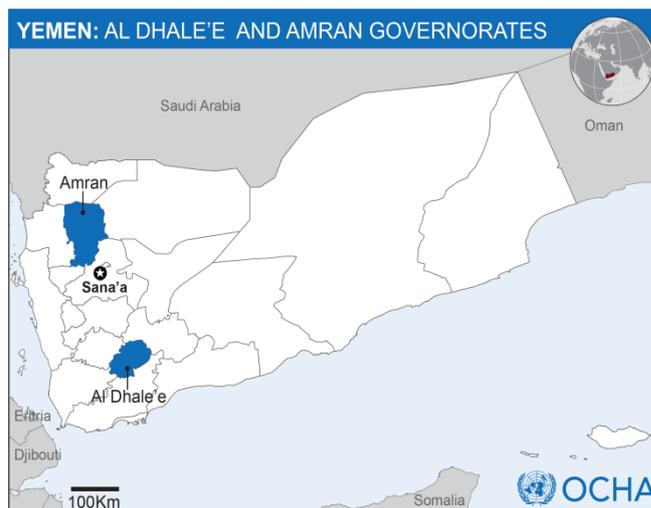




This report is produced by OCHA Yemen in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 28 February to 17 March 2014. This is the last Situation Report in this series. Future reporting on the situation in Al Dhale'e and Amran will be available in the monthly Humanitarian Bulletin and Humanitarian Dashboard as required.

Highlights

- Fighting between Government forces and armed groups subsided in Al Dhale'e over the past week. A Presidential mediation committee has been working to engage armed groups on the ground.
- Protection of civilians remains a major concern in Al Dhale'e, where the crisis has seen widespread abuse of civilians, including women and children, by parties to the conflict. Unexploded ordnances reportedly detonated in Lakamat Salah area last week, injuring five people.
- Humanitarian access to Al Dhale'e remains limited. On 26 February, the Government and UN agreed in principle to an inter-agency assessment mission to Al Dhale'e city. Partners have not yet received final authorization to conduct this mission.
- Last week, clashes in Hamdan district of Sana'a Governorate erupted after Al-Houthis attempted to seize control of the road linking Sana'a to Amran. A truce has reportedly restored calm to the area.
- Some 33,300 newly displaced people have been registered for assistance in Amran and Sana'a since the latest round of violence began in October 2013. Of these registrations, about 20,000 internally displaced people have been verified in both locations, of whom nearly 13,500 have been assisted.



Source: OCHA Yemen
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

600,000

Total population in conflict-affected areas of Amran Governorate*

75,000

Estimated number of people displaced inside Amran Governorate**

13,500

Number of new IDPs from Amran reached with food and NFI assistance

45,000

Estimated population living in conflict-affected villages of Al Dhale'e and in need of aid***

8,000

Estimated number of displaced people from Al Dhale'e Governorate****

* Out of a total population of 949,185. Included districts are: Amran, Raydah, Khamir, Al Ashah, Al Qallah, Kharif, Huth, Harf Sufyan, Jabal Iyal Yazid and Bani Suraim. ** Includes some 44,000 people displaced prior to 2011, and some 31,215 displaced people registered since October 2013. *** Out of a total population of 631,975. Included are 24 villages from conflict affected areas in the Ad Dhale'e and Al-Hussein districts of Ad Dhale'e Governorate. ****The fluidity of the displacement and lack of access is hindering identification of newly internally displaced people. Source: iMAPP population project 2013, based on data from the Central Statistical Office.

Situation Overview

Al Dhale'e Governorate

Relative calm returned to Al Dhale'e last week, although clashes were reported in the previous week. The lull in fighting allowed some civilians to flee to Zinjibar district in Abyan Governorate, where a field visit found 120 people (17 families) living with host families, mainly in Zinjibar city. Partners have completed a draft three-month inter-agency action plan for Al Dhale'e that prioritizes life-saving activities. Aid agencies estimate that up to 45,000 people may need emergency assistance, including clean water, food and health care. The final version of the three-month action plan is expected in the coming days.

Protection of civilians remains a major concern in Al Dhale'e, where the crisis has led to widespread abuses – including against women and children – by all conflict parties. Humanitarian access remains limited. Although the Government and UN agreed to an inter-agency assessment on 26 February, final Government clearance for the mission remains pending. Initial assessment findings from three conflict-affected villages indicate that many

displaced people are living with family or friends. IDPs continue to move to and from “areas of safety” and within conflict-affected communities, particularly in Al Dhale'e city.

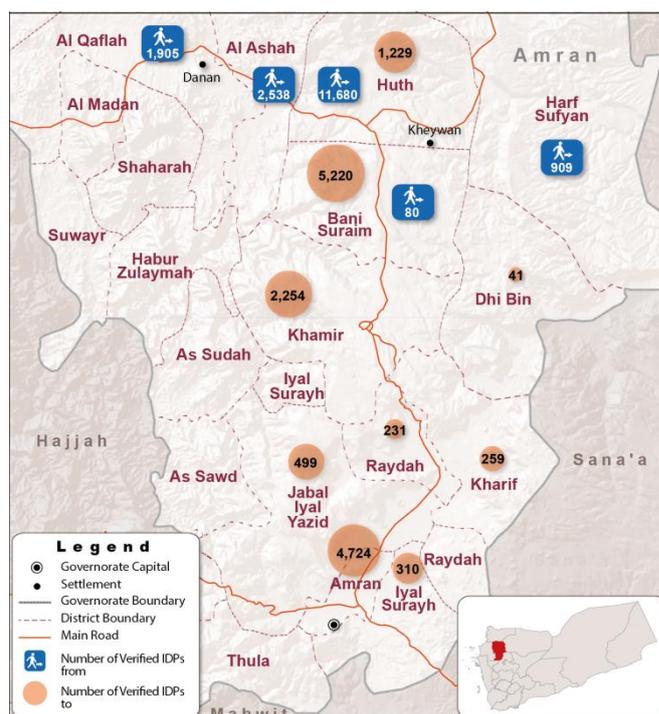
Amran Governorate

Al Houthi demonstrations in Amran city took place peacefully on 14 March, despite earlier fears that they could turn violent. Families who had fled the city ahead of the demonstrations have reportedly returned to their homes, but tensions remain.

Serious protection concerns persist in Amran, and registration of new IDPs continues. To date, the Government's IDP Executive Unit has registered over 33,000 IDPs from Amran since October 2013, including 31,215 in Amran Governorate and over 2,200 in Sana'a. Of this total, 20,033 have been verified as IDPs (17,903 in Amran and 2,130 in Sana'a). More could be on the move, given limited information and reluctance of some IDPs to seek assistance. UN workers returning to Amran from Sana'a to conduct rapid assessments were turned away at a tribal road block on 9 March, and access remains problematic. An inter-agency needs assessment for the southern conflict-affected districts is planned the week of 16 March.

Food aid and non-food items have so far reached 13,482 newly displaced people: 11,354 in Amran Governorate and 2,128 in Sana'a. Food assistance remains an immediate priority to save lives, but strengthening livelihood opportunities for conflict-affected and displaced people is vital to combating long-term consequences of the conflict.

Overview of recent displacement in Amran Governorate



Source: Data from cluster assessments consolidated by OCHA Yemen

Funding

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) has prioritized funding for projects in Amran Governorate due to the recent crisis. As of 17 March, the ERF had approved US\$1.35 million in funding for national organizations supporting displaced people and host communities. These projects aim to assist 137,120 people.

If additional funding is required, the ERF will also support response efforts in Al Dhale'e when access allows.

Humanitarian Response

Access restrictions complicate efforts to collect information on humanitarian needs across all clusters. Planned assessments in Al Dhale'e and Amran will improve the accuracy of information and better inform planning and response efforts. Sources of all information are the clusters unless otherwise indicated.

Education

Needs:

- Displaced and conflict-affected children in Amran and Al Dhale'e lack access to basic education.
- Many education facilities in Amran have been damaged by conflict, with at least six schools identified as needing renovation.
- Unexploded ordnances (UXOs) pose a serious danger to children in conflict-affected communities Amran.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Many education facilities are not operational in Amran and Al Dhale'e.
- Ongoing conflict prevents humanitarian partners from accessing affected areas and blocks children from education facilities.



Food Security

Needs:

- An estimated 45,000 vulnerable conflict-affected people in Al Dhale'e need food assistance.
- In Amran, 15,000 newly displaced people need food support.

Response:

- In Al-Dhale'e, WFP is verifying food assistance needs of 15,000 households. Distributions will begin when the verification is completed and will include IDPs, host communities and conflict-affected people.
- In Amran, partners are conducting a one-time food distribution to verified recent IDPs. As of 9 March, 13,482 beneficiaries had received assistance.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Insecurity hinders food distributions outside Amran city, forcing displaced people to travel long distances to Amran to collect their rations. Distance to distribution points is of concern particularly for vulnerable households, such as those headed by women, the elderly or young adults.
- Protection for women and children as they travel long distances to access assistance remains a humanitarian concern.



Health

Needs:

- Health facilities in conflict-affected areas of Amran lack essential drugs and medical supplies.
- Health facilities in conflict-affected districts in northern Amran Governorate - particularly in Al Qaflah and Harf Sufyan – require renovation.

Response:

- Health centres in Khaiwan and Huth (Amran Governorate) received essential and emergency medicines able to cover the needs of 6,000 people for one month.
- The Health Cluster is providing basic essential drugs and equipment to Al Dhale'e hospital. The hospital ambulance is operational.
- MSF-France is supporting Khamer hospital and Huth health centre in Amran Governorate. As of 2 March, 4,000 cases had been received in the Emergency Room in 2014, of which 759 patients were admitted to hospital.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Humanitarian access both for rapid assessments and response remains a challenge in Al Dhale'e.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Cases of moderate and severe acute malnutrition have most likely emerged as a result of the conflicts in Amran and Al Dhale'e, although precise figures are not currently available. Based on prior experiences, malnutrition cases typically emerge within a month of conflict. For both Amran and Al Dhale'e governorates, displacement has been going on for longer than one month.
- Cluster partners are preparing to conduct a rapid nutrition assessment in the affected districts of Al Dhale'e.

Response:

- In Al Dhale'e District, Al-Nasr Hospital's therapeutic feeding centre for severe acute malnutrition is functioning, but is not receiving referral cases due to people's fears that the hospital could be bombed.
- Supplies for treatment of acute malnutrition are pre-positioned in the warehouse of the Amran district health office.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Service coverage in Dhale'e is very low due to prevailing insecurity.

**Needs:**

- Protection of the civilian population in Al-Dhale'e remains a major point of concern.
- Women and children are particularly vulnerable to protection violations, including gender-based violence (GBV).

Response:

- Verification of IDPs continues, which will help to establish needs among the displaced people in Amran.
- Mine risk education continues in seven districts in Amran Governorate, targeting 24,000 children. Targeted districts are: Amran, Bani Suraim, Habur Zulaymah, Harf Sufyan, Huth, Al Ashah and Al Qafalah.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Inaccessibility to affected populations by humanitarian agencies in Al-Dhale'e remains a major constraint. This limits cluster partners' ability to conduct rapid assessments, monitor protection concerns and deliver assistance.

**Shelter and Non-food items****Needs:**

- 17,903 newly displaced people in Amran need assistance with basic household items such as cooking sets, sleeping mats and mattresses. Shelter needs persist in inaccessible areas of southern Amran.

Response:

- As of 28 February, partners in Amran had provided assistance (shelter and NFIs) to over 9,900 people.
- Current NFI distributions are targeting 890 households in the Ashah, Qafalah and Khaiwan areas of Amran.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Insecurity hinders the supply chain of non-food items to Amran, thus limiting the quantities available for distribution. Distributions were suspended last week due to security concerns along the Amran-Sana'a road.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)****Needs:**

- People living in inaccessible areas of southern Amran need hygiene kits.
- In Al-Dhale'e, WASH needs remain high, but access constraints have prevented concrete assessments.

Response:

- In Amran, 615 households received hygiene kits and water filters.

General Coordination

Al Dhale'e Governorate

Coordination in Al Dhale'e is supported by the OCHA sub-office in Aden, sub-national clusters and cluster-lead agencies. Clusters are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to coordinate the verification of needs, numbers of affected people and response efforts.

Amran Governorate

Coordination in Amran is supported by the OCHA sub-office in Sa'ada and the country office in Sana'a, in close cooperation with sub-national and national clusters, and cluster-lead agencies. To strengthen coordination of assessment and response, cluster lead agencies (UNHCR, WFP) and OCHA have bolstered their presence in Amran city. Agencies and partners are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to coordinate the verification of needs, numbers of affected people and response efforts. As displacement conditions persist, partners in the life-saving clusters (WASH, Health, Food, Protection, and Nutrition) agreed to re-evaluate pipelines and pre-positioning levels of core supplies. Coordination with relevant Government departments, the IDP Executive Unit and local authorities needs strengthening.

Background on the crisis

Al Dhale'e

In mid-December 2013, the Hirak Taqrer Al-Masir Movement (HATM, "Movement of Self-Determination for the South") attacked a military checkpoint at the entrance to Al Dhale'e city in Al Dhale'e Governorate. This incident sparked conflict between the Movement and Government forces. Fighting has since intensified. Reports have emerged of indiscriminate shelling in Al Dhale'e city, including shelling of civilian infrastructure such as health, education and water facilities. These attacks reportedly led to displacement and civilian deaths, including women and children. Patterns of displacement are fluid and depend on several factors, including whether people are fleeing villages or cities, the nature of threats against people, and people's options to seek safety. Humanitarian Country Team members have been trying to access Al Dhale'e both from the Sana'a and Aden to conduct a needs assessment. As of 16 March, access had not been granted due to security concerns.

Amran

An estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people have been displaced by conflict within Amran Governorate since October 2013. Over 20,000 people have reportedly reached Amran city, while thousands have sought shelter in other areas. On 30 January, new clashes between the Hashid tribes and Al-Houthis took place, causing a new wave of displacement. The renewed fighting led to secondary displacement of a large number of people displaced at the end of 2013. Dozens of people have been reported killed and others injured. On 6 February, a mediation team led by the Governor of Sana'a facilitated a truce between the fighting parties. Displacement of people within Amran Governorate has occurred several times over the last 10 years. While some people have returned to their areas of origin, many remain displaced and depend on humanitarian assistance. Within the Governorate, another 40,000 people were displaced prior to 2011 and depend on food assistance.

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An Arabic version of this report will be available in the coming days at: <http://yemen.humanitarianresponse.info>