

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 7 October – 21 October 2018 | Issue 30

KEY ISSUES:

- Up to 14 million people at risk of severe food insecurity
- Civilians bear the brunt of the conflict; Al Hudaydah Governorate records 78 civilian casualties in just one week
- Suspected cases of cholera increase while access issues continue to obstruct response efforts
- Logistics Cluster airlifts 447 metric tons of humanitarian cargo in October

MILLIONS MORE COULD SUFFER FROM HUNGER AS YEMEN SLIPS CLOSER TO FAMINE

Yemen is already the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Twenty-two million people, 75 per cent of the entire population, require some form of humanitarian assistance and protection, including 8.4 million Yemenis who do not know where their next meal will come from. The rapid and uncontrolled depreciation of the Yemeni Rial since early September has worsened the crisis. The costs of a basic food basket increased 25 per cent and fuel costs by as much as 45 per cent in hard-hit areas.

If current trends continue, an additional 3 million to 5.6 million Yemenis could become severely food insecure in the coming months, pushing the number of severely food insecure Yemenis up to 14 million in a worst case scenario. Those most likely to be affected include the 70 per cent of Yemenis living on less than US\$1 per day and the hundreds of thousands of civil servants and pensioners, who have either not received salaries or pensions, or have only received them intermittently, since August 2016.

Women and children across the country are at grave risk. In addition to the 1.1 million pregnant women and the 400,000 children who are already suffering from severe acute malnutrition, as many as 1.8 to 2.8 million more children could become severely food insecure.

The impact of the economic crisis is felt across all sectors. The cost of water trucking and bottled water has doubled in the past month, forcing hundreds of thousands of households across the country to use alternative and unsafe water sources. Soaring fuel costs are also affecting the sanitation sector where key services, including solid waste collection and desludging, were suspended. With cholera cases surging, as many as 1.2 million additional Yemenis are likely to require urgent WASH support, if current trends continue, bringing the total number of people in need of water and sanitation services to more than 12 million. The cost of addressing this potential new crisis is enormous. The UN and humanitarian partners estimate that they will require at least \$500 million more US dollars to deal with such a worst-case scenario. Even if funds can be secured, agencies warn that it will take weeks, perhaps months, to scale-up operations. The parties to the conflict in Yemen and the international community now face a choice: do nothing and watch the country slip closer to famine or do everything possible to address the economic crisis. As a minimum, urgent steps need to be taken to inject liquidity into the economy, expedite lines of credit for the importers of core commodities and pay pensioners and civil servants.



Source: Gills Clarke

Al Hudaydah

The situation remained unchanged in conflict flashpoints around Al Hudaydah City with ground fighting and airstrikes taking place in the vicinity of Al Hudaydah airport junction, Kilo 10 and Kilo 16 areas beyond the eastern entrance to the city. Artillery shelling, aerial and naval strikes continued to be reported in At Tuhayat and Ad Durayhimi districts. In Hajjah Governorate, ground fighting continues on the outskirts of Hayran District as well as some areas in Haradh District.

As of 17 October, Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners in Al Hudaydah hub identified a total of 75,478 displaced families from Al Hudaydah Governorate, who are hosted in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Raymah and Mahweet Governorates. During the same period, a total of 64,324 displaced households (HHs) received RRM assistance packages in the four governorates, of which 16,985 HHs received multi-purpose cash transfers, 19,780 HHs received non-food items (NFIs) packages and 7,788 HHs received emergency shelter kits. Local authorities in Hajjah reported that several houses in Abs District sustained damage from heavy rainfall and torrential floods that hit the Bani Hassan area earlier in the week. On 15 October, sub national Shelter/NFIs Cluster partners began a needs assessment to better understand the situation and the priority needs of the affected population. WHO completed the dispatch of 236,000 litres of fuel supplies to 32 health facilities in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Raymah and Mahweet governorates as part of the monthly fuel support package to local health facilities in the hub. OXFAM raised concerns over the continuity of the provision of water supplies via water trucking to an estimated 7,000 displaced families living in Abs, Aslem and Ku'eidinah districts in Hajjah Governorate due to funding constraints. UNICEF is looking for ways to support this. As part of its voluntarily return programme, IOM evacuated 135 vulnerable migrants from the Horn of Africa, including four women and 17 children, to Djibouti via Al Hudaydah sea port.

Aden

The Al Maharah Governorate's Emergency Operations Room (EOR) reported that over 3,000 families in the governorate were affected by Cyclone Luban. The number of displaced families, as verified by the International Organisation for Migration/the Displacement Tracking Mechanism (IOM/DTM) and UNFPA's Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) is slightly lower than first estimates, with a total of 2,203 families displaced across the districts of Al Masilah, Sayhut, Huswain and Qishn. For more information on the impact of Cyclone Luban please refer to OCHA Situation Reports at this link.

Eighty-five per cent of the schools in Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Al Dhale'e and Hadhramaut Governorates are closed as a result of a teachers strike which began in September to protest against lack of salaries against the backdrop of the steady devaluation of the national currency. The Ministry of Education and the teachers union are still trying to reach a solution to end the strike and reopen the schools. As of 17 October, the total number of families displaced from conflict areas to the Aden hub had reached 26,325 HHs (approximately 184,200 people). This caseload included 8,680 HHs (approximately 70,800 people) displaced from the Al Hudaydah Governorate. DRC conducted a baseline assessment at the four IDPs hosting sites in Al Khawkhah District. The assessment concluded that most of the IDPs at the four sites rely on water trucking and that there are not enough latrines. All sites report a uniform need for mattresses and blankets particularly

at the two government managed sites in Al Ghasha and Ala'alili. Most HHs reported having three meals per day, with food generally received via UN/NGO food distributions. IDPs at the Alwa'ara and Al Ghasha sites reported having no access to health care services and at the other two sites access was limited. IDP children living in the sites have poor access to education, with less than 10 per cent attending education services.

DRC in collaboration with the Protection Cluster conducted an intention survey with the 70 families living inside the Bin Jaber IDP hosting site after the violent incident of 6 October when three mortar shells landed in and around the Bani Jaber site, killing one woman and wounding 12 people. Ninety-nine per cent of the HHs stated that they did not feel safe and would like to move, with the majority of the HHs wanting to move to Al Mokha, while the rest would like to move to Al Ghasha site in Al Khawkhah. OCHA is following up with the local authorities in Al Hudaydah and Al Khawkhah districts where are searching for other safe places to relocate those IDPs.

Sa'ada

During the reporting period, airstrikes were reported in the districts of Razih, Baqim and Majz. On 11 October, tribal armed conflict erupted in Kharab Al Marashi District in Al Jawf Governorate. Eleven people were reportedly killed and six injured from the confrontations between the warring tribes. UNHCR reported that 81 IDP HHs (approx. 567 people) recently arrived in Sa'ada - 21 HHs from Hajjah and 60 HHs from Al Hudaydah. So far, 44 HHs received assistance in the form of NFIs and Emergency Shelter kits (ESKs) or emergency cash assistance depending on their needs. UNHCR is planning to provide assistance for the rest of the IDPs (73 HHs) by the end of October. WFP completed the distribution of food baskets for the September cycle in all districts of Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates. A total of 103,379 HHs (approximately 724,000 people) from Sa'ada Governorate and 24,774 HHs (approximately 173,400 people) from Al Jawf Governorate received their monthly food rations for September, while the food distribution for the October cycle is ongoing. On 18 October, WHO dispatched 10 tons of medical supplies to the six hospitals across Sa'ada Governorate, including Al Jomhour Hospital in Sa'adah City. A WHO team conducted an assessment visit to the Central Laboratory in Sa'adah City, one million people across Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates and parts of Amran, in preparation for the deployment of equipment for the blood bank.

Ibb

Armed clashes continued along Taizz front lines, which intensified in the districts of Maqbanah and Jabal Habashi with no significant changes to the front lines. Acute shortages of fuel are reported in Ibb and Taizz governorates and consumers are relying on the black market to meet their fuel needs. The price of fuel continues to fluctuate between 14,000 and 17,000YER for 20 litres. WHO provided 10 tons of medical supplies to three public hospitals in Ibb and a further 20 tons of medical supplies to seven public hospitals in different districts of Taizz.

Sana'a

The YER has continued to depreciate. Money exchange shops in Sana'a City are buying US dollars at a rate of 735YER/US\$. On 8 October, NAMCHA reported that a total of 26,257 displaced families from Al Hudaydah Governorate were currently living in Sana'a City. All households have received RRM kits and NFIs.

CONFLICT CONTINUES TO AFFECT CIVILIANS AND CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

Civilians in Yemen continue to bear the brunt of the conflict, with Al Hudaydah Governorate registering the highest number of incidents. The Protection Cluster indicates that in the period between 11 and 17 October, in Al Hudaydah Governorate 15 incidents and 78 civilian casualties including 36 fatalities were reported. Across the hub, airstrikes caused 60 civilian casualties.

A mass casualty incident occurred on 13 October when 19 civilians were killed and 30 injured when two buses were hit by a strike at a checkpoint in Al Masbarayn in Jabal Ras District in the southeast of the governorate. The attack was condemned by the Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, Lise Grande, who stressed that parties to the conflict are obliged to respect the principles of precaution, proportionality and distinction in the conduct of hostilities, and reiterated that belligerents must do everything possible to protect civilians. Another 20 civilian casualties were reported in At Tuhayat District. Almost half of the casualties in the district were reportedly due to landmine explosions in the Ash Shajn area and another 30 per cent were the result of airstrikes.

Civilian infrastructure was not spared by hostilities, the hospital in AdDurayhimi, including the maternity unit, reportedly sustained significant damage from airstrikes on 11 October. An ambulance was also reportedly destroyed in the incident; other critical infrastructure damaged during the reporting period included a tank used to store drinking water, which was reportedly hit by an airstrike on Kamaran Island on 12 October. This is the second time since 1 August that water supplies have been hit on Kamaran Island. On 30 August, five drinking water wells on the island were also hit by airstrikes.

In the Aden hub, only one incident with a civilian impact was recorded during the reporting period, only one incident with a civilian impact was recorded when a civilian was killed by artillery shelling on Al-Haydiyah village in Al-Qabbaytah District in Lahj. Shelling is the primary type of armed violence that directly affects civilians in the Aden hub incidents have mostly occurred along the active frontlines of Al-Qabbaytah in the north of Lahj Governorate and in Qa'atabah in the north of Al-Dhal'e Governorate. In the Sana'a hub, one fatality was reported on 15 October, when an African immigrant was killed by stray bullets following shooting between two groups near a military camp in Marib City.

CHOLERA UPDATE

WHO reported that the cumulative suspected cholera cases between 27 April 2017 and 30 September 2018 was 1,222,500 cases with 2,530 associated deaths. A total of 224 districts reported suspected cholera cases as of 30 September. Children under the age-5 represented 30 per cent of total suspected cases. Seven governorates continued to report an increase in suspected cases, these are Abyan, Aden, Al Hudaydah, Lahj, Marib, Sa'ada and Taizz.

In October, the Wash Cluster conducted a review of cholera hotspots to analyse cluster response and challenges and to scale up activities through the Rapid Response Team (RRTs). Overall, 20 districts from eight Governorates across the country were analysed. In all 20 districts analysed, the RRT's were functioning. However, not all suspected cholera cases could be investigated. Obstacles to the work of the RRTs included insecurity; on 17 September insecurity and access restrictions

prevented RRT response in Az Zaydiyah and Ad Dahi Districts in Al Hudaydah. In Monibahh District, in Sa'ada Governorate, the RRTs reached only 4 per cent of reported cases, due to access and security restrictions. In addition, the high cost of fuel has started to become a hindrance to the deployment of RRT teams.

The analysis conducted by the Wash Cluster indicated that the time lag between the agreement to intervene and implementation of the response varies from less than one week to at least four weeks. Reasons for the time lag include delays by authorities in negotiating activities and access, delays in receiving materials and/or activation of funds and approval by local authorities. Continued advocacy and dialogue with the authorities to ensure unimpeded humanitarian access for the implementation of the cholera response remain paramount to the success of the RRT efforts.

UPDATE FROM UNVIM AND THE LOGISTICS CLUSTER

Al Hudaydah and Saleef ports are operational. Between 10 and 16 October, three vessels berthed and discharged supplies at the ports. The Logistics Cluster reported that the ships Vos Theia and Vos Apollo resumed their activities. While Vos Theia remains in service as an evacuation vessel, the Djibouti - Al Hudaydah route will mainly be covered using dhows. Vessels will be used to transport bulk cargo or cold chain supplies requiring temperature control. In October, the Logistics Cluster facilitated airlifts of 447 MT of humanitarian cargo in six rotations between Djibouti and Sana'a on behalf of humanitarian organisations. The next airlift is scheduled for 5 November.



35,600 MT



34,736 MT

Al Hudaydah 34,736

Saleef 35,600

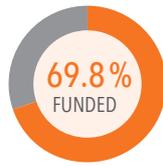
Source: UNVIM

FUNDING STATUS

2.95 BN
REQUIREMENTS
(USD)

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FUNDED
(USD)

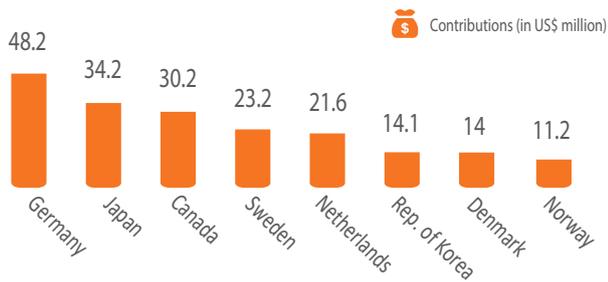
0.9 BN
STILL NEEDED
(USD)



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Source: FTS

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