

HIGHLIGHTS

- 30 per cent of the water supply system in Yemen is not working. The WASH cluster has to make tough choices on priorities.
- 32,000 people have fled their homes in Abyan since the military offensive started in early May.
- Green light in Sa'ada to do assessments, an indication of improved access. But many hurdles remain.
- Mid-year review concludes with 25 per cent increase in funding requirements.
- A new three-minute video seeks to draw attention to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

FIGURES

# of food insecure (million)	10
# of global acute malnutrition	966,848
% food cost inflation (12 months)	12.3
# of children vaccinated against measles	7.65 m
# of refugees	220,928
# of new arrivals, 2012 to end May	51,441
# of IDPs (Newly displaced not included)	470,212

Sources: WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR

FUNDING

460 million
requested (US\$)

48% funded



OCHA

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Water situation deteriorating in Yemen

Entire country currently embroiled in water emergency

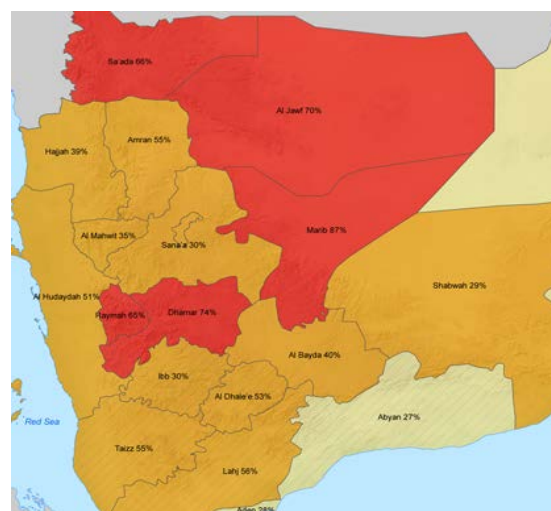
The 2012 Rural Water Sector Survey shows that 30 per cent of the water supply systems in Yemen are not functional. This is due to depletion of water sources, disrupted power supplies and a lack of resources in Yemeni communities to pay for repairs. As a result, the entire country is now facing a water, sanitation and hygiene emergency. With only 20 per cent of its requirements funded, the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) cluster is making tough choices about where to focus programming efforts.

This crisis is set against a backdrop of chronic WASH needs in Yemen that have been present for decades. The country has some of the most limited water resources in the world, and Sana'a is forecast to become the world's first capital to run out of water. More than half of Yemen's population lack access to clean water or proper sanitation, and open defecation and disposal of waste water are common practices.

On average, 140 cubic metres of water are available per person per year in Yemen, compared to an average 1,000 cubic metres per person in the Middle East and North Africa region. The country sees only an average of 167 mm of rain per year, and there are no dams, storage or water harvesting. 90 per cent of water goes to agriculture, and 60 to 70 per cent of this is channelled to qat production. After what is consumed by industrial purposes, the few buckets left are for the population.



Water improvement, sanitation and promotion of hygiene are urgent needs in Yemen, but the sector has only received one fifth of the funds required for this year (Photo: UNICEF/Donald Burgess).



Map showing water priority needs in Yemen in 2012, colour coded as critical (red), serious (orange) and poor (yellow). It should be noted that no governorate in Yemen is classified as OK on water (Source: iMMAP/WASH Cluster).

“We have to advocate for the urgency of the water problem in Yemen and for a sustainable water policy”

Emergency supply for internally displaced people a priority

Meeting the emergency water supply needs of Yemen’s half million internally displaced people (IDPs) is the WASH cluster’s top priority. Humanitarian agencies are providing this emergency supply by water tankering or extending existing pipeline networks. But communities hosting IDPs must also be assisted, as their existing resources are being depleted.

The second priority is to check the water quantity and quality in areas where disease outbreaks, lack of food and malnutrition remain ongoing threats. The focus here is to ensure that the water that ends up in the buckets of the vulnerable population is safe. Simple low-cost solutions to improve water quality are essential, such as providing water filters and chlorination.

Poor or nonexistent sanitation facilities in the rural areas also present a health threat. Communal latrines, and in some places household pit latrines, are the humanitarian solution. Removing solid waste from inhabited areas to avoid vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever and malaria and changing sanitation practices is also important.

Spreading hygiene awareness at the community and household levels is essential to preventing diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections – the most potent causes of child mortality and morbidity. Hygiene kits with soap are being periodically distributed to IDP and other vulnerable populations, and community mobilization and trainings are part of the package.

WASH cluster aims to assist 2.6 million people in 2012

The WASH cluster response plan aims to reach 2.6 million people with emergency programmes and requires US\$58 million in 2012 to get the job done. During the first six months, only \$11.6 million materialized, representing 20 per cent of revised requirements. One effect of the serious underfunding could be a steep increase in mortality and morbidity related to water-borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dengue and measles. The poor water, sanitation and hygiene status is also a contributing factor to alarming malnutrition rates in Yemen. (Nearly one million children under five are affected by acute malnutrition, please see Humanitarian Bulletin #2, May 2012).

WASH programme planning with nutrition and health partners

“One of the WASH priorities over the coming months is integrated planning with the Health and Nutrition Clusters,” says Donald Burgess, WASH Cluster Coordinator in Yemen. Water and sanitation are key to the work of most clusters. Internally displaced persons face major problems in accessing clean water; the food sector depends on water, and so does the education sector. No school can run without water and latrines, and there is no early recovery without water. Global emergency response standards call for 15 litres of water per person per day. In Yemen, 52 per cent of the population falls below this standard, meaning that after a family has used water for drinking and cooking, little is left for washing hands.

Creating momentum for a comprehensive water policy

With no water storage, the Yemen underground water table is depleting fast and not recharging on a rainy day. Neighbours in the Gulf region can rely on treating sea water to produce drinking water, but this remains an unaffordable option for Yemen.

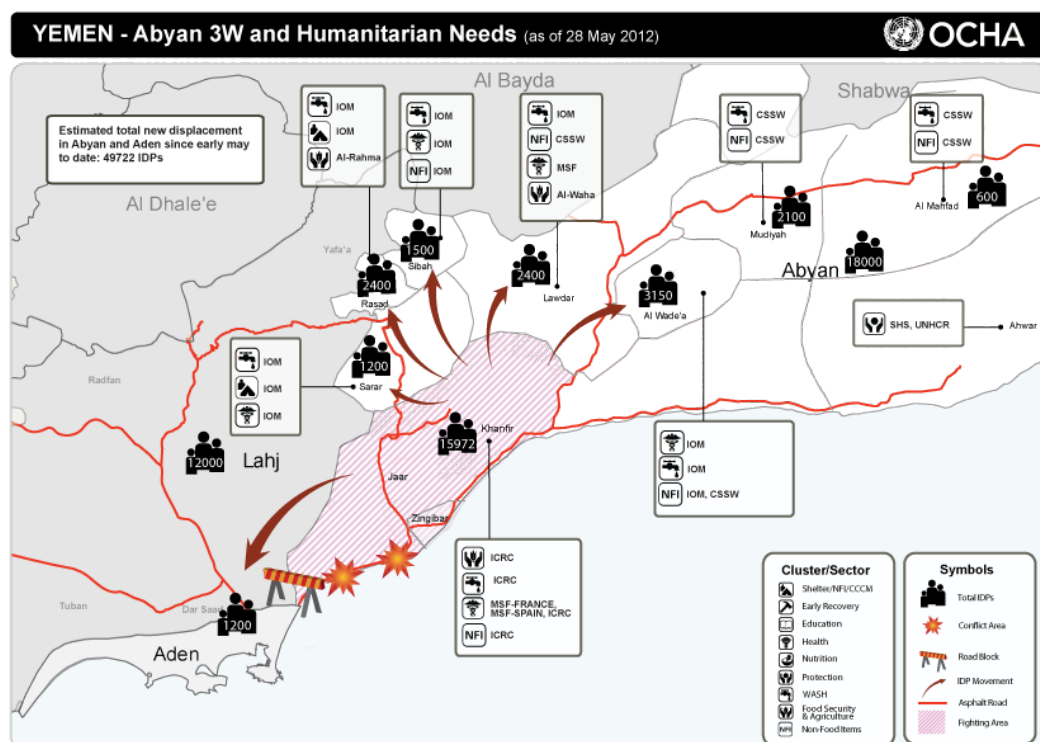
“The water picture in Yemen is bleak, and alternative solutions must urgently be agreed on,” says WASH Cluster Coordinator Burgess. In the mid-year review of the Humanitarian Response Plan, the cluster decided to put political advocacy high on the agenda. “The humanitarian community alone cannot implement a national water plan, but we have to advocate for the urgency of the water problem in Yemen and for a sustainable water policy,” he continued. “We need to ensure that the water sector is more prominently represented within the Government, particularly now a transition plan is in development for Yemen. We have to help put the water emergency on the agenda. Every one dollar invested on water and sanitation reaps a benefit of up to 30 dollars saving on the public health budget.”

32,000 people displaced inside Abyan, many difficult to reach with humanitarian assistance

Zinjibar recaptured; major displacements

483 killed in Abyan offensive

Yemen's military has recaptured significant territories previously controlled by Ansar al-Sharia, a local al-Qaeda affiliate, according to a 12 June announcement by the Yemeni Embassy in Washington. The army took control of the Governor's mansion in Zinjibar, the provincial capital of the Governorate of Abyan, and Yemeni troops arrived at the centre of Ja'ar at dawn following weeks of fierce battles. De-mining engineers have been dispatched to the area to sweep and clear previously held areas in Abyan.



A map developed by OCHA to show conflict areas, road blocks, flight routes taken by IDPs and where humanitarian agencies work inside Abyan.

Yemeni forces launched an all-out offensive on 12 May aimed at reclaiming towns and cities lost to al-Qaeda in the past year, including Zinjibar. On 11 June, AFP reported that since the beginning of the attack, 483 people, including 368 militants, 70 government soldiers, 26 local armed men and 19 civilians, had been killed.

Estimated 32,000 people displaced in Abyan since start of offensive

It is too early to know precisely how and when the military developments will impact the humanitarian situation. Over the last month, as fighting intensified, humanitarian implications were immediately seen: families left their homes to seek physical protection outside the conflict area. However, roadblocks and active hostilities have limited where these families can seek security, and many non-conflict areas remain difficult to reach with humanitarian aid. Most households are seeking refuge in other Abyan districts. The estimated number of newly displaced persons inside Abyan since the military build-up to date is nearly 32,000, or close to 5,300 households. Half of them are still inside Khanfar district, while the major destinations for those who have been able to leave the conflict zone are in Al-Wadeah, Lawdar and Rasad districts.

Humanitarian access limited

On 6 June, the ICRC issued a statement saying that fierce fighting has led to a severe deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Abyan and hampered the organization's ability to deliver urgently needed assistance. ICRC in Yemen is extremely concerned about the people trapped inside the conflict area and about the dire situation in Ja'ar, Shukra and nearby areas where fighting continues. ICRC staff have identified serious,

Calls for access and respect for International Humanitarian Law

urgent needs that could lead to the displacement of over 100,000 people. Food reserves are running short, prices are soaring, and health-care services are inadequate. The area had been without electricity for over a week. As a result, the water supply network, which relies on electrical pumps, was disrupted. “If we were immediately allowed to bring relief supplies in to Abyan, we could prevent population movements towards Aden,” the ICRC said in the statement.

Humanitarian community prepares response

The Humanitarian Coordinator and OCHA visited Aden in mid-May to meet with the humanitarian team and review preparedness planning. They met with the Governor and the Government military commander for the south to advocate for adherence to international humanitarian law, options for efficient humanitarian response and negotiations on humanitarian corridors for aid delivery. The WHO Representative also visited Aden to assess the situation and prepare the WHO response and stockpiling and distribution of essential medicines and supplies to Lowdar Hospital and referral health facilities in Abyan.

In Aden, agencies continue to support programming in Abyan for water supply, food, non-food items and health support in northern districts. While the humanitarian community continues to advocate for safe exit for civilians in Abyan, response options are being explored for provision of food and non-food items to war affected civilians trapped in conflict areas should the coastal road between Zinjibar and Aden remain closed for a protracted period. With the help of local partners, an assessment plan is being finalized in northern districts of Abyan.

Many humanitarian partners in Aden – significantly fewer in Abyan

The humanitarian community in the south now counts 19 organizations with a total of 2,231 staff (2,174 nationals and 57 international). Most actors focus their activities on Aden city. In Abyan, five organizations – IOM, CSSW, MSF-S, MSF-F and ICRC – maintain a physical presence.

More killed in the north – but access improves

The security situation in northern Yemen remains volatile and unpredictable. In Sa'ada Governorate the situation is relatively calm, although clashes have intensified in the Kushar and Kitaf districts between Al-Houthi and Salafist tribes. There are conflicting reports on numbers of fighters killed, but according to some sources 66 people, out of whom 50 were Al-Houthis, were killed in the first 2-3 days of June alone.

Despite continuing insecurity in some areas, a significant break-through has come in Sa'ada, where the *de facto* authorities have given their approval in principle to conducting humanitarian assessments. The lack of precise information about needs in the area, together with access restrictions, have been a major obstacle in planning and delivering humanitarian aid. The approval comes following long-standing OCHA-led outreach efforts to Al-Houthis.

Aid agencies in Sa'ada have recommended building the capacity of the *de facto* Executive Council and local partners as a way to improve access and effectiveness of humanitarian aid. UNDP is recruiting a capacity assessment expert to support the local authorities, and UNHCR is organizing training on protection. OCHA plans to train the *de facto* Executive Council and other partners on humanitarian principles. Further efforts are required to improve access monitoring for evidence-based reporting on the access constraints. This will support negotiations by raising awareness on what is happening. In Hajjah, aid agencies report that the prolonged process of registration of new IDPs and the lack of verification of protracted IDP populations continue to cause problems.

Mid-year review finds rising needs in Yemen

Needs have risen considerably – and so must funding requests

The key drivers of humanitarian needs in Yemen remain basically the same as when the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2012 (HRP) was originally planned, according to a wide range of UN agencies, NGOs and the Yemeni Government, who sat down with clusters to review and adjust the HRP at the mid-year point. However, the reduction in basic social services and the shrinking of resilience and other coping mechanisms have

The revised Response Plan requires 25 per cent more funding due to increased needs.

contributed to rising needs as a result of these key drivers. Displacement has increased following renewed conflict in the north and the south. Adequate shelter solutions for IDPs continue to prove elusive and present further protection challenges. An increasing number of people seek refuge in and around urban centres, in addition to the high – and growing – number of asylum seekers, migrants and refugees arriving from the Horn of Africa. IDPs seeking shelter in schools undermine efforts to support education. Recruitment of children by armed groups and armed forces continues to be an alarming trend, particularly as conflict intensifies in the north and the south.

25 per cent increase in requirements

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) plans to continue to strengthen the focus on Yemeni communities in humanitarian need that are not directly affected by conflict. Overall, the revised response plan is set to increase funding requirements by around 25 per cent. Sectors with significant increases include WASH, early recovery, education and nutrition. The food security sector is also expected to increase its requirements by another 25 per cent by the third quarter of 2012, before the new CAP cycle begins.

Mid-year review prioritizes districts with multifaceted needs

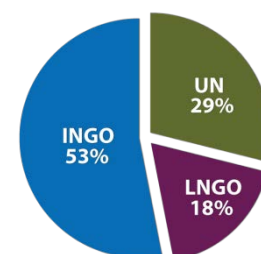
Clusters agreed through to mid-year review to prioritize districts where an inter-cluster response is most urgently needed. Several clusters are strengthening joint programming. For example, the Nutrition Cluster Coordinator explained that 70 per cent of the planned nutrition projects in the 2012 Humanitarian Response Plan have health and WASH components. Currently the Nutrition and WASH Clusters are examining joint priorities.

An integrated programming plan has been developed for Hudaydah and a similar plan will be developed for Taiz. The Education and Protection Clusters are also mapping areas where joint programming will increase the impact of their planned activities. Inter-cluster assessment programming will be prominent leading to the 2013 Humanitarian Response Plan, which will be developed in the last quarter of 2012.

18 per cent of ERF funding to national NGOs

A monthly monitoring plan has been developed for the Emergency Response Fund for 2012, and in May the ERF manager visited projects funded in Aden. Detailed information on ERF decisions is now available through a monthly snapshot that provides updates on progress, balance and projects approved. This system significantly increases the transparency of the ERF process.

By the end of May, nearly \$4 million had been disbursed to partners through ERF in 2012, representing a substantial gain over 2011, when \$3.6 million was disbursed over the whole year. The ERF approved 17 projects in the first five months of the year, with WASH projects receiving the largest share, followed by health, protection and multi-sectoral projects.



Funding allocations through ERF as distributed up to now in 2012 to UN agencies, International and Local NGOs.

New group of local NGOs trained

A three day training workshop for local NGOs was held in Sana'a in the last week of May. The 27 participants – of whom 6 were women – came from all over the country, including from conflict hot-spots. The workshop focused on humanitarian coordination mechanisms, financing tools and sources for humanitarian work, such as the CERF, ERF and consolidated appeals. The cluster approach, information management tools such as district level planning, how to do a good rapid assessment, and good project management were also key focuses. Humanitarian principles and how to apply them in different situations was a theme that many participants found particularly relevant to their work. Participants also raised issues related to work with non-state actors, humanitarian space and civil-military cooperation.

The HCT has launched a video on the crisis in Yemen as part of larger advocacy efforts this year.



Some of the 27 participants in a training workshop for national NGOs in Sana'a last week of May. (Photo: OCHA).

Focusing world attention on the Yemen crisis

The Humanitarian Country Team, supported by OCHA, has worked consistently to highlight the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and make its impact on the population known. This strategy included a media event in Dubai in November 2011, presentations to the diplomatic corps in Sana'a, briefings for the GCC in Riyadh, presentations to the League of Arab States and the Humanitarian Forum in Cairo, and culminated in the Friends of Yemen meeting in Riyadh on 23 May.

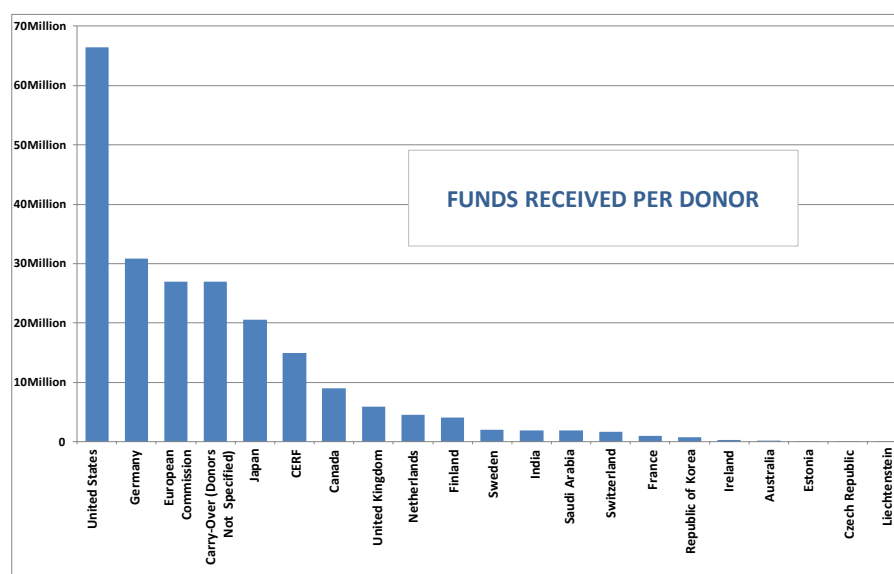
Video: Crisis in Yemen

A group of communications staff from some of the major UN agencies and INGOs in Yemen have also supported a short, locally produced video that highlights the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. In three minutes, it shows some of the implications of the crisis and the costs of doing nothing, explaining how deteriorating basic services and protracted conflict have exhausted Yemenis' normal methods of coping with hardship. The video goes on to make a strong case for a broad range of support, stressing the need for rapid humanitarian programmes as the most critical. The video can be watched through the following link: [Crisis in Yemen](#).

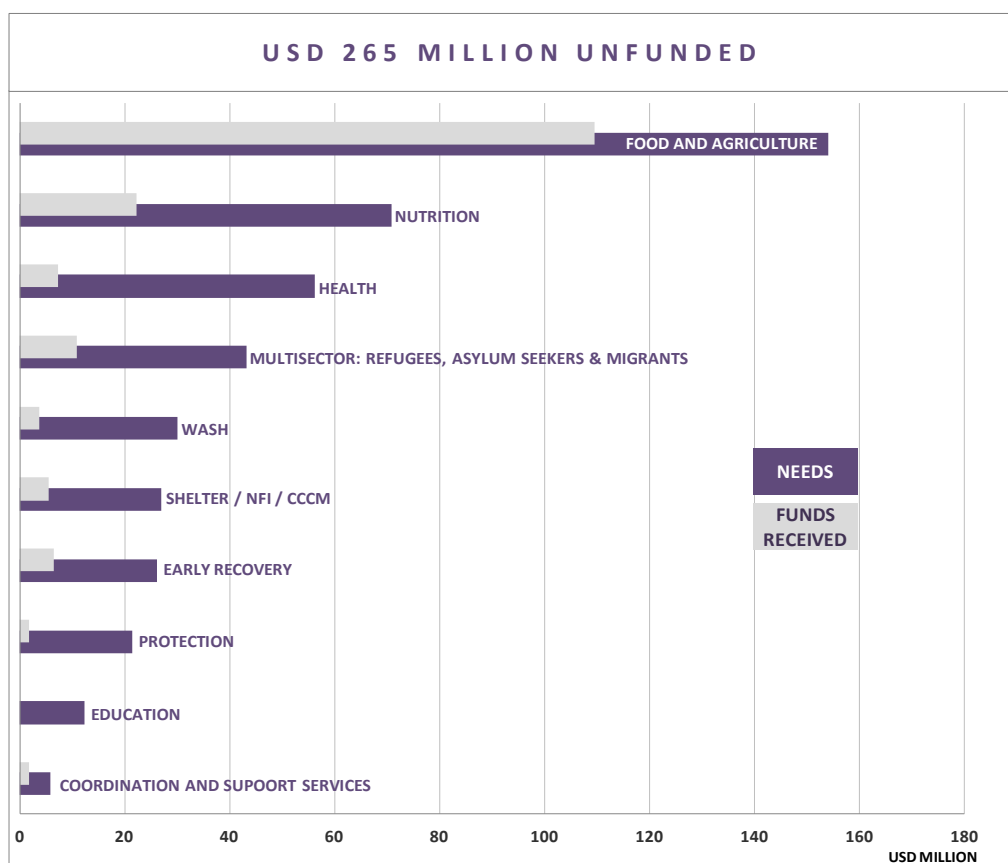
Funding

HRP 48 per cent funded half way through the year

The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan has received \$222 million from a broad range of donors, representing 48 per cent of requirements. But \$240 million remains unfunded, and the current funding level is forecast to represent only 40 per cent of requirements revised through the mid-year review process (final results to be launched in July). The later funding arrives, the deeper the crisis is allowed to grow.



Funding by donor, as reflected by OCHA's Financial Tracking System on 12 June 2012.



Funding by sector, as it looks before the requirements of several clusters are increased as a result of the midyear review of the Humanitarian Response Plan (Source: FTS).

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