

HIGHLIGHTS

- The health crisis is deepening as more health facilities run out of basic supplies and more hospitals and blood-transfusion centres stop functioning.
- Agricultural and fishery sectors heavily affected by the conflict.
- New evidence of contaminated areas by mines, UXOs and cluster munitions.
- Overall underfunding and insecurity are key constraints preventing the scale-up of humanitarian aid, while access to basic services keeps declining.

FIGURES

No. of deaths	4,855
No. of injuries	24,971
No. of IDPs	1.4 m
Affected population	21.1 m
People targeted	11.7 m

FUNDING

1.6 billion
requested (US\$)

37% (\$592 million)
Funded

86 million
outstanding pledges (US\$)

255 million
(US\$) contributed outside
the humanitarian appeal



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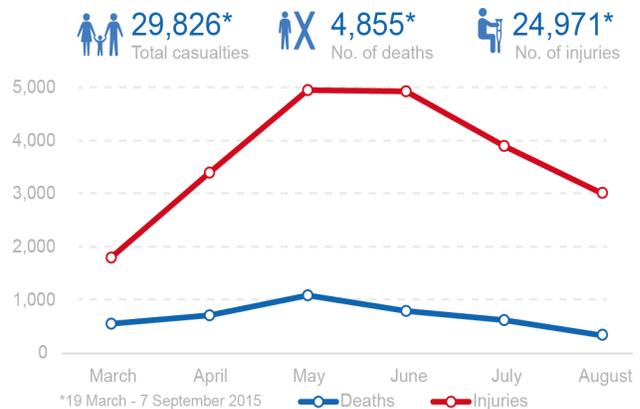
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Severe protection crisis unfolding; violence must end immediately

Destruction and damage to vital civilian infrastructure and death of civilians continue

Destruction and damage to civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals, mosques and schools, continue unabated. The depletion of medicines and medical stocks and the lack of fuel to run hospital generators continue to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis. Yemen relies on imports for 70 per cent of its fuel requirements and 100 per cent of its medicine needs. In August, imports accounted for only 12 per cent of monthly fuel needs, which is a steep drop compared with 69 per cent in July.

Monthly trend of casualties



Since the conflict escalated in March, 30 people have been killed and 185 injured on average each day. As of 7 September, there have been 29,826 casualties (deaths and injuries) (WHO), as reported by health facilities. The number of people injured and killed peaked in May. The number of casualties is likely much higher than reported, as an increasing number of health facilities are closing and many victims never reach a health facility. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which has been conducting field monitoring and documentation of civilian casualties, reports at least 6,631 civilian casualties, including 2,112 deaths.

New satellite images released by UNDP on 2 September show that 839 buildings have been destroyed or damaged in Aden City, with 30 per cent of the damage taking place since May 2015. Some 33 medical facilities in Sana'a, Aden, Taizz and Sa'ada Governorates were within 100 metres of buildings damaged or destroyed. All six public hospitals have closed in Taizz, with the exception of the emergency unit and the kidney ward at the Al-Thawrah and Al-Jumhuri hospitals. More than 3.2 million people in the Governorate now only have limited access to health care.

On 6 September, Al Sabaeen paediatric hospital in Sana'a closed and evacuated its 200 patients after sustaining damage from an air strike on a nearby building. The closure of the hospital, which was the referral hospital for the whole country, in addition to severe restrictions on fuel, medicines and hospital supplies, has dealt a severe blow to a tattered health system. Even before the crisis escalated, 15 million people were without health-care access.

WHO warned that Yemen's biggest blood-transfusion centre in Sana'a might close soon due to shortages of blood bags, reagents and generator fuel. Should the centre close, Yemen will have only three functioning blood-transfusion centres, compared with six before March. The need for transfusion services has more than doubled in the past six months.

Places of worship have also been targeted. On 2 September, a suicide bomb exploded during evening prayer in the Al Moayad Mosque in the Jarraf district of north Sana'a, killing 32 people and injuring over 100. Medical facilities struggled to cope with treating the injured because of the lack of critical drugs and supplies. WHO and international medical NGOs provided material support to treat the wounded.

Health actors continue to deliver vital assistance despite escalating violence

On 3 September, the merchant vessel *Mona*, chartered by WFP, berthed in Al Hudaydah with food commodities and 25 tons of humanitarian inter-agency cargo including medicines. UNFPA, through its partner Field Medical Foundation (FMF), started the distribution of 1,000 reproductive-health kits in Aden Governorate.

WHO and FMF have set up mobile nutrition clinics to diagnose and treat children aged between 6 months and 5 years in Aden, Lahj and Hadramaut governorates. WHO also supported Al-Thawrah Hospital in Hudaydah Governorate with trauma kits sufficient to cover the needs of 25 major surgical operations.

On 26 August, the Sudan Red Crescent deployed a team of 18 doctors and surgeons to Aden public hospitals. Saudi Arabia and UAE have airlifted medical supplies into Aden and evacuated wounded people for treatment.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) confirmed the allocation of US\$2.5 million for the provision of primary health-care services, including maternal and reproductive health through mobile clinics.

Start of school year delayed

The lack of functioning schools and growing insecurity have pushed back the resumption of the school year to the beginning of October instead of mid-September. Since late March, 3,584 schools, or one out of four, have shut down. Some 860 of these schools are damaged or hosting IDPs. It is estimated that in addition to the 1.6 million out-of-school

children between the ages of 6 to 14 in 2014, 1.8 million more children have had their education interrupted due to the conflict.



Ibn Sina School in Sana'a has been closed indefinitely, as it was heavily damaged during an air strike that hit a nearby building last April. Credit: UNICEF

As of 31 August, only 15 out of 22 governorates were able to administer the National Certification Exam in grades 9 and 12, with students' participation reaching 65 per cent of the 600,000 children concerned. Violence has also taken a heavy toll on the academic staff. On 28 August, 21 civilians, including 15 educational staff and four children, were killed in an air strike on the office of the Teachers Syndicate, which was used as the temporary Education Office in Amran Governorate preparing for the national exams.

Urgent food assistance needed to offset conflict's impact on agricultural and fishery sectors

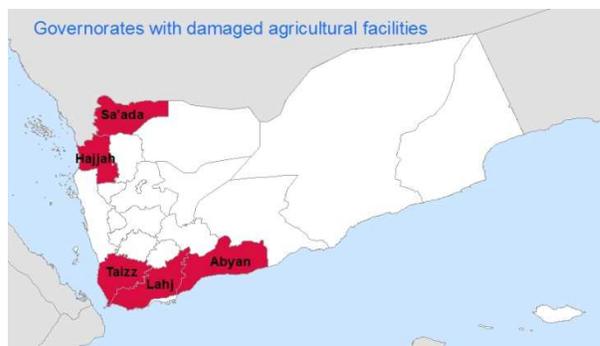
The combination of conflict-related damage to agriculture infrastructure, the lack of fuel to irrigate land and below-average rain has deeply affected the agricultural sector.

The impact of the conflict and import restrictions on the agricultural sector has been devastating. Livelihoods, food, fishery and labour systems have been eroded, leaving millions of people in desperate need of food assistance. Before the crisis escalated, agriculture employed 50 per cent of the workforce in Yemen and provided 25 per cent of crop-based food needs.

Air strikes and shelling have damaged agricultural infrastructure and facilities in Abyan, Hajjah, Lahj and Sa'ada and Taizz governorates, which had all reached food insecurity emergency levels. Armed conflict has severely hindered the supply and distribution of agriculture and farm products and limited access to fuel necessary to irrigate arable land. Markets have also been hit, killing scores of people.

These factors, combined with below-average rainfall, are likely to result in a 30 per cent reduction of crop production in some of the key agricultural regions of the central highlands of Sana'a Governorate, the southern uplands of Ibb and Taizz Governorates, and the western coastal areas of the Tihama Basin in Al-Hudaydah and Hajjah Governorates.

The fishing sector, a key livelihood activity in Yemen, particularly among the coastal communities, has also declined with a 50 to 75 per cent reduction in fishing activities. Only 35 per cent of the 65,000 people employed in the fishery sector remain active.



The level of food insecurity is likely to deteriorate further in areas most affected by air strikes and shelling, such as, Hajjah, Hudaydah, Marib, Sa'ada and Taizz Governorates. In Taizz, where the security situation escalated rapidly in the last two weeks of August, the price of wheat increased by a third compared with the middle of the month. Hajjah Governorate is particularly vulnerable due to continued bombing and the presence of 300,000 IDPs (the equivalent of 23 per cent of the total IDP population). These people are likely to rely on humanitarian assistance as the main source of food in the future as host communities are struggling to meet their own basic needs. An estimated 12.9 million people need food assistance. This number will be re-assessed at the end of September with the launch of an Integrated Food Security Classification survey.

On 2 September, the King Salman Centre announced the arrival of 18 trucks carrying 225 tons of food and dates for 37,350 people in Hadramaut, Marib and Shabwah Governorates. The WFP-chartered vessel *Mona* that berthed on 3 September in Al Hudaydah port was carrying nearly 420 metric tons of vegetable oil and over 1,850 metric tons of sugar.

Increasing reports of new mines, UXOs and cluster-munitions contamination

At least 13 governorates have been contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXOs) and landmines, either due to the legacy of the intermittent conflicts in Yemen during the past five decades or as a direct result of the current fighting. In addition to UXOs, mines are being used in many parts of the country, including between Al Hudaydah and Bab-el-Mandeb (the crossing point to Africa) and in Aden and Lahj Governorates. Landmines and explosive remnants of war killed at least 11 people and wounded over 12 in Aden in August. In the Al-Lahum area of Aden, a family of IDPs trying to return home died when a mine exploded.

There are new reports of land contamination by air-dropped cluster munitions and the use of ground-fire cluster-munition rockets in Sa'ada Governorate. Areas in Hajjah Governorate are suspected of cluster-munition contamination, but insecurity is preventing survey teams from accessing the area.

Under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, each State Party undertakes to never, under any circumstances, use cluster munitions. Some 95 States have agreed to be legally bound by the convention. Yemen is the only country in the Gulf that is party to the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction.

The lack of access to and information on contaminated areas is hampering the deployment of an emergency humanitarian mine-action response. To increase awareness of mines and UXOs, UNICEF has provided mine-risk education under the leadership of the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center. From January until mid-August, almost 300,000 children and close to 85,000 adults were trained in the most affected governorates: Abyan, Al Dhale'e, Al Jawf, Aden, Shabwa, Hadramout, Sa'ada, Amran and Sana'a.

On 4 September, CERF released \$1 million for the screening of densely populated areas and key community facilities, demining and the removal of UXO.

In addition to areas contaminated by UXOs over the past three decades, there are reports of new land contamination by explosive ordnance, mines and cluster munitions.

Attacks on media reduce world window on Yemen humanitarian crisis

Yemen has become one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists. With hardly any international media with a direct presence in Yemen, the information window on the conflict and its consequences for the civilian population has been shrinking every day.

At least seven journalists have been killed in Yemen so far this year, compared with two in 2014, according to Reporters without Borders and the International Federation of Journalists. The 2015 World Press Freedom Index ranks Yemen 168 out of 180 countries, according to criteria that include media pluralism and independence, and respect for journalists' safety and freedom.

According to local and international sources, newspapers are frequently raided, and journalists are beaten, threatened and kidnapped. At least 11 journalists are being held hostage, including nine who were abducted at the same time on 9 June from a Sana'a hotel. Their current fate is unknown, according to Reporters without Borders.

The Studies and Economic Media Center, a Yemen-based civil-society organization, reports that in August, 61 breaches were committed against journalists and social media activists. The majority took place in the capital, Sana'a, with abductions accounting for about half of these breaches. Reports of other incidents have also come from Dhamar, Aden and Taizz Governorates.

Insecurity is preventing international media organizations from deploying their own staff. They are increasingly depending on other sources, such as bloggers or international aid organizations, military and/or tribal sources, as well as information channels from neighbouring countries, such as Egypt, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

The lack of a functioning infrastructure, and of electricity and Internet services, adds to the challenges of spreading information about the conflict's humanitarian consequences and the evolving humanitarian needs.

The International Society of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate and 26 other international media organizations have urged the UN Security Council to publicly press all parties to the conflict in Yemen to refrain from any attacks on media. They are referring to resolution 2222 adopted by the UN Security Council on 27 May 2015, which "condemns all violations and abuses committed against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in situations of armed conflict, and calls upon all parties to armed conflict to bring an end to such practices."

Funding update

In addition to insecurity, overall underfunding limits the scale-up of humanitarian aid; access to basic services keeps declining

The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) is 37 per cent funded as of 14 September, with \$592 million in contributions made against the \$1.6 billion in requirements for the year.

Donors are being encouraged to coordinate their assistance through the YHRP and relevant clusters to ensure the greatest possible impact of their contributions. The least funded life-saving sector in the YHRP is protection, funded at 16 per cent of requirements.

Donors have pledged an additional \$86 million to the YHRP that has not yet been paid. Some \$255 million has been contributed to humanitarian programmes outside the appeal,

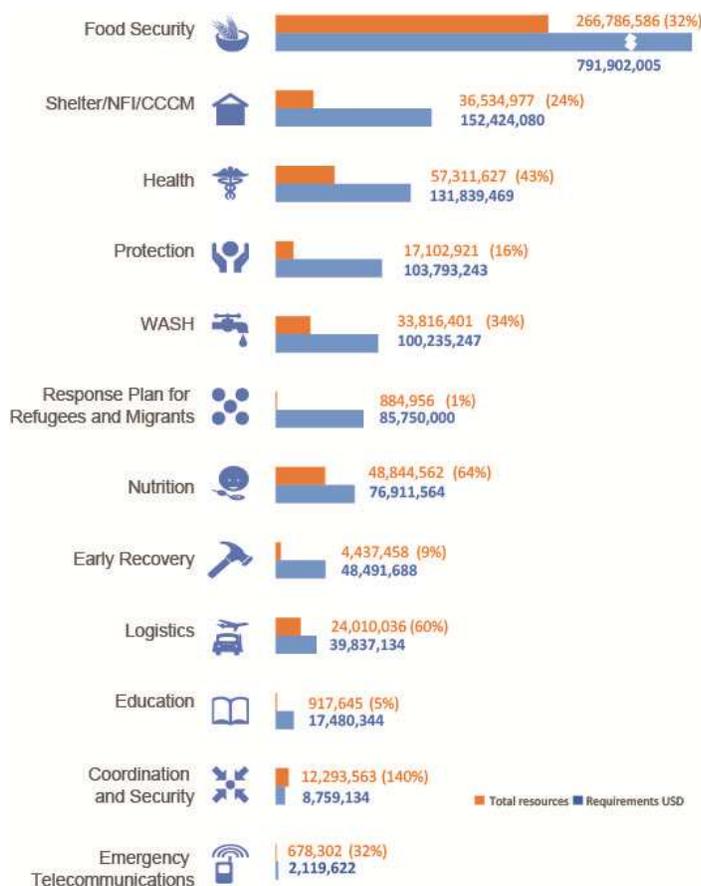
Attacks on media and the lack of a functioning infrastructure, and of electricity and Internet connections, add to the challenges of spreading information about the humanitarian consequences of the conflict and the evolving humanitarian needs in Yemen.

with significant in-kind contributions from Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Russia. The Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund has received \$38 million in 2015, and an additional \$11 million has been pledged. The fund launched a \$14.5 million reserve allocation from 7 to 20 September that focuses on food security and agriculture (\$4.5 million), nutrition (\$2 million), health (\$3 million), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (\$3.5 million) and protection (\$1.5 million).

Simultaneously, a CERF rapid-response allocation for \$15 million has been approved, and the projects are being developed by agencies focusing on shelter/NFIs/CCCM (\$4 million), WASH (\$4 million), health (\$2.5 million), protection (\$2 million), multi-sector assistance for refugees and migrants (\$1 million) and mine action/solid-waste removal (\$1.5 million). This takes CERF's rapid-response allocations for Yemen to \$44 million in 2015. Complementarity between CERF and the country-based pooled fund is being ensured.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service

(<http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.



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