

*This report is produced with inputs from the Humanitarian Country Team in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Yemen country office. It covers the period from 7 October 2011 to 1 November 2011. The next report will be issued on or around 16 November 2011.*

## I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The Security Council condemned human rights violations by authorities and other actors in Yemen, calling for better access and more humanitarian assistance.
- Violence has continued in key cities across Yemen, including Sana'a and Taiz.
- Ongoing fighting in Abyan has sparked renewed displacement and growing humanitarian needs.
- During the reporting period, the deaths of 14 children were reported with a further 13 injured in fighting in Sana'a, Taiz, and Hadramout.
- Essential services in Sana'a and other urban centres continue to be severely disrupted.
- Many schools remain closed due to occupation by IDPs from Abyan, affecting over 100,000 children.
- Concerns over the accuracy of IDP figures in the south threaten to undermine operations.
- Final preparations for the 2012 CAP are underway which will reflect significant scaling up of humanitarian requirements.

## II. Situation Overview

The crisis in Yemen continued to deepen during the reporting period. Drawing attention to the deteriorating humanitarian situation, the Emergency Relief Coordinator issued a statement on 11 October, noting that: "In neighbouring Somalia, we have seen what happens if warnings go unheeded, and too little is done in time to stop a crisis" and calling for the international community not to "repeat the same mistake in Yemen." On 24 October, the Humanitarian Coordinator echoed these concerns at a donor briefing in Geneva. On 21 October 2011, the UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution condemning human rights violations by authorities and other actors in Yemen. The Council demanded that all sides immediately reject violence and called on them to commit to a peaceful transition of power. The resolution also encouraged the provision of humanitarian assistance in Yemen, while requesting all parties to ensure unhindered access for humanitarian assistance. Whilst continued efforts to find a political solution in Yemen are needed, it has become increasingly clear that, even if a political solution is found, it is unlikely to have a major impact on humanitarian needs over the coming months.

Violent clashes during demonstrations continued across much of Yemen during the reporting period, mostly centred in Sana'a and its outskirts (particularly Arhab), but also spreading to Taiz. Heavy fighting also reportedly continued in Abyan between Islamist militants and government forces, sparking new displacements.

Official statistics from the Ministry of Health and Population suggest that, between 18 September and 18 October the number of those killed as a result of civil unrest was 70 (59 in Sana'a and 11 in Taiz) and the number injured was 932 (830 in Sana'a and 102 in Taiz). According to the Government's IDP Executive Unit, more than 144,000 IDPs have been displaced in southern Yemen due to fighting in and around Abyan to date (see Table 1). This represents an increase of 62 per cent (54,964 individuals) compared to figures provided by UNHCR on 31 August. Despite clear increases in IDP arrivals, concerns have been expressed that these figures remain inflated and steps are underway to verify the number of IDPs.

**Table 1: IDPs numbers in Southern Yemen**

Governorate	Individuals	Percentage
Aden (in schools)	18,274	14%
Aden (out of schools)	73,658	49%
Lahj	20,802	15%
Abyan	27,014	19%
Shabwa	2,108	1.7%
Al Baida	959	0.7%
Hadramawt	1,233	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,048</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: IDP Executive Unit, 26 October 2011

Essential services in Sana'a – such as healthcare, electricity, water, and education – have been severely disrupted or entirely suspended over recent weeks. Roadblocks, street-closures, and general insecurity have impeded the provision of assistance by first aid and medical teams. Ongoing violence has meant that some international aid workers continue to remain outside the country for security reasons. The latest round of social protection monitoring found that food security and malnutrition indicators remained alarming. The number of households that reported at least one member going to bed hungry was highest in Sana'a at 68 per cent. More than half (53 per cent) of children in Sana'a also expressed fear at playing outside. Hygiene practices also remained a major concern both in urban and rural areas, where only 59 per cent and 35 per cent of households reported having enough water for hand washing, respectively.

Since the outbreak of violence in Taiz, the humanitarian situation in the city has worsened. Fighting has hindered access to basic services, including the interruption of primary health care programmes. A rapid assessment conducted from 10 to 24 October found that access to food, health services, clean water and livelihoods had been seriously impacted by the ongoing violence. Over 5,000 individuals were reported to have been displaced in Taiz, according to the assessment, including 15 per cent who had fled from Abyan and 5 per cent from Sana'a. 72 per cent of those displaced were living with friends and relatives, while the remaining 28 per cent were renting homes. The assessment also found that all of the displaced had lost their livelihoods, with few prospects of finding alternative sources of income. 12 per cent of IDPs were reported to be suffering injuries and unable to access health services, while 60 per cent of the children, 35 per cent of the women, and 15 per cent of the men displaced expressed that they were suffering psychosocial impacts as a result of the fighting.

A rapid assessment was conducted in Hadramawt, where an estimated 400 to 500 families have been displaced from fighting in Abyan. Priorities identified by IDPs included food, NFIs, educational materials, and rent for accommodation.

With growing demands on scarce resources, tensions between IDPs and host communities have increased. Fighting between IDPs and the host community in Hajjah on 28 October led to the killing of one woman and her daughter, with several others reported injured. Security forces prevented further violence whilst 100 families were reported to have sought protection in a neighbouring camp. In Aden, two attacks by local residents were reported on schools in which displaced families are located. The situation has reportedly calmed following mediation by local leaders.

A tropical storm has formed off the southern coast of Oman and is forecast to move west, striking Yemen's southern coast in the coming days.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

#### EDUCATION

**Needs/Situation:** Displacement continues in the south where IDPs are currently staying in schools in Aden, Lahj, and Abyan, preventing children from resuming their education. As a result, school attendance rates are currently around 54 per cent. Sewage and latrine facilities in occupied schools have been flooded due to heavy use. It is also estimated that 6,000 children displaced from Abyan to Aden are not receiving any education. In Abyan, all 21 schools in Zinjibar and 22 out of 72 schools in Khanfar are being utilized as shelters by IDP families. The majority of teachers have left the two districts and relocated to Aden and Lahj as IDPs. 5,000 IDP children are estimated to have been displaced to Lahj and are presently out of school.

**Response:** Authorities in Aden are identifying new sites on which to erect temporary tents for schooling or onto which to relocate those displaced to free up schools. Authorities have been offered tents to be used as classrooms, and other options are being explored for providing alternative locations for schooling or for relocating IDPs. Some schools which are not occupied by the displaced are working double shifts to absorb students from occupied schools. In some cases students have been shifted to vacant buildings in the same area. Work on the Back to School campaign continues, despite the small number of public schools that are currently operational.

**Gaps & Constraints:** The estimated number of occupied schools by IDPs in Aden and Lahj is 116 (77 in Aden and 39 in Lahj). Approximately 104,555 children have been affected. Out of the 116 schools, alternative education spaces were found for 45 occupied schools in Aden and 24 occupied schools in Lahj, benefitting a

student population of 61,033. Discussions are underway on alternative learning spaces for 10 additional schools in Aden and 2 schools in Lahj with a total student population of 11,612. There is currently no viable solution for 22 schools in Aden and 13 schools in Lahj, with total number of 31,910 students, yet a task force is collecting data on affected students and is in discussion on alternative solutions.



## SHELTER, NON FOOD ITEMS (NFIS), CCCM

**Needs/Situation:** A rapid assessment conducted by a local partner in parts of Taiz and Arhab in Sana'a Governorate identified an urgent need for a humanitarian response to address health, food, water, shelter and NFIs. A follow up rapid assessment is planned in the coming weeks in Taiz.

**Response:** Distributions of non-food items to newly and previously registered IDPs in Aden have continued. A temporary solution for some students unable to return to school in Aden was found through the provision of tents as temporary classrooms.

**Gaps and Constraints:** The planned relocation of IDPs from al Mazrak camp 2 to 3 was postponed due to a shortage of food to support those being moved. Alternative shelter solutions for 18,274 IDPs occupying public schools in Aden are still pending.



## FOOD

**Needs/Situation:** Prior to the current unrest, 32 per cent of the population was food insecure. The current crisis has most likely increased food insecurity countrywide. Since January 2011, food prices have increased by an average of 46 per cent. Assessments and surveys conducted in recent months have shown that some Yemenis have resorted to drastic measures such as skipping meals and other negative coping strategies.

**Response:** Food distributions continue in both northern and southern Yemen. The second phase of the Emergency Safety Net (ESN) programme has begun, providing seasonal assistance to 1.3m food insecure people (up from 1.1m previously) in the eight most food insecure governorates. This phase marks the first such assistance to al Baida, Mahweet, and Taiz. Food aid has resumed in the north to 385,000 people following improved access resulting from negotiations with al Houthi. A voucher programme to 1,400 families has just been completed in Sa'ada, providing vouchers which can be redeemed for food in local markets. Families displaced from fighting in Arhab have received food assistance, and planning is underway to support those displaced who remain in Arhab. The cluster is gearing up to provide agricultural and livestock support to 5,000 people with the upcoming planting season. A number of new actors have joined the cluster in the build-up to the 2012 CAP, responding to food needs among both those displaced as well as chronic nationwide food insecurity. Planning is underway for the Comprehensive Food Security Strategy (CFSS), which will cover 20 governorates to provide a comprehensive picture of food security nationwide, including nutritional and anthropometric data. Additionally the CFSS will look at broader vulnerability indicators of relevance to multiple clusters in order to inform programming modalities for 2012.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Some delays in implementing the ESN in the 8 governorates were faced due to security concerns, but are expected to be overcome shortly. Assistance to the Haradh IDP camps was temporarily suspended due to a seasonal infestation of stores. Following fumigation, distributions will resume.



## NUTRITION

**Needs/Situation:** A nutrition assessment carried out during September in Abyan found that rates of global acute malnutrition (GAM) among IDPs under 5 were at 18.6 per cent - well above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent and more than three times the GAM rate identified in 2009's Comprehensive Food Security Survey in Abyan (5.8 per cent). This suggests that a combination of displacement, food shortages, the collapse of health and nutrition services, the fuel crisis, and constrained humanitarian access are driving up levels of malnutrition. A nutrition and mortality survey for under 5s is currently taking place in Hodeida governorate.

**Response:** Some cluster partners have suspended operations in Sa'ada due to insecurity, creating gaps in program delivery. Cluster partners are in the process of finalising integrated response plans in 3 districts in Hajjah governorate, in collaboration with different sectors and partners. Nutrition operations are ongoing in Amran, Hajjah, Aden, and Lahj. Training of volunteers on MUAC screening took place in Amran. Two OTP

mobile teams in Lahj and Aden are continuing to provide services to malnourished children under 5, reaching 1,044 children between 1 to 25 October, including 89 cases of SAM and 217 MAM. In Aden from 1 to 20 October 877 IDPs were treated, including 52 SAM cases and 155 MAM. Discussions are ongoing with MoPH on the expansion of MAM-targeting programmes and with international actors regarding the extension of BSFP U5 for IDPs displaced within Abyan.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Partial response suspension in Saada, impeding delivery of humanitarian assistance. Due to the security situation there remains no access to Abyan for nutrition partners.



## HEALTH

**Needs/Situation:** There has been a dramatic decrease in the number of acute watery diarrhea cases in Abyan and alDhale governorates. Immunisation coverage across the country remains a concern due to disruption or cessation of basis services.

**Response:** Mobile health teams are continuing to provide services to IDPs in Aden, Lahij, and Abyan, including the provision of reproductive health and family planning services and the screening of malnutrition using the MUAC for under 5s. Ambulance services have continued to operate in Aden. Activities in Aden and Lahij are ongoing, combating acute watery diarrhea in the two governorates through training workshops aimed at healthcare workers. Health outreach activities have been conducted, including for measles and vitamin A for all children under 5 in Abyan. Life-saving and essential drugs and surgical equipment have been provided to a medical post in Abyan, which is temporarily replacing alRazi Hospital. The provision of health cards for IDPs is ongoing, and a hot line for IDPs has been opened. Preparation for a second round of an immunisation campaign of all antigens and vitamin A supplementation is underway in Sa'ada, due to start in mid-November. Preparations are also ongoing for a third round of integrated outreach activities across the country, with some governorates having already started. A house-to-house polio NIDs is also planned for 14 to 16 November, for which preparatory work has begun.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Although all essential drugs are being provided free of charge, IDPs are having to bear up to half the cost of healthcare, in particular for non-essential drugs.



## LOGISTICS

**Response:** A new customs agreement is being negotiated to expedite the import, export, and transit of relief consignments and possessions of relief personnel in the event of disasters and emergencies.



## PROTECTION

**Needs/Situation:** During the past weeks, protection-monitoring teams have focused on the registration of new arrivals in the south, in addition to the monitoring and response to protection incidents. A slight increase in the overall number of IDPs in schools was noted, however this is believed to be due not to new displacement but rather movement from host communities to schools, possibly encouraged by a rumour that IDPs in schools would receive a cash grant. Increasing incidents between IDPs in schools and the host community have been witnessed recently. The protection cluster will continue to monitor and report on these tensions.

**Response:** A community centre has opened in the south and has received its first cases. Protection monitoring teams have identified protection incidents, referring them to legal and psychosocial counselors or other partners, as appropriate. Profiling teams are beginning fieldwork, covering Aden and later on Lahj and Abyan also. In Harad 6,020 Ethiopian migrants have been assisted with voluntary return assistance since November 2010. An assessment mission will be facilitated with Ethiopian and Yemeni authorities to document a further 1,400 who have requested support for repatriation. Additionally, 10 highly vulnerable migrants were assisted with repatriation this week.

**Gaps & Constraints:** The IDP Executive Unit resumed registrations of those displaced in the south, yet there are some concerns as to the accuracy of these numbers, particularly in host families. An advisory body has been formed to identify the best approach to ensure accurate figures in the future. Funding used for voluntary returns of stranded migrants has been depleted, yet there is the expectation of additional funding to support ongoing operations.


**CHILD PROTECTION**

**Needs/Situation:** During the reporting period 5 children were reportedly killed in Taiz due to shelling, with a further 9 children killed and 13 reported injured in Sana'a, Taiz, and Hadramout due to fighting. Reports suggest that more than 50 schools have been occupied by armed forces and armed groups, about 80 schools have been forced to close due to security concerns, and two schools in Taiz were attacked by armed forces. Instability and conflict has led to a breakdown in public services, which in turn has caused increased hardships in many households – particularly in urban centres – leaving children exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation. Furthermore, some children have been taken out of schools and have been engaging in child labour in order to help their families cope financially. In the conflict-affected northern governorates, 29% of interviewed children have worked for pay. The initial results of the conflict impact assessment in Al-Jawf indicate that 35.5% of families are sending children out to work. 40% of children at the Protection Centre in Haradh have claimed that it was economic hardship that has led to them attempting to cross the border into Saudi Arabia. Smuggling and trafficking of children, mainly boys, has become an increasing concern for child protection. Amongst girls, early marriage is becomingly more problematic as families see this as a coping mechanism whereby families receive financial compensation.

**Response:** In total 14,878 children were provided with psychosocial support through recreational, sports, and education activities in Sana'a, Hajjah, Sa'ada, Amran, Aden, and Lahj.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Obtaining reliable statistics on IDP figures from the Executive Unit remains a challenge. Children continue to be affected by the violence. The disruption of schooling is further negatively impacting children's psychosocial wellbeing.


**GBV**

**Needs/Situation:** An increase in violence related to civil unrest has been reported by one partner at 28%, constituting 7,168 cases. A number of cases have been reported of kidnapping of women who have been active in political demonstrations, who have reportedly been subjected to gender based violence.

**Response:** GBV-awareness activities have been conducted in Taiz, with health workers trained on the identification of GBV cases in Lahj and Aden.

**Gaps & Constraints:** The deterioration of security in Sana'a and Taiz is affecting the delivery of GBV interventions and leading to an increase in the violence, mainly in Sana'a and Taiz. The sub-cluster will continue to monitor GBV cases and provide support when needed, yet the lack of financial resources is proving to be a key challenge.


**WATER SANITATION HYGIENE**

**Needs/Situation:** 67 schools have been assessed and a rapid assessment will be conducted of the remaining 9 schools. A rapid assessment for WASH facilities was carried out at the 10 proposed locations for IDP relocation in Aden. Preparations are underway to conduct a WASH assessment in the south during the coming week. There remains a threat of increasing incidences of AWD and cholera in Aden, Lahj, Abyan, alDhale, Taiz, and Ibb.

**Response:** In northern Yemen Global Hand Washing Day was held, raising awareness of good hygiene practices and distributing hygiene items. The distribution of water filters and hygiene kits has begun in Sa'ada, and construction has begun on water tanks in 15 schools to provide clean water to 5,323 students. Ongoing WASH activities in the south include the distribution of water through water trucking, installation of water points, construction and maintenance of latrines, hygiene promotion and the distribution of basic and consumable hygiene kits. In an effort to reduce AWD and cholera, chlorine tablets have been distributed. Plans are underway to provide or rehabilitate latrines to facilitate the relocation of IDPs or to allow for the resumption of schooling. Rehabilitation work is ongoing of facilities in two hospitals in Aden and Lahj to better equip them to address cases of AWD and cholera. Monitoring and surveillance of wells with poor water quality will be undertaken to limit the spread of cholera and AWD.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Access remains an issue in both the north and south. Power outages regularly disrupt water and sewerage systems. The increased cost of fuel has directly affected WASH services, for example through water trucking becoming more expensive. There is a need for more water trucking to new IDPs in

Arhab. The high numbers of IDPs in Aden were unexpected, and as such the sewerage system in Aden is unable to adequately cope. There remains a lack of awareness regarding personal hygiene among some IDPs, observed cluster members. WASH facilities in some planned relocation sites for IDPs were determined to be inadequate. Following the ending of a project by one cluster member, there is a gap in terms of provision of cleaning materials to schools in Aden which is planned to be filled by another partner.



## MULTI-SECTOR REFUGEES

**Needs/Situation:** Yemen continued to receive mixed migration movements from the Horn of Africa, reaching some 80,000 by October 2011. Conflict, drought, human rights violations, and poverty in the Somalia and the Horn of Africa are the main drivers of movement. Ongoing civil unrest continued to affect livelihoods, leading to increased vulnerability among refugees and asylum seekers.

**Response:** UNHCR continues to provide reception, profiling, and transportation for new arrivals in coastal areas, and provides increased financial assistance to affected refugees and asylum seekers in urban areas.

**Gaps & Constraints:** The deteriorating security situation in the south has affected the movement of refugees and mixed migrants, jeopardising the effective delivery of services. Counseling, monitoring and processing asylum claims in Aden remains difficult due to restriction of movement. Capacity of implementing partners and resources to respond to the emergency needs of affected refugees in urban areas – mainly in Sana'a – remains a challenge.

## IV. Coordination

Preparations for the 2012 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (Consolidated Appeal – CAP) continue. On 29 October donors were briefed on the overall CAP strategy, budget, and specific cluster strategies and partners. The next steps are to finalise the overall strategy and specific cluster plans during the coming week in preparation for the CAP launch on 14 December in Geneva. A significant increase in the CAP 2012 is expected, reflecting dramatic increases in scale of needs and the targeted number of beneficiaries.

The 2012 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan will be informed by three Humanitarian Emergency Response Plans. The Northern Response Plan (Amran, Hajjah, alJawf, Marib, and Sana'a governorates) and the Southern Response Plan (Abyan, Lahj, Aden, Shabwah, Taiz, and al Dhalegovernorates) have already been completed. A third Response Plan for the Central and Western region is being finalised.

A joint information management project to support clusters will begin this week, with the aim of developing an information management and sharing platform for each cluster. The system is intended to facilitate timely access to relevant information, enabling agencies to respond more quickly to crises and monitor what other agencies are doing in order to avoid duplication.

In light of continued security constraints for UN agencies, creative ways to sustain coordination will need to be developed.

## V. Funding

The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (CAP 2011) is currently 60% funded (US\$ 173 million).

**290 million**  
requested (US\$)

**60 %**  
funded

Two proposals are currently being reviewed for the ERF. The first aims to contribute to protecting food security and providing thermal comfort for displaced and conflict-affected communities in Arhab through the provision of food supplies and non food items. A second project also seeks to respond to emergency shelter and non-food item needs in Arhab for communities affected by recent fighting.

*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](mailto:fts@un.org)*

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