

15 July 2012. Next Report: August

## UNICEF Yemen Situation Report

### Reporting period: June 2012

#### **Highlights:**

- Findings from SMART nutrition survey in Hajjah governorate show level of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in the Mountainous Zone at 9.3%, while in the Lowland Zone the rate was 21.6% – a ‘critical’ rate according to WHO categorization.
- UNICEF in partnership with Ministry of Public Health and Population and WHO conducted polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) on 11-13 June, achieving a reported 98% national coverage. A recent UNICEF-WHO mission found that the outbreak may have been successfully interrupted with the latest vaccination campaigns.
- UNICEF Mid-Year revised humanitarian appeal calls for US\$ 80.7 million, an increase of 63% in needs from January 2012.
- On 12 June, the 2012 Annual Report of the Secretary General on “Children and Armed Conflict” was released. This resulted in the addition of the Yemeni armed forces and the First Armoured Division as parties that use and recruit children.
- The situation of schools is considered to be particularly serious in Zinjibar and Khanfar in the southern governorate of Abyan, with 52 schools reported to have been occupied by Ansar Al-Shari’a, 26 of which have been attacked.



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Abyan displaced children play games at a temporary UNICEF child-friendly space built in a school housing dozens of IDPs in Aden.

## Inter-Agency Collaboration, Coordination, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships

### Nutrition cluster

- Two life-saving nutrition projects for Hodeidah to be implemented by SOUL and Vision Hope have been approved by the cluster for ERF funding; one project (SOUL) is already funded while the other is still under review.
- Twenty three officers from government, NGO partners and UN agencies were trained on SMART survey methodology, bringing the total number of officers in Yemen with SMART expertise to 48.
- Following up on the SMART survey findings in Taiz and Haradh, multi-sectoral integrated planning sessions are being finalised. Sessions were held with participation of government and cluster partners and from other sectors including Food and WASH.

### WASH cluster

- WASH cluster response plan was finalised, and 32 CAP projects (total value US\$ 58 million) were reviewed and uploaded in CAP online project system.
- WASH cluster partners plans were reviewed in Hodeidah during WASH cluster lead visit.
- Regional Cluster Advisor visited Yemen to review cluster proceedings.
- Key actors and donors met to brain storm on WASH scenarios, and decided that the high level Water sector working group shall be merged with the WASH cluster strategic advisory group.

### Education cluster

- The Aden education sub-cluster met twice to harmonize the Governorate Office response plan with the UN OCHA Humanitarian response plan. Participants committed to carrying out a technical assessment for all affected schools in Abyan to determine sector needs. This will make schools better prepared for the new school year.
- An Education sub-cluster meeting was held in Haradh, as part of an on-going effort to enhance coordination between the District Education Office and sub-cluster members on provision of extra learning activities. Updates were provided on the support to the new Hajjah IDPs and final exams results of Haradh district and IDP schools.

### Child Protection sub-cluster

- A Child Protection sub-cluster (CPSC) meeting was held where members were briefed on progress made so far on the Mid-Year Review for CP CAP 2012; feedback was provided on the reporting modality using the standard reporting format to improve quality of reports. In addition, results of the Education/Child Protection Assessment carried out in 154 schools in Sana'a governorate were shared. The members will develop a child protection response plan for the most affected schools in consultation with the Ministry of Education.
- Three sub-national Child Protection Working Groups (CPWG) meetings were also held. In Aden two meetings were convened where the main focus was on developing the CP dimension of the Abyan response plan. In Taiz, a CPWG meeting finalized the terms of reference for the working group and updated progress on CP response. Many members also stressed the importance of summer activities in schools to help prevent children from engaging in harmful practices such as drugs, which are seen as becoming increasingly popular.

## UNICEF Response

As part of the Mid Year Review of the Consolidated Appeal for Yemen, UNICEF's estimated revised humanitarian needs total \$80.7 million, an increase of 63% from January 2012. All details pertaining to the specific projects are uploaded on the OPS. Attached is a two pager summary of needs per sector.

### Nutrition

- As of June 2012 a total of 1000 health staff from 16 governorates have been trained on management of children with severe acute malnutrition.
- Integrated multi-sectoral nutrition response plans for Taiz and Hajjah are being finalised through a participatory process involving the local administration, NGOs, UN agencies and government counterparts from Ministry of Health, Water and Agriculture.
- SMART survey in Hajjah was finalised. Findings show level of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in the Mountainous Zone was 9.3%, while in the Lowland Zone the rate was 21.6%, which is 'critical' according to WHO categorization. No significant improvement from the 2011 survey.
- Implementation of the integrated multi-sectoral response plan is on-going in Hodeidah, with over sixty community volunteers trained on the integrated nutrition package.
- Sufficient nutrition supplies are in country and in the pipeline till end of Q3 2012.

## Health

- UNICEF in partnership with Ministry of Public Health and Population and WHO conducted polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) on 11-13 June, achieving a reported 98% national coverage.
- Fewer measles cases were reported in June, with zero deaths.
- A post cVDPV (circulating vaccine derived polio virus) outbreak response assessment was undertaken by UNICEF and WHO. The assessment confirmed that circulation of VDPV last reported in October 2011 may have been interrupted through three campaigns in December 2011, January, March/April and June 2012 that included oral polio vaccine. Of the children who missed vaccination in the combined measles - polio - vitamin A campaign in March 2012, 25% were due to refusals.

## WASH

- *Aden governorate*: Over 2,210 families continued to benefit from hygiene promotion and maintenance of WASH facilities in 29 schools.
- Due to water shortage in four main Aden districts (Malla, Tawahi, Crater and Mansoor), 1,255 families (5,274 men and women and 2,087 children) benefitted from water trucking at an average of 15 litres/capita/day.
- *Abyan governorate*: In Modieah, Lowder and Al-Mahfeed districts 941 families (6,587 individuals) benefitted from water trucking by UNICEF partner CSSW.
- *Haradh (Hajjah governorate)*: 377 family latrines were constructed for 2,639 IDPs in Al-Mazraq settlement 2 and around camp 1, raising the total number of people benefiting from sanitation services in Haradh to 29,635 IDPs including 8,793 in Al-Khamisein area. 3,000 basic hygiene kits and 3,000 ceramic water filters were delivered to Relief International (RI) in Haradh to be distributed in Bakeel Al-Meer and Mustaba districts as a part of the nutrition project cooperation between UNICEF and RI. Nineteen 2000 litre water storage tanks were installed to serve 2,952 people and 200 school children in Haradh and Al-Khamisein area.
- *Sa'ada governorate*: After a long delay, UNICEF through the Al-Amal NGO managed to distribute ceramic water filters to 2077 families in three districts of Sa'ada (Sa'ada city, Alsaфра and Sahar), improving water quality.
- *Amran and Arhab*: Continued to supply water with average of 15 litre /capita/day for 11,152 IDPs (2,986 children).

## Education

- A workshop on out of school children held in Sana'a was attended by 40 educationists from Adult Education and Literacy Organization, Ministry of Education, Education Research and Development Centre, Sana'a University, Social Fund for Development and NGOs. The workshop shared information on the problem of out of school children, developed guidelines for future work, and agreed on implementation steps to pilot programs for out of school children. Those guidelines will be shared with governorates where the programs will be piloted by September 2012.
- In Taiz, 857 school children (444 M, 413 F) are receiving catch up lessons (maths, physics, etc), recreational activities and life skills (self-esteem, communication, effective studying, decision-taking, etc) and child rights awareness. These children are from conflict-affected schools in three districts of Taiz (Al-Qaherah, Al-Mudhafer and Salah). Their schooling had been disrupted as schools had closed for a period of time.
- Plans have been developed and trainers selected for the training of 80 teachers in Al-Khamisein (Haradh) to provide psycho-social support for children.
- The process of selecting Training of Trainers (ToT) on Child Friendly Schools interventions in Hajjah governorate is being finalised. The trainers are being selected from seven Hajjah districts including districts with emergency interventions, such as Haradh and Khayran Al-Muharraq.

## Child Protection

### *Monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations*

- During the reporting period, 8 children (boys) were killed and 10 children (8 boys and 2 girls) maimed. Reports from Khanfar and Zinjibar districts of Abyan indicate that 52 schools have been occupied by Ansar Al-Shari'a. Out of these, 26 schools were reportedly attacked by live ammunition including drone attacks. The situation of schools is considered to be particularly serious in Zinjibar.
- UNICEF supported and child protection sub-cluster supported child friendly spaces (CFSs) in Sana'a city continued to be affected by armed forces or armed groups. There were three incidents of threats and attacks (removal of UNICEF tents) against CFSs. Furthermore, at least six schools with child friendly spaces continued to be occupied by armed forces or armed groups. In spite of UNICEF and partners advocacy for the immediate removal of these, the situation has yet to improve.
- On 12 June, the 2012 Annual Report of the Secretary General on "Children and Armed Conflict" was released. The UN in Yemen, including UNICEF and partners, contributed to the report, which included the use and recruitment of children by Yemeni armed forces and armed groups including the breakaway First Armoured Division (FAD). This resulted in the addition of the Yemeni armed forces and the FAD as parties that use and

recruit children. Furthermore, the report documented 159 children reportedly killed and 363 children maimed; 211 attacks on schools; 23 attacks on hospitals; and 46 incidents of denial of humanitarian access for children.

- The results of a joint rapid assessment conducted in 154 schools in 8 districts of Sana'a governorate were finalized: 93 attacks on schools were reported, including 37 schools attacked by live ammunition; 44 schools intimidated by sound bombs; 10 schools looted; and 2 schools occupied. The attacks also resulted in seven schools being closed for 1-7 weeks. Attacks were concentrated on Arhab and Nehm districts.

#### Child Protection Response

- Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) and Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL) with support of UNICEF are conducting an extensive mine risk education (MRE) campaign to cover the 15 districts of Sa'ada; 12,174 people including 5,750 children (3,922 boys, 1,828 girls) and 6,424 adults (M: 4,844, F: 1,550) were reached 23-29 June. 12,000 copies of MRE posters were distributed during these campaigns. In addition, 4,706 children (2,228 boys, 2,038 girls) were educated on MRE by MOSAL child protection teams in Haradh IDP camps and areas outside camps such as Alqufl and Almaddab villages.
- As part of the partnership between UNICEF, MOSAL and Intersos, a Haradh Child Protection Center provided protection and interim care to 100 unaccompanied children (70 UAMs from the Horn of Africa and 30 Yemeni children). These received recreational and educational activities. 22 Yemeni children were reunited with their families while the others are in the process of tracing their families and completing travel documentation.
- A total of 14,217 IDP and IDP affected and vulnerable children (8,734 boys, 5,483 girls) were provided with psychosocial support through recreational, sports and play activities in partnership with MOSAL, Mercy Corps, Intersos and FODR in governorates including Hajjah, Sa'ada, Amran, Aden, and Al-Amanah. This took place in school/community and home based CFSs with focus on the most vulnerable children. Out of these, 226 children (127 boys, 99 girls) were identified as severely vulnerable and provided with needed services.
- In coordination between UNICEF's Child Protection and Education sections, 857 children (444 boys, 413 girls) were given access to summer activities including psycho-social support, catch-up classes, life skills and child protection awareness. This took place in a summer center established by Attakaful Foundation in Mudhaffar district, Taiz governorate, serving children from 20 schools in Mudhaffar, Sahaa and Al-Qahera districts.
- Capacity building training of community volunteers, teachers and social workers took place in Aden and Sana'a, with 82 Aden IDP community volunteers (55 women and 27 men) being trained by DRC and social workers and teachers in two Aden schools being trained by Mercy Corps.
- A total of 6,672 children (3,526 boys, 3,146 girls) and 2,209 parents and community members (M: 1,186, F: 1,023) received awareness on child protection in emergency.
- 121 children (boys: 49, girls: 72) received information and life skills on child rights and child protection in emergency as organized by Child Protection Initiative (CPI) in five schools of Al-Amanah.

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