

*This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by the OCHA Yemen office. The next report will be issued when additional information on the emergency becomes available.*

## I. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The people of Socotra might be at risk of increased hunger unless immediate resources are mobilized.
- Access to shelter, non-food items and drinking water are critical priorities as supplies are either not available in the market or not affordable to most people.

## II. Situation Overview

An inter-cluster mission led by OCHA visited Socotra from 29 May to 4 June to assess humanitarian needs in the aftermath of cyclone “Mekunu”. The mission was able to visit approximately 70 per cent of the affected areas and assess the status of critical infrastructure such as main roads, water networks and hospitals. While on the ground, the team initiated the distribution of food and non-food items to affected population.

According to the Governor’s office, the people of Socotra might be at risk of increased hunger unless immediate resources are mobilized to cover the food stock gap created as result of the cyclone. Seven ships carrying food stock for the period of monsoon reportedly sank with the food consignment onboard. In few weeks, sailing across sea will not be possible due to the strong winds and the island will be only accessible via the airport. Currently, there is no stock of wheat flour and sugar on the island and only low quantities of rice and other critical food supplies.

YEMEN: Socotra Response Map 6/6/2018



## III. Key findings of the inter-cluster mission

Steroh, Badhola and Zahi, in the area of Nowgd (located on the southern part of the island) are the locations most affected by the cyclone which the team was able to visit. It is estimated that in these areas 90 per cent of the population are in urgent need of food, non-food items and WASH assistance.

Local authorities have warned of an imminent hunger crisis, if no resources are mobilized, as approximately 90 per cent of the population in the assessed areas lost their food stocks to the cyclone and are unable to sustain themselves. Communities in Nowgd area have received assistance from the King Salman Relief Center (KSRC) - 124 food baskets - but the distribution did not cover all people in need. While on the ground, the team recorded 13 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). WFP is looking at resuming its MAM intervention which was halted in February 2016. Currently, there is no stock of wheat flour and sugar and only low quantities of rice and other essential food commodities are available in the markets.

The fishing sector, which employs 60 per cent of the population, has sustained severe damage due to the destruction of fishing equipment; families also lost most of their livestock as result of the floods.

Access to shelter and non-food items is a concern as supplies are either not available in the market or not affordable to most people. In Steroh, the assessment team identified more than 200 households who have been living in shelters made of palm leaves since 2015 after their houses were destroyed by cyclone "Chabala". There are no available houses for IDPs to rent, as such the team concluded that cash-based interventions are not applicable. Households affected by the cyclone share shelters with other families as coping strategy or reside in tents.

The water networks in assessed areas have sustained significant damage due to the cyclone thus rendering access to clean drinking water a critical priority. Hygiene sensitization is also required as communities confirmed using dirty waters, including for drinking, thus exposing themselves to environmental hazards and water-borne diseases.

Although the cyclone has resulted in minor damage to health facilities, health service provision across the island was generally weak even before the disaster, due to lack of resources. The villages visited by the assessment team in the Nowgd area are being serviced through one health facility located in Halma village. The facility is partially functional with only one nurse and no laboratory or medicines available; to access health services locals must travel to Hydaybu.

Logistic is one of the key obstacles to bringing in humanitarian aid. One of the recently built berthing station at the sea port has been completely damaged by the heavy rains thus limiting the operational capacity of the port and its handling capacity. In few weeks, sailing across the sea will not be possible due to the strong winds and the island will be only accessible by air. It is therefore expected that partners will seek the assistance of the UN to facilitate airlifting or sea transport of relief consignments.

The population remains scattered and disperse in small numbers across the island thus hampering a timely assessment and response. The cyclone completely destroyed six bridges and partially damaged one, along the Diksam-Steroh road. The mobile network only covers the two major cities (Hydaybu and Qulensya) and only two network operators are present on the island.

The capacity of local authorities to respond to the post-cyclone situation is hampered by limited resources available. Lack of partners impedes the provision of timely information on needs; few humanitarian organizations operate on Socotra, with only one INGO having a permanent presence.

## IV. Key findings of the inter-cluster mission



### FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

- WFP was able to send 10.5 MT of Immediate Response Ration (IRR) kits – a specialized kit of ready to eat food for one week – and 4.5 MT of High Energy Biscuits. WFP plans to deliver an additional 5,000 MT of wheat flour and 500 MT of other food items to address the food stock deficit on the island.
- The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRC) has distributed 624 food baskets out of the delivered 70 MT food rations, 500 tents, 3,000 blankets and 1,000 carpets. Additional 12 MT of food ration is expected to arrive in the coming weeks.
- The Emirati Red Crescent has shipped the equivalent of 14 trucks of rice and tomato paste to the Nowgd area.

- Kuwaiti relief agencies, including the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, have brought in 20 MT of food ration and NFIs. The Kuwaiti Red Crescent have confirmed that they can bring in up to 50 MT of supplies, if needed and logistically feasible.
- The Istagaba network is planning to send 120 MT of food supplies; Al Hikma is planning to send 2,000 food baskets. Sibra Foundation, a local NGO, has delivered 45 food baskets and 45 carpets in the villages of Dhroo and Dhmo.
- The Arkhabil Socotra Charity Foundation also planning to distribute 100 food baskets in Nowgd area in the coming days.



## SHELTER AND NFIS

- The Emirati Red Crescent completing 161 concrete houses in Steroh that will be provided to the affected people in area.
- KSRC has distributed 124 tents and NFIs.
- UNHCR and IOM have provided 1,000 NFI kits. Additionally, the Yanbi Al Khair Foundation has distributed 200 NFI kits and 300 more will be distributed in the coming days. Al Hikma, is planning to send 500 shelters and NFI kits.
- The Arkhabil Socotra Charity Foundation is also planning to distribute 1,500 NFI kits in different areas of the island.



## HEALTH

- WHO has shipped 30 MT of medical supplies which were handed over to the local health authorities. The Health Cluster has started a technical assessment in 26 health facilities across the island.
- UNFPA through the GBV Sub-cluster provided 500 female and male dignity kits.
- The health facility in Nowgd area requires equipment, supplies and general support with operational costs to function properly. In the immediate period, mobile clinics are urgently needed to provide people with health and outreach services. Due to the long distance to Hydaybu hospital and the high cost of transport most of the communities in Nowgd area cannot access medical care.



## WATER SANITATION HYGIENE

- UNICEF has availed 4,000 hygiene kits, 55 chlorine measurement equipment and 90 drums of chlorine.
- On 1 June, UNICEF deployed Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) to carry technical WASH assessment and provide an overview of the WASH situation in Nowgd and Qulensya. The RRTs will remain on the island for a period of two weeks.

## V. Coordination

OCHA Yemen continues to follow up on the response in Socotra through the Aden humanitarian hub.

## VI. Funding

As of 7 June, the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan is 51 % funded with US\$ 1.5 BN received against a total amount of \$ 2.96 BN requested.

**1.5 BN**  
requested (US\$)

**51 %**  
funded

*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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