

Daily Key messages

Conflict and insecurity continue to hinder the delivery of urgently needed assistance to displaced families and other vulnerable, conflict-affected communities. All parties to conflict have obligations to facilitate the safe passage of aid and unimpeded access for humanitarians to people in need.

Overview

The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) has called for humanitarian pauses to allow for aid workers and supplies to be urgently delivered into Yemen. In a statement on 23 April, Mr. Johannes Van Der Klaauw called on all parties to the conflict to facilitate the safe passage of aid and unimpeded access for humanitarians to affected areas in accordance with IHL. The HC expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its US\$274 million donation towards the recently issued Flash Appeal, but noted that the overall humanitarian response goes far beyond the bare-minimum requirements of the Flash Appeal.

In the last 24 hours, airstrikes reportedly hit the airport and coast guard building in Al Hudaydah Governorate, two schools and a local sports club in Al Dhale'e Governorate, a vocational institute in Khwlan District of Sana'a Governorate and a governmental complex in Qatabir District of Sa'ada Governorate. Also hit were locations in Midi District in Hajjah governorate, Khur Maksar and Crater districts in Aden governorate, Bayhan District in Shabwah governorate and Al Dhaher District in Sa'ada governorate. More targets were hit in Taizz and Marib governorates.

In a letter sent to humanitarian agencies, the governor of Sa'ada has declared Sa'ada City as 'a disaster city' following damages caused by conflict. The letter states that all lifesaving services and supplies are no longer available for the people in Sa'ada and the government is unable to provide any relief assistance. The governor has appealed to humanitarian agencies to provide assistance.

Displacement and casualties

According to OHCHR, an estimated 551 civilians were killed between 26 March and 22 April including 31 women and 100 children. Another 1,185 civilians were also estimated to be injured during this period, 35 women and 67 children. At least 64 public buildings have been either partially or completely destroyed.. Also today, UNICEF reports that at least 115 children have been killed and 172 maimed since 26 March.

IOM reported today that total arrivals from Yemen to the Horn of Africa, including to Djibouti, Somaliland and Puntland, have increased by 8,344 people this week. This brings the total since conflict escalated in mid-March to an estimated 10,263 people. Over 60 per cent are third country nationals who need assistance to return home.

The Protection Cluster convened a meeting on 23 April to discuss a system of tracking displacement in Yemen. This discussion will be finalised next week to better report the number of people displaced by the recent escalation in conflict.

Access and humanitarian response

Response

Southern Governorates: Partners provided water trucking to cover the needs of 500 persons residing in Al Dola Mosque in Al Hawtah District in Lahj Governorate. Water trucking continued for 670 IDP families residing in schools in Zinjibar, Khanfar and Lawder. Trucking of clean water also reached IDPs and host communities in Al Dhubayiat area in Al Dhale'e, providing a total of 20,000 litres. However, intensified clashes constrained partners' efforts to deliver safe drinking water around Aden city and in parts of Lahj yesterday. Water trucking could not reach 10 schools, hosting IDPs that were displaced in the last two days. All the schools are in Mansoura, Dar Saad and Sheikh Othman Districts. Partners could not provide water trucking to Al What School in Lahj as families in that school were further displaced by conflict in the area since yesterday.

Western governorates: An NGO partner distributed 20 water tanks to displaced families in Abs District of Hajjah Governorate. A UN agency provided additional tanks to be distributed to 1,024 families in the same governorate. One hospital and four health units in Abs District and 391 displaced families in Hayran District

in Hajjah received trucked water. Another 479 water filters were distributed to 263 displaced families in Az Zhurah district in Hudaydah and 216 displaced families in Abs District in Hajjah.

Yesterday, port authorities in Al Hudaydah informed OCHA that four vessels carrying wheat grains arrived at As Salif port during the week. The vessels belonged to three commercial companies operating in Yemen. A fuel vessel carrying petrol reportedly reached Yemen's territorial waters, but was stopped by coalition forces for inspection. According to Hudaydah port control room, the vessel is expected to be released by tomorrow. Unavailability of transportation in Al Hudaydah ports due to acute shortage of fuel is one of the major concerns of local importers.

Northern governorates: A three-day multi-cluster rapid needs assessment was completed on 23 April in the districts of Sahar, As Safra and Majz in Sa'ada Governorate. The assessment was carried out by international and local NGOs and in coordination with the Executive Council. Data analysis is ongoing and the findings will be shared next week.

Some 500 IDP households have received water jerry cans in Bani Swaid and Hijrat Salim in Majz District. Water is also being trucked twice a day to IDPs and host community in the same areas. The households also received chlorination tablets.

For further information, please see:

<http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/yemen>,
<http://www.unocha.org/yemen>

Or contact:

Ogoso Erich, Public Information Officer, OCHA Yemen, Tel - +962 795 203 158, Email – ogoso@un.org