Highlights

- Weeks of fighting have left thousands of families displaced, and many more affected as Al Houthis took control over Amran City 8 July.

- Thousands of people are reported trapped inside the conflict zone, unable to flee the fighting. More than 200 civilians, including women and children, have reportedly been killed in recent days.

- Humanitarian assets and properties in Amran City have been seized and civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, attacked.

- Humanitarian partners are providing life-saving services to displaced people in accessible areas outside the governorate, including food, water and sanitation, shelter and emergency healthcare. However, humanitarian access is constrained by ongoing fighting, roadblocks and other restrictions.

| > 500,000 | People affected by conflict in Amran Governorate* |
| 85,000    | People of Amran city directly affected and/or displaced by the conflict (140,000 people living in Amran District) |
| > 30,000  | Preliminary estimate of internally displaced people from and within Amran since April |
| > 15,000  | Preliminary estimates of newly arrived IDPs in Sana’a |
| > 35,000  | Added to more than 20,000 people displaced Oct. 2013 to May 2014. Total number of registered IDPs in Amran Governorate per May 2014: 69,345** |


Situation Overview

In the past week fighting has significantly escalated in Amran Governorate, particularly in Amran, Iyal Surayh, Jabal Iyal Yazid, Thula and Raydah Districts. On 8 July, Al Houthis took control over Amran City after weeks of fighting with the military, the 310 Brigade. The fighting in recent days has been reported as the most violent so far, affecting important locations in Amran City, including humanitarian and government compounds, civilian infrastructure as schools and hospitals, as well as religious buildings, infrastructure and private homes. One school has been completely destroyed and at least 9 schools and one hospital are being used by combatants as barracks and/or storage for weapons. There are reports of more than 200 civilians, including women and children, killed and several hundred people injured since 4 July.

Lack of access is seriously restricting humanitarian partner’s ability to verify information and deliver assistance. Preliminary estimates indicate that more than 30,000 people in Amran Governorate have been displaced by the recent fighting and more than 500,000 (about 50 per cent of the population) have been affected since April. The
main road between Amran and Sana’a has intermittently been closed since 4 July, preventing thousands of civilians from fleeing the fighting. Still, thousands of people are reported to have reached the capital Sana’a while a smaller number of displaced are reported to have reached neighbouring governorates (Al Jawf [115 households], Hajjah [20 households], Sa’ada [20 households] and Al Mahwit [100 households]). The largest numbers of displaced people are anticipated having moved within the Governorate (Suwayr, Shaharah, Khamir, Kharif, As Sudah, As Sawed, Maswar, Habur Zulaymah and Al Qaflah Districts); among the IDPs a large number of people displaced for a second time can be expected. Many families are reported displaced without a male or adult family member due to their death in the conflict. The displaced people are seeking shelter with friends and families, and in public buildings (schools and community centers) and out in the open.

The main immediate needs for affected people are reported to be food, non-food items (including shelter), access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation facilities and health care. Current response is focusing on provision of life-saving emergency assistance to IDPs in accessible districts in Sana’a while plans have been put in place for reaching people in Amran as soon as security allows. At present, humanitarian access in Amran is severely constrained by ongoing fighting, roadblocks and other restrictions, and since Friday, all humanitarian assistance in Amran has been on hold due to ongoing hostilities. On 9 July, The Government Executive Unit for IDPs forwarded a list of more than 1,000 newly arrived families in urgent need of assistance in Sana’a while stating that information on new and additional households will be forwarded shortly.

**Funding**

Humanitarian agencies have the capacity to respond to immediate needs for people having arrived in Sana’a. Additional funding requirements will be addressed through the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) as needed. The Shelter/CCCM/NFIs cluster has stated their partners will need to urgently request funding as the in-country pipeline is unable to meet identified needs.

**Humanitarian Response**

**Food Security**

**Needs:**
- People displaced by recent conflict in Amran are in need of food assistance.

**Response:**
- WFP is committed to provide food support to the displaced people pending verification of IDPs by UNHCR and the Executive Unit.
- On 7 and 8 July, humanitarian partners delivered food rations to more than 2,000 families in Sana’a.

**Gaps and constraints:**
- Lack of access is hindering verification of IDPs as well as response efforts.

**Health**

**Needs:**
- Health facilities in Amran, including the government hospital in Amran city, are in dire need of medical supplies, human resources – and fuel to operate critical functions.
- The Cluster is conducting an Initial Rapid Needs Assessment in 10 priority districts categorized as IDP locations or conflict-affected areas in order to plan adequate response (Amran City, Raydah, Iyl Surayh, Jabal Iyl Yazid, Kharif, Bani Suraim, Al Sudah, As Sawd, Maswar and Thula).

**Response:**
- The Ministry of Health, The World Health Organisation (WHO) and partners are distributing essential drugs to the hospital in Amran City and health facilities in adjacent district. The Amran hospital is also supported with medical staff.

**Gaps and constraints:**
• Lack of access hampering delivery of life-saving medicines and equipment to hospitals and health posts attending to affected and displaced populations.
• Overwhelmed health facilities in terms of capacity to respond to needs, particularly in Amran City.

Protection

Needs:
• Thousands of displaced families are in need of some form of protection support. Many displaced people are reported to have sought shelter out in the open (streets and parks) and in public buildings as schools and community centres without any privacy and protection for women and children.

Response:
• Members of the Community Based Protection Network are monitoring protection of basic human rights, including child rights, among displaced and conflict-affected people and are providing assistance where access allows – though, very limited in recent days.
• Humanitarian partners have provided life-saving response to some 450 families residing in public buildings in Sana’a since 7 July, while another 100 families having fled to Al Jawf Governorate received assistance last week.
• The Protection Cluster and sub-clusters have conducted a Protection Needs Assessment in three districts in Amran Governorate: Amran, Jabal Iyal Yazid and As Sawd. The preliminary findings of the report are expected to be released Thursday 10 July.

Gaps and constraints:
• Lack of access hindering monitoring of protection violations, including child rights and GBV, identification of needs, as well as response efforts.
• Some IDP Families are reported to face challenges in renting accommodation in Sana’a as they have fled without identification papers.

Shelter

Needs:
• Thousands of displaced families as well are hundreds of conflict-affected families whose houses have been damaged or destroyed in the fighting are in need of shelter support. Preliminary findings from assessments among IDPs in Sana’a describe pressing need for shelter support.

Response:
• So far shelter needs have been addressed in combination with other life-saving activities, reaching some 650 families seeking shelter in caves and public buildings in districts adjacent to Amran City.

Gaps and constraints:
• Lack of access, knowledge of locations of people in need and people seeking shelter in a high number of locations is slowing down verification of needs as well as response efforts.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:
• Safe drinking water is the primary need for IDPs and conflict-affected households. Hygiene is another concern.
• Some 104 families seeking shelter in five schools in Raydah District, Amran Governorate, is in need of urgent assistance.

Response:
• Cluster partners have responded to the need for access to safe water for some 1,600 people seeking shelter in 7 schools in Sana’a city by supporting trucking of water.

Gaps and constraints
• Lack of access and reliable information hindering verification of needs and response efforts.
Logistics

Needs and constraints:
• The nationwide fuel crisis is seriously affecting the civilian population’s ability to cater for themselves (fuel for cooking and generators for power etc.) and humanitarian partner’s ability to assist people in need as well as hindering the operation of critical life-saving equipment (water pumps and medical equipment).

General Coordination

• The Amran Emergency Task Force established in line with the Contingency Plan for Amran, has been meeting regularly since the beginning of June to coordinate information, assessments and response. The group met last time on 8 July. A smaller team within the group will work as an operational cell to coordinate the immediate response to IDPs in Sana’a ahead of full registration and verification of displacement. The group shall also address the need to establish commonly agreed planning figures for displacement and response as assessment and verification processes are delayed by lack of access and insecurity.
• Four large international humanitarian partners are assessing and supporting displaced people having arrived in Sana’a, while efforts to increase the response capacity are underway.