: +1 (917) 367-2334, E-mail: jepsen@un.org

OCHA New York

Amanda Pitt: Spokesperson and Public Information Officer

Tel: +1 212 963 4129 E-mail: pitta@un.org

OCHA Geneva

Elisabeth Byrs: Spokesperson and Public Information Officer

Tel: +41 22 917 2653, E-mail: byrs@un.org

*For more information, please visit <http://unocha.romenaca.org/yemen>
To be added or deleted from this Sitrep mailing list, please email ogoso@un.org*