

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1.5 million children suffer from life-threatening malnutrition.
- Displaced population of concern increases by 7 per cent.
- Violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses are condemned by the UN.
- World Humanitarian Day highlights attacks on aid workers.
- Snapshot on needs and assistance provided through the Ibb humanitarian hub .

Total population	26 m
# of people targeted by assistance	12.6 m
# of people targeted by health care assistance	10.7 m
# of people targeted by food assistance	8.0 m
# of people displaced (IDPs & returnees)	3.1 m
# of deaths (WHO)	6,787
# of injuries (WHO)	33,857

Source: HRP and HNO-WHO

FUNDING

\$1.6 billion requested

\$461 million funding against HRP

28% funded (31/08/2016)



IDPs in Haradah district. Credit: Fahmia AL Fothi, UNFPA.

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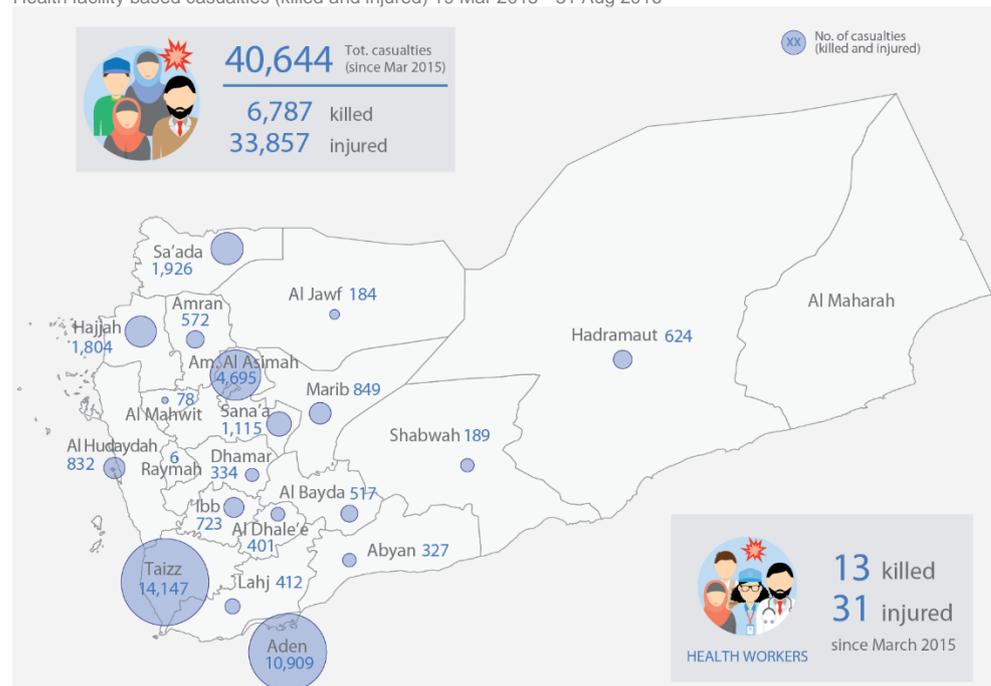
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Concerns about the protection of civilians increase as violence intensifies

The month of August was marked by a severe breakdown of the Cessation of Hostilities and the escalation of military activities. Fighting, involving the use of artillery and airstrikes, intensified in the areas of Al Jawf, Sana'a, Shabwah, Taizz and Marib governorates and along the border between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia resulting in increased numbers of civilian casualties and significant damage to civilian infrastructure.

On 13 August, a school in Sa'ada was hit by an airstrike killing at least ten children and injuring many more. On 15 August, a hospital in Hajjah was hit by an airstrike killing at least 14 people, including patients and medical staff. On 25 August, seven people were confirmed dead and one injured following an attack on a market in Baqim, in Sa'ada Governorate. In Saudi Arabia, an unconfirmed number of civilian casualties were reported following attacks from the direction of Yemen. Civilian infrastructure was not spared as power plants were hit on both sides of the border. According to WHO, over 40,000 casualties (killed and injured) have been reported in Yemen since March 2015. However, these figures are reported from functioning health facilities and actual numbers are likely to be significantly higher.

Health facility based casualties (killed and injured) 19 Mar 2015 - 31 Aug 2016



Source: WHO (Aug 2016).

The UN condemns violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law

Attacks on medical facilities are prohibited under international humanitarian law. These attacks put at risk the lives and well-being of millions of people who rely on medical assistance for survival and will continue to impact the access to long-term health care when peace comes.

J. McGoldrick, Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen

The devastating impact that violence is having on civilians was widely condemned by the United Nations. In his statements issued on 14 August and 17 August, the UN Secretary-General urged all parties to take all necessary measures to prevent further violation of international humanitarian and human rights law and do everything in their power to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure. Reiterating that there is no military solution to the crisis in Yemen, he urged the parties to renew their engagement with the UN Special Envoy in pursuit of a negotiated solution.

On World Humanitarian Day, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen (HC), paid tribute to the tireless efforts of medical staff who have come under fire while providing assistance. Since March 2015, 13 health workers have died and 31 have been injured. According to WHO, more than 70 health centres have been damaged or destroyed by conflict. The HC condemned attacks on medical facilities that put at risk the lives and well-being of millions of people who rely on medical assistance for survival.

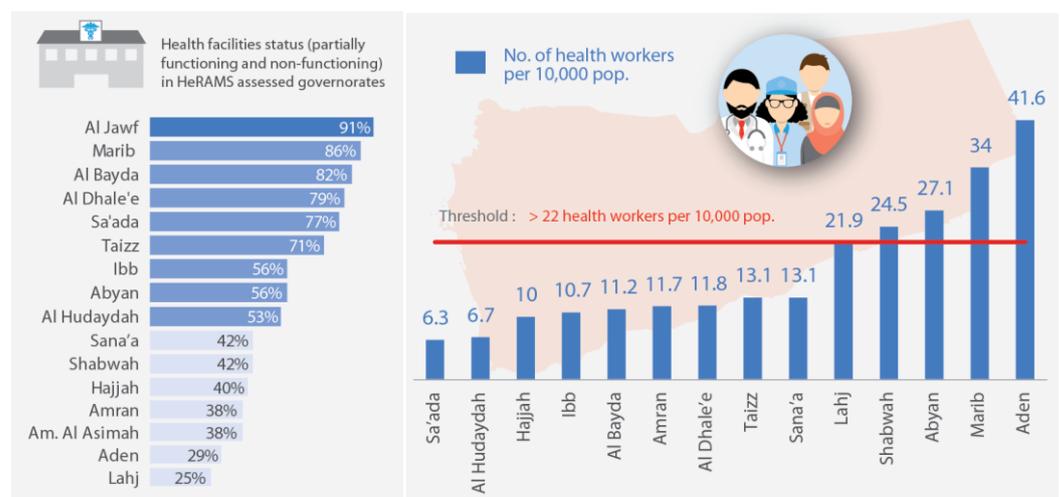
On 25 August, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, called for an independent inquiry on human rights violations in Yemen following the release of a report from his office documenting human rights violations and abuses on both sides of the conflict. The report on Yemen will be discussed around 28 September 2016 by the UN Human Rights Council.

The closure of Sana'a's airport to commercial flights has dire implication for patients seeking health-care abroad

The international airport in Sana'a has been closed to commercial flights since early August. The closure of the airport is having serious implications for patients seeking urgent medical treatment abroad, given the inability of the national health system to treat chronic or life-threatening diseases such as cancer. Initial statistics from the national airline indicate that thousands of people cannot leave while many others remain stranded outside of Yemen, facing financial hardship and administrative hurdles due to expired visas. In his statement on 29 August, the HC highlighted the need to urgently reopen Sana'a's airport and resume commercial flights to alleviate some of the suffering of the civilian population.

The human cost of the conflict in Yemen is largely under-reported

The scale of the human cost of the conflict in Yemen remains under-reported due to the limited number of functioning health facilities. Preliminary findings by WHO and the Ministry of Health in 16 governorates shed some light on the magnitude of the health crisis in Yemen as it follows: 1) in nine governorates (Al Jawf, Marib, Al Bayda, Al Dhale'e, Sa'ada, Taizz, Ibb, Abyan, Al Hudaydah), over half of the health facilities are partially functioning or non-functioning; 2) only four governorates (Abyan, Aden, Marib, Shabwah) meet the SPHERE standard of 22 health workers per 10,000 population.



Source: WHO, Ministry of Health Preliminary Findings (as of 4 Sep 2016).

The conflict continues to cause severe damage and economic losses

The war in Yemen has caused significant damage to the country's key infrastructure. According to a preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment conducted by the World Bank Group, the United Nations System, the European Union, and Islamic Development Bank, supported by the Yemen Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the economic costs of conflict are valued at \$7 billion in terms of damage and over \$12 billion in economic losses in relation to production and service delivery for the period between March 2015 and February 2016. These preliminary findings are also evolving as the conflict continues.

1.5 Million children suffer from malnutrition

The conflict in Yemen continues to have a significant impact on access to food for millions of vulnerable people. Nutrition partners estimate that nearly 3 million people require urgent nutrition assistance. About 2.1 million people are currently acutely malnourished, including 1.5 million children of whom 370,000 are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). This figure represents a 65 per cent rise since late 2014 when around 160,000 children were acutely malnourished. Children suffering from SAM are ten times more at risk of dying compared to their peers due to a weakening of the immune system.

The high level of needs is being driven by a range of interconnected security and economic forces. In addition to the conflict, availability of essential food commodities has been limited by difficulties in importing enough food due to on-going congestions at ports as well as damage to local agriculture. High fuel prices and damage to roads and bridges, due to the conflict, is driving up transport costs as drivers need to take longer detours or more dangerous roads due to multiple checkpoints and the danger of airstrikes and shelling to deliver cargo.

Food prices have also been affected by the depreciation of the Yemeni Rial, severely affecting access to food for the average citizen. According to July's WFP Market Watch report, the average cost of a food basket is 26 per cent higher than pre-crisis and 13 per cent higher than April 2016.

Screening for malnutrition



Credit: UNICEF Yemen, 2016.

All of this means that the costs of getting goods to market are outstripping the ability of households to pay for them. Even when households can afford food, high prices mean they are forced to buy less and of insufficient nutritional diversity. UNICEF reports that 78 per cent of the children in Sa'ada highland area are stunted. This is a significant increase compared to 2014 when the stunting prevalence was 58 per cent.

\$45M is urgently needed to save lives and avoid long-term complications

Unfortunately, funding for the nutrition response has not kept pace with the scale and scope of the crisis. At the end of August, nutrition partners had mobilised 56 per cent of the \$102 million required to provide nutrition interventions. This means that, unless the remaining funding shortfall is urgently mobilised, it will not be possible to provide for almost half of the children and mothers who need immediate nutrition assistance such as vitamin A supplements, micronutrient powders and iron/folate supplements for pregnant and lactating women.

If additional funding is not received it is estimated that nearly 162,000 acutely malnourished children will face a greater risk of long-term complications from consequences of malnutrition including illness and death and a further 358,000 children between 6 to 24 months will face a greater risk of malnutrition.

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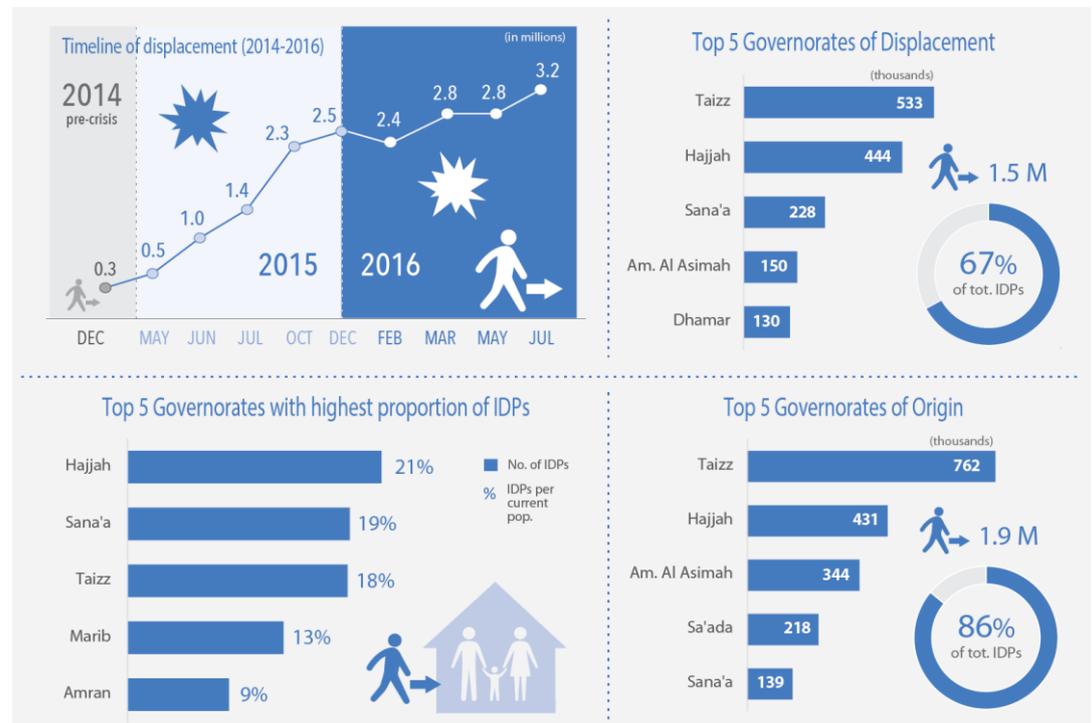
If funding is not mobilised by the nutrition cluster nearly 162,000 children will suffer complications from malnutrition including illness and death.

Displaced population of concern stands at 3.1 Million people

According to the latest report by the Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM) the displaced population of concern in Yemen stands now at 3.1 million people. The population of concern includes both those who have chosen to leave their homes because of conflict or natural disaster (2.2 million people) as well as those who have recently returned to their home region, but have not achieved a durable settlement (over 949,000 people).

Since the previous report was issued in April 2016 there has been an increase in conflict-related displacement of 152,000 individuals. This increase is mainly focused on Hajjah, Sana'a and Dhamar. The main needs of IDPs are food, shelter and drinking water. More than 80 per cent of displaced fled their homes more than 13 months ago and are living with family and friends, placing a significant burden on communities already struggling from the effects of war.

Overview of displacement - TFPM 10th Report (Aug 2016)



Source: TFPM, 10th Report (Aug 2016).

More than 900,000 have returned but continue to require assistance

Some 949,470 conflict-displaced people have returned to their areas of origin of whom 80 per cent have returned to original houses while the remaining people are either renting a house or staying with host communities. Conflict returnee population are concentrated within five governorates: 1) Aden, 2) Amanat Al Asimah, 3) Taizz, 4) Lahj, and 5) Hajjah.

Displacement trends in Yemen continue to be fluid with new movement taking place at the same time as returns are taking place. Internally displaced are quick to respond to relative improvements in the local security situation. However, given the possibility of being forced to move once more, IDP returnees have not yet achieved durable re-settlement and continue to require assistance.

As the displacement crisis in Yemen continues, humanitarian organisations and UN agencies call on the donor community to better respond to the ongoing shelter crisis. At the end of August, the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster is only 7 per cent funded, which impacts the overall response and leaves many vulnerable people without support.

Host communities have been generous in accepting displaced people, but there are indications that tensions are rising as an increasingly severe financial crisis is felt across the country. Extra resources are urgently needed to ensure that those affected by

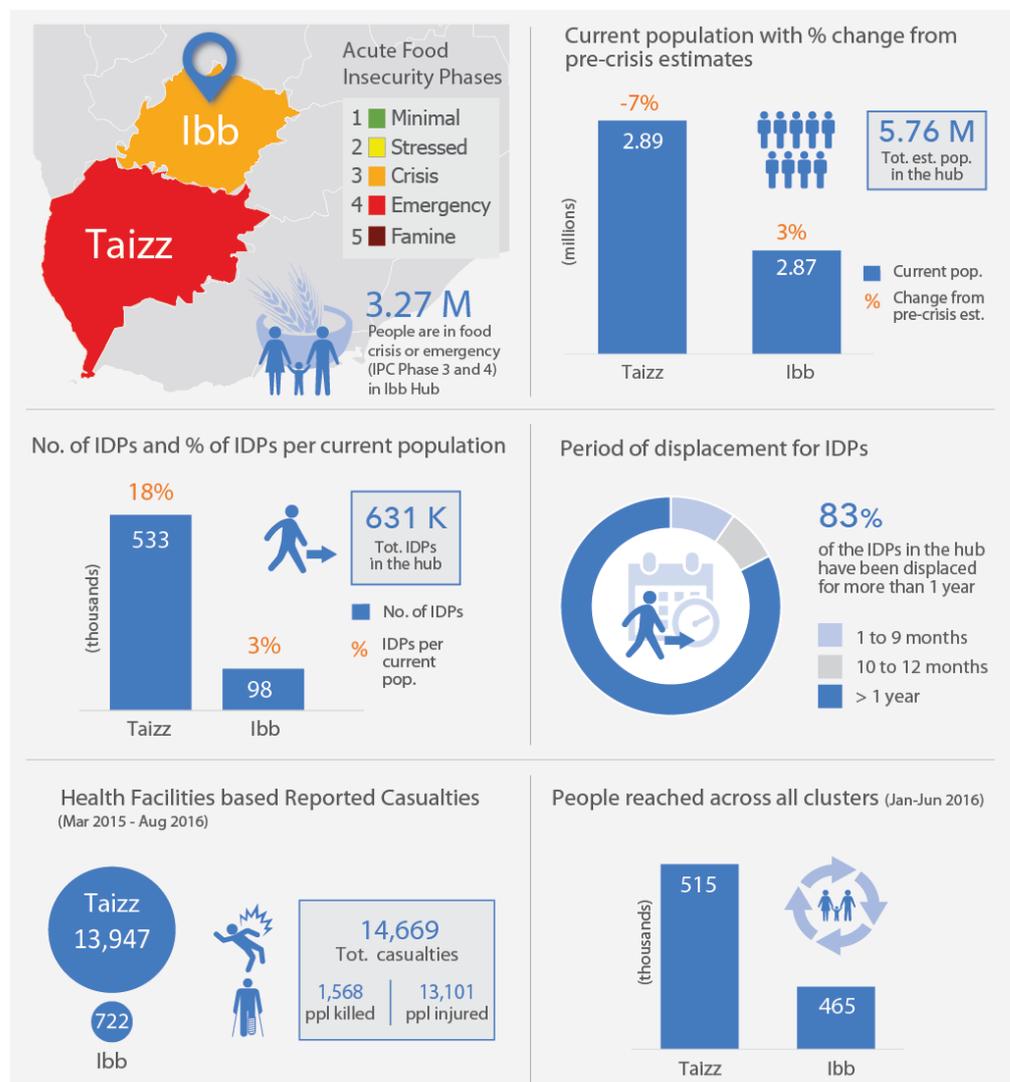
displacement have access to adequate shelter and do not resort to more desperate negative coping mechanisms. For example, research undertaken by UNFPA suggests that displaced families are at greater risk of child marriage for social-economic reasons.

Focus on Ibb

The humanitarian response in Yemen is coordinated between five humanitarian hubs. From Hubs in Aden, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Sana'a and Sa'ada humanitarian partners are targeting 12.6 million people in 2016. Assistance has already been provided to 4 million people up to 30 June 2016.

The Ibb Hub also covers Taizz Governorate and is a major focus for the humanitarian community due to the high needs of the population affected by continuing insecurity and difficulty in getting food and commodities in the area. Almost 6 million people live in Ibb and Taizz representing around 20 per cent of the current estimated population. Over 630,000 IDPs reside in both governorates, the majority of whom have been displaced for over a year. The number of people food insecure is 1.4 million people in Ibb and 1.9 million people in Taizz. Currently 40 humanitarian organisations are working in Taizz and 20 in Ibb. So far in 2016, humanitarian partners have delivered assistance to almost one million people since January 2016 with the hope to deliver more before the end of the year.

Ibb Hub: Humanitarian Situation Overview (as of Aug 2016)



Source: IPC Report (Jun 2016); TFPM, 10th Report (Aug 2016), WHO (Aug 2016); Clusters (Jun 2016).

The situation in the city of Taizz is of particular concern as access has been limited due to the presence of armed groups controlling the main access points around the city. Only a small percentage of the needed aid has made its way in, raising concern about the welfare of 200,000 people who live in Taizz city and have been mostly unable to access

sufficient aid since September 2015. Heavy fighting has taken a significant toll on the local population and public infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and water wells have been damaged and destroyed. In Taizz Governorate an estimated 533,000 people remain displaced. The priority needs of the IDPs are food (68 per cent) water and sanitation (26 per cent). According to WFP's latest Market watch reports, the availability of food in markets has become more infrequent. Also food prices are much higher than pre-crisis levels with the average cost of a food basket increasing by almost 50 per cent. The price of petrol is 230 percent higher than pre-crisis levels.

Aid delivered into Taizz city has often been brought in by donkey, camel or by foot along mountain paths, sometimes in the middle of the night. This is despite intensive efforts to develop a systematic framework for humanitarian access and humanitarian corridors.

The United Nations has repeatedly called upon the warring parties to agree to a humanitarian pause in Taizz Governorate in order to protect civilians, facilitate the treatment and evacuation of the war wounded and the delivery of urgently needed medicine and other life-saving assistance. In August there have been some changes in access to the city, especially the through the western entrance. Al Dhubab road was opened, linking the city with Aden through the southern districts of Al-Turbah.

The opening of Al Dhubab may create a new aid route into the city as long as fighting does not affect the area again. On 28 August, WHO used this route to deliver 12 tonnes of medical supplies and essential drugs to public hospitals in Taizz city. The delivery of fuel and other humanitarian assistance is expected to follow as many health facilities are struggling to operate given the lack of fuel and medical supplies. Advocacy continues pushing to open other entrances to the city which would signal the beginning of an improvement in the humanitarian situation for the people in the enclave who require assistance.

Peace and stability in Taizz will be important to Yemen's future. Traditionally the city has been a lively commercial centre owing to its proximity to productive farmland and links to the Red Sea port of Mokha. Before the conflict, the city also had an international airport with numerous services within Yemen and to neighbouring countries.

Bringing aid to Taizz



Credit: Arafat Krada

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