

# HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 9 - 15 August 2018 | Issue 24

## KEY ISSUES:

- Fighting is going on in Ad Durayhimi District, south of Al Hudaydah City, with a high number of casualties. Families are trapped by shelling and airstrikes; ambulances are unable to enter the city.
- Over 50,800 households have been displaced from Al Hudaydah Governorate, of whom 50,100 (98 per cent) have received rapid response assistance including hygiene kits, transit kits and food rations.
- An airstrike on 9 August killed 46 people and injured 75 others when it hit a bus carrying children in a market in Sa'ada Governorate. Most of the dead were children aged 10 to 13 years.
- Over 380,000 people were vaccinated against cholera in three high-risk districts: two in Al Hudaydah and one in Ibb governorates.
- On 12 August, the Yemen Humanitarian Fund launched its First Standard Allocation of US\$90 million to support Cluster strategies in the re-prioritized Humanitarian Response Plan.

## ESCALATED CONFLICT IN AD DURAYHIMI DISTRICT, SOUTH OF AL HUDAYDAH CITY

Fighting escalated in Ad Durayhimi District, south of Al Hudaydah City with a significant impact on civilians, including a high casualty rate. Ambulance services are unable to reach the impacted population due to heavy shelling and airstrikes. Scores of families are reportedly trapped by the fighting inside Ad Durayhimi Town, but some have managed to flee to Al Hudaydah City and neighbouring districts.

Partners are trying to evacuate the wounded from Ad Durayhimi Town. Ongoing conflict in Al Hudaydah Governorate has displaced over 50,800 households, of whom 50,100 (98 per cent) have received assistance

including hygiene kits, transit kits and food rations. In Al Hudaydah hub, over 11,000 households have received multi-purpose cash grants. Rapid response assistance has been delivered to 3,100 displaced households in areas covered by Aden hub, 2,300 households in areas under Ibb hub and more than 13,000 households in Sana'a hub including 285 households living in nine schools within Sana'a City.

Al Hudaydah and Al Saleef sea ports are open and operational. On 17 August, six vessels were at berth and four in the anchorage area in Al Hudaydah.

## MORE THAN 7.4 MILLION PEOPLE IN NEED IN AREAS WITH SIGNIFICANT ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

In July 2018, OCHA conducted focus group discussions in the humanitarian hubs with UN agencies, international NGOs and national NGOs to assess partners' perceptions of the humanitarian access situation across all 333 districts in Yemen.

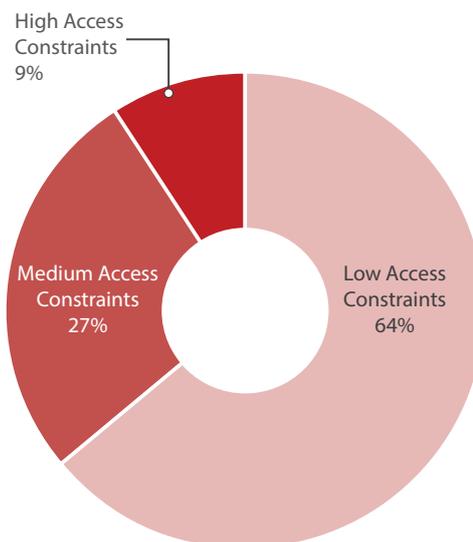
The results indicate that more than 1.4 million people in need of assistance live in districts with high access severity levels - 200,000 more people than in February 2018.

Districts with high access severity levels generally fall in the frontline conflict-affected governorates of Al Hudaydah, Sa'ada, Hajjah and Al Jawf. More than 1.1 million people in need of humanitarian aid live in these governorates.

Participants identified access constraints in 94 per cent of districts in Yemen. The most prevalent constraints for all humanitarian actors were related to administrative restrictions, particularly those related to sub-agreements or denials of movement requests. Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities was also among the most reported issues.

The full report can be accessed here. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Humanitarian\\_Access\\_Severity\\_Overview\\_July\\_2018.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Humanitarian_Access_Severity_Overview_July_2018.pdf)

District Access Severity, July 2018



Source: OCHA

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## UPDATES FROM THE HUBS

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### Sa'ada Hub

Local health authorities report that an airstrike on 9 August killed 46 people and injured 75 others when it hit a bus carrying children in a market in Dhahyan, Majz District in Sa'ada Governorate. Most of the dead were children aged 10 to 13 years. The injured are receiving treatment in hospitals. The UN Secretary-General and various humanitarian partners have condemned that attack. The Secretary-General called for a prompt and independent investigation. UNICEF estimates that between March 2015 and June 2018, 2,398 children were killed in war in Yemen (1,640 boys, 709 girls and 49 of unknown gender). Another 3,652 children were maimed (2,674 boys and 978 girls).

Five people were reported killed, and three others injured in Fallah area by three airstrikes that hit a funeral procession on 9 August. In Al Jawf Governorate, ground clashes in contested district of Al Maslub continues for the second week as both warring parties attempted to gain control of the whole district.

During the reporting period, WHO donated large quantities of medicines and medical supplies to several hospitals in Sa'ada. The supplies are expected to meet basic needs in these facilities for three months.

WFP reported that its partners in Sa'ada and Al Jawf have completed the July general food distribution.

### Ibb Hub

Clashes erupted in Taizz City on 12 August, including around Al Jomhuri Hospital. Patients and medical staff were trapped inside the hospital, but were able to leave the facility later when clashes subsided. Local authorities have reported families moving from the city to other districts. The situation remains fragile. Reports suggest that four civilians were killed and 13 others wounded. During the reporting period, armed clashes were reported in Maqbanah, Al Qahirah District and As Silw District in Taizz Governorate.

WFP reported distributing 5,001 MT of food assistance out of planned 5,075 MT to 371,118 beneficiaries in 16 targeted districts in Ibb Governorate. In Taizz, WFP distributed 10,462 MT of food aid out of planned 10,803 to 793,675 beneficiaries out of 794,011 planned beneficiaries in 18 targeted districts. During the reporting period, an oxygen filling station has been opened in Al Thwara Hospital, capable of producing 100 cylinders (40 liters) per day which local authorities say is enough to meet the needs in Taizz Governorate.

### Sana'a Hub

The Civilian Impact Monitoring (CIMP) report for the Sana'a Hub, covering the period 26-31 July, noted that the conflict situation in three governorates, Amanat Al Asimah (Sana'a City), Sana'a and Marib remains unchanged. Only three airstrike incidents were reported, a slight increase from two in the previous weeks, but below the weekly average of six. Five houses and 10 farms were damaged.

Flash floods inundated several parts of Al Hataresh area in Bani Hushaysh District, Sana'a Governorate on 8 August. Over 100 families, mainly marginalized communities, were affected by the floods. ADRA has delivered NFIs to affected households. Rains are continuing to fall in the region and could lead to further flooding.

The Initial Situation Rapid Assessment was activated only for Amanat Al Asimah Governorate. The process of data collection in 10 districts has started. As of 14 August, a total of 29,088 households have been displaced from Al Hudaydah Governorate to different areas in the Sana'a region, of which 13,371 families have received rapid response assistance.

### Aden Hub

The general situation in areas covered by Aden Hub is fragile with security incidents reported in Aden and Lahj governorates. Despite the situation, partners continue to deliver assistance. All international sea and air ports within Aden hub and Mukalla Port are functional. UNHAS and VoS Apollo were on schedule.

As of 8 August, the number of households displaced to areas covered by the Aden Hub reached 21,543. Newly displaced households were reported from Al Hudaydah (Hays and Al Khawkhah), Taizz (Al Mukha), Lahj, Aden and Al Dhale'e governorates. Since 1 June, 4,217 households out of the 5,329 from Al Hudaydah have been registered, and 3,582 (84 per cent) have received rapid response kits. Registration is ongoing in Aden, Lahj and Abyan governorates.

Partners in the humanitarian access working group in Aden conducted a mission to Al-Qabbaytah District in Lahj Governorate which primarily focused on developing a strategy to address needs of vulnerable populations close to front line areas in Lahj. The mission met IDPs from Al-Hudaydah, who are in Ga'ama area and are in desperate need of assistance.

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## LOGISTICS CLUSTER UPDATE

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During July, the VOS Apollo vessel transported 80 MT/353 m<sup>3</sup> of cargo from Djibouti to Aden port on behalf of humanitarian partners. The VOS Theia transported 395 MT/1,531 m<sup>3</sup> of relief items from Djibouti to Al Hudaydah port. VOS Apollo operates a weekly rotation between Djibouti and Aden, and VOS Theia operates on average three times a month between Djibouti and Hudaydah. Both vessels can carry cargo and passengers. The cargo transport by sea is facilitated by the Logistics Cluster.

The Cluster also coordinated cargo airlifts and passenger air travel on behalf of humanitarian partners. During July, 45 MT/ 140 m<sup>3</sup> was transported, along with 117 rotations transporting 2,527 passengers between Djibouti and Aden on behalf of 42 service users (14 UN agencies, 28 NGOs). Thanks to contributions received from donors, the rotations will be extended until the end of 2018.

## CHOLERA AND POLIO VACCINATIONS

Over 380,000 people were vaccinated against cholera in three targeted districts: Al-Hali and Al-Marawi'ah in Al Hudaydah Governorate, and Hazm Al-Udain in Ibb Governorate. The 4-6 August campaign aimed to protect people living in high-risk areas against cholera and involved more than 2,800 healthcare workers. More than a million suspected cases of cholera with over 2,000 associated deaths were reported in Yemen from April 2017 to July 2018. Recently, authorities in Sa'ada reported new cases.

A nationwide polio immunization campaign was also launched to immunize 5.5 million children under the age of 5 years. Yemen has been polio free since 2006, but children remain vulnerable especially due to the current conflict which has devastated the healthcare system. Both campaigns are implemented by WHO and UNICEF, with support from the World Bank.



The vaccination aims to protect against cholera. Photo: WHO

## YEMEN HUMANITARIAN FUND ALLOCATION

On 12 August, the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) launched its First Standard Allocation in the amount of US\$90 million to support the cluster strategies in the re-prioritized Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The

allocation also aims to support projects which provide life-saving assistance to people in newly accessible areas and areas facing severe access constraints. In support of the critical role that national front-line partners play in the operation, a dedicated window for national NGOs is being established for this round.

In June, the YHF allocated \$89.9 million under the First Reserve Allocation for preparedness measures identified by the clusters, the scaling-up of nutrition services for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) country-wide, and increased health preparedness and response in Al Hudaydah Governorate.

In July, the YHF allocated approximately \$7.4 million under the Second Reserve Allocation for priority gaps in Al Hudaydah including emergency allowances, civil documentation and cash assistance to IDP site management and coordination, emergency reproductive health services and mine action. Since January 2018, the YHF has received \$122 million from 22 generous donors.



A YHF-funded project in Hamdan District, Sana'a. Photo: OCHA

## CURRENCY DEPRECIATION AND FUEL PRICES

The value of the Yemeni Rial has continued to decline. During the reporting period, money exchange shops in Sana'a City bought US dollars at a rate of YER 560/USD, which marks the lowest value that the YER has reached in history. Across other governorates, exchange rates ranged from YER 550/USD to YER 565/USD. In Aden, more than 15 per cent, exchange companies protested the drop in value of the currency.

The price of petrol in the Sana'a region has also increased in recent days, with some stations unable to continue business and closing down. On 7 August, petrol stations in Sana'a City were selling at a price of YER 395 per liter, which signifies a nine per cent increase compared to previous weeks. In other governorates, the price ranged from YER 6,600 to YER 10,000 per 20 litre jerrycan, in both commercial stations and the black market.

Exchange Rate History - Yemen Riel to US Dollar Sana'a City Buying Rate



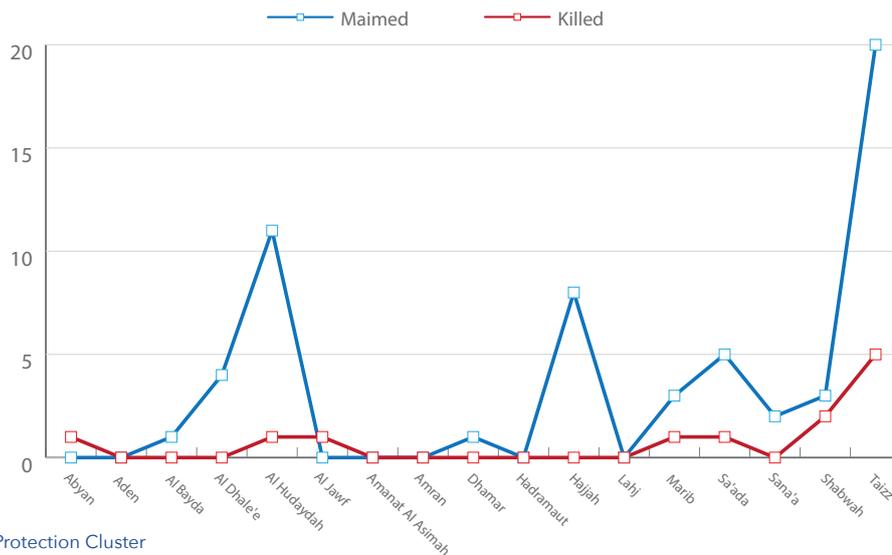
Source: NGO Partners

## MINE ACTION UPDATE

The Protection Cluster reports that a total of 490 children (80 per cent boys) have been killed or maimed in conflict since 2015. An increased number of victims was registered during the onset of the conflict in 2015, the escalation in 2017 and in 2018. The recent escalation in hostilities in Al Hudaydah Governorate and new frontlines is likely to increase the numbers of casualties. Mine risk education and prevention activities by partners and Yemen Mine Action Committee reached 52 per cent of targets in 2017, despite access and security constraints.

According to the Early Recovery Cluster, mine action partners released around 4.6 M sq.mts of land in Yemen and removed 145,412 explosive remnants of war (ERWs) in 38 districts across 15 governorates from January to April 2018, directly benefitting around 900,000 people. Most of explosive devices removed were related to airstrikes and shelling. Partners are continuing to implement spot task clearance (including survey activities), focusing on high risk and high impact locations as well as critical infrastructure.

Killed and maimed by mines and UXOs 2018 - May



Source: Protection Cluster

## UNVIM UPDATE

During the period from 8-14 May 2018, eight vessels discharged 183,761 MT of cargo at Yemen's Red Sea ports of Al Hudaydah and Saleef.



143,550 MT



40,211 MT



0 MT

Al Hudaydah 128,461

Saleef 55,300

Source: UNVIM

## YEMEN FACTS AND FIGURES



22M people  
75%

of the population, need humanitarian assistance and protection



2.9M

children and women are acutely malnourished



8.4M

people do not know how they will obtain their next meal



48%

of women are illiterate; 25% of children are out of school



Less than 50%

of health facilities are functioning; 18% of districts have no doctors



2M

people are displaced; 1M people have returned to their home areas



16M people  
55%

of the population, lack regular access to safe water and basic hygiene



98%  
110%

increase in food prices  
increase in fuel prices in last three years

Source: 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan

For further information, please contact:

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