

HIGHLIGHTS

- The plight of migrants from the Horn of Africa has worsened, with 25,000 people stranded in Haradh.
- More than 200 schools have been rehabilitated by USAID and the Ministry of Education since 2011.
- Civil disobedience in Abyan has disrupted schooling with 12 schools reportedly attacked in March.
- Suspected cases of measles reported in Hajjah Governorate.
- 25,000 tons of food to be distributed to 900,000 people in Bani Mtar District of Sana'a Governorate.
- Support centre for returnees opens in Sa'ada.

FIGURES

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| People without access to safe water and sanitation | 13.1 m |
| Food insecure people | 10.5 m |
| People without access to health care | 6.4 m |
| Acutely malnourished children | 998,000 |
| Internally displaced people | 344,019 |
| Returnees | 182,845 |
| Refugees | 242,002 |
| Migrant/Refugee arrivals in 2013 | 29,469 |

Sources: UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, WHO, UNICEF

FUNDING - 2013

716 million
requested (US\$)

27% funded



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Worsening plight of migrants from Horn of Africa

Humanitarian Coordinator appeals for financial support

The plight of thousands of destitute economic migrants from the Horn of Africa in Yemen has worsened, with up to 25,000 migrants stranded in northern Yemen. At least 250 others are in Aden in the south. The situation has stretched the capacity of humanitarian organizations to provide basic food, protection medical and shelter needs.

The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, visited northern Yemen on 18 April and saw the harrowing conditions facing thousands of migrants. He appealed to the international community to provide financial support to humanitarian agencies responding to the needs of the migrants.

2013 movement of Horn of Africa migrants and refugees in Yemen



Sources: UNHCR, IOM:

He also appealed for support to Governments in the Horn of Africa and the Gulf region to strengthen the management of migration and national borders, combat transnational organized crime and uphold migrants' human rights. The HC's visit to the Yemen-Saudi border areas followed raids conducted by Yemeni authorities on smugglers' and traffickers' camps around the border town of Haradh in Hajjah Governorate. The raids rescued 1,987 migrants, many of whom had suffered physical or sexual abuse at the hands of traffickers trying to extort money from them.

According to the Humanitarian Coordinator, many migrants suffer gross physical abuse and severe economic and sexual exploitation. Often stranded under extremely difficult circumstances, “their plight must be urgently addressed.”

Thousands still arriving from the Horn of Africa

In spite of the hardships involved, thousands of people still leave the Horn of Africa region every month, especially Ethiopia and Somalia, with hopes of a better life in the Arabian Peninsula. It is a perilous journey in overcrowded boats through the Gulf of Aden to Yemen. In 2011, UNHCR estimated that over 100 migrants drowned or went missing en route.

Yemen has suffered years of political instability and violence, but remains an important transit country for these migrants, many of whom hope to continue on to other countries in the Gulf region. The number of arrivals doubled from 53,000 in 2010 to 107,000 in 2012, when around 84,000 Ethiopians and 23,000 Somalis arrived in Yemen. This year, UNHCR has already recorded the arrival of nearly 30,000 people on the Yemen coast, including 25,076 Ethiopians.

In April, the Government began raiding hideouts run by traffickers to free migrants. It also started military flights to return hundreds of Ethiopian migrants to Addis Ababa. Those who were freed in the raids were housed in Government facilities in Amran and Sana’a pending their return. As of 30 April, 1,163 migrants, including 121 women and girls, were housed at the Immigration, Passport and Naturalization Authority in Sana’a. Another 535, including 90 women and girls, were at Amran Central Prison. Both facilities, however, were filled beyond their maximum capacity.

Stronger response to the needs of migrants is required, as most have no legal documents or livelihood opportunities.

22 per cent of migrants are women and girls – the majority unaccounted for

About 22 per cent of the migrants that land on the Yemeni coast are women and girls, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Many try to reach Saudi Arabia, but by the time they reach Haradh, the majority of this vulnerable group cannot be accounted for. Many women and girls are believed to suffer repeated sexual and gender-based violence along the journey. According to Medecins Sans Frontieres-Spain, which runs a hospital in Al-Mazraq in Hajjah, most released migrants treated at their facility had been victims of human trafficking, forced labour and slavery.

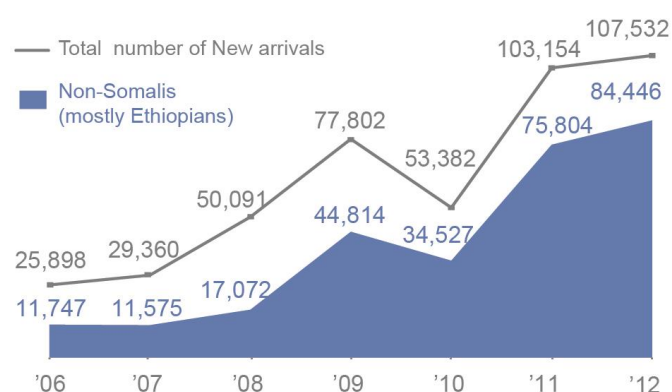
Yemen is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and therefore provides a formal protection framework for refugees. However, similar protection is not afforded to migrants. Moreover, most migrants have no legal documents and have limited access to livelihoods and basic services.

Responding to the needs of the migrants

Various international humanitarian agencies including the IOM and the World Food Programme (WFP) are helping the stranded migrants. IOM has appealed for \$1.2 million to provide urgent shelter, food, basic health care and protection to 2,193 migrants in Aden, Amran, Haradh and Sana’a.

Other agencies, including the Yemeni Red Crescent and the local branch of the Saudi-based Al Awn Foundation, are providing medical, sanitary and other assistance. OCHA is advocating with other local NGOs for a stronger response to the migrants’ crisis. In Aden in southern Yemen, OCHA supported the efforts of IOM to work with local authorities to identify temporarily housing for migrants. An Emergency Response Fund grant of \$500,000 has also been approved to assist the migrants.

New arrivals (per year) in thousands



Source: UNHCR

Conflict prevented an estimated 280,000 students from attending school last year. With ongoing rehabilitation of schools and improved security, many have now been able to return to class.

The gender imbalance between male and female teachers in Yemen is large and affects school attendance because traditional families do not approve of girls being taught by men.

Supporting improvements in education for girls

Schools rehabilitated in Abyan Governorate

More than 200 schools have been rehabilitated across Yemen since 2011 by USAID, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and local authorities. This has made education more accessible to children, especially girls, particularly in conflict-affected areas. Only 53 per cent of girls who begin primary school in Yemen complete basic schooling.

In the southern Abyan Governorate, recent conflict prevented an estimated 280,000 students from going to school. Ten schools have now undergone major rehabilitation, and 18 more will be furnished in the coming months. Apart from the physical rehabilitation of schools, a new approach to learning has been introduced. Under the Yemen Early Grade Reading Approach (YEGRA), teachers are taught to focus on helping first to third graders to read and write using phonics. The Ministry of Education plans to roll out the programme nationwide. Until last year, Yemeni children were taught to read using word recognition and corresponding pictures, but the technique was often ineffective.



The rehabilitation of schools in Abyan has allowed children to return to class

Training teachers to enhance girls' education

According to statistics on the 2010-11 school year, only 28 per cent of teachers in Government basic and secondary schools are women. This deters many girls from attending school, as many traditionally-minded male family members do not approve of men teaching women in their family.

To address this imbalance, the World Bank approved in February a basic education project to train 700 more female teachers. The Ministry of Education estimates that 4,500 female teachers are needed to remedy the acute shortage of female teachers in rural areas. The World Bank project follows an earlier project that ended in December 2012.

Concurrently, a conditional cash transfer programme, designed to support girls in lower grades in disadvantaged communities in selected governorates, aims to reach 25,000 students.

Civil disobedience campaign affecting schools in Abyan

The call for civil disobedience in the south is impacting negatively on education. Every Saturday and Wednesday, nearly 50,000 children in Aden Governorate are denied access to their schools as protestors take to the streets.

The pro-separatist movement known as Al-Hirak has called for civil disobedience in the governorate to draw attention to their demands for increased autonomy for southern Yemen. As a result, many schools are forced to close, as staff and students risk attack or intimidation. In April, at least 12 schools were reportedly attacked, with both teachers and students intimidated by "sound bombs" and armed groups entering school premises. Humanitarian partners are advocating with local authorities to discourage the protestors from targeting schools or intimidating teachers and students.

The challenge of disease outbreaks and malnutrition

Disease outbreaks reported in various governorates

Suspected cases of measles were reported in Hajjah Governorate and samples sent to Sana'a for further investigation. In addition, three cases of dengue fever were also reported. According to WHO, measles cases reported in April averaged 54 per a million people. In Hajjah, 94 suspected cases were reported of which 50 were sent for laboratory analysis. Ten were confirmed to be measles cases. The cases reported across the

A nationwide measles immunization campaign in 2012 reached 94 per cent of the targeted 8.2 million children and reduced the number of reported cases.

country so far include both measles and Rubella (German measles). Humanitarian partners plan to launch a campaign against the disease around September, once funding becomes available.

Yemen has previously come close to the elimination of measles, the threshold of which is two cases per a million people. However, between January 2011 and March 2012, over 4,300 cases of measles, including 155 deaths were officially reported in Yemen, due to the decline in immunization coverage. In April 2012, a national measles campaign targeting over 8.2 million children (6 months to 10 years of age) achieved a coverage rate of 94 per cent. This resulted in the number of reported measles cases falling to 106, with zero deaths. The reports of a suspected new outbreak are therefore of great concern.

Moreover, humanitarian partners are in the process of procuring anti-rabies serum following reports of 525 cases of dog bites in Ibb Governorate between January and April. The cases include five deaths (three children). The most affected districts in the governorate include Udain, Hubaish, Dhu Assufal, and All Sayani. The cases this year, however, are much lower than 2012, when a total of 10,200 cases of dog bites were reported in Ibb.

New strategy to combat malnutrition – nearly 60 per cent of children suffering from chronic malnutrition

UNICEF and the Government of Yemen launched a major public information campaign on 15 April to fight malnutrition. The campaign will refocus attention on the nearly 60 per cent of Yemeni children under 5 who suffer from chronic malnutrition. Yemen has the second highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world, after Afghanistan.

Stunting – which results from chronic nutritional deficiency – causes irreversible physical and mental damage. Children who are stunted, especially during the first two years of their life, cannot grow to their full potential.

Acute malnutrition also remains a serious concern. More than one in eight Yemeni children under 5 suffer from severe acute malnutrition, meaning they face a very high possibility of death from common childhood illnesses. According to UNICEF, 730,000 children are moderately acutely malnourished, which also implies increased risk of illness and death.



An immunization exercise in 2012 reached 94 per cent of targeted children

Nutrition (31 March)¹

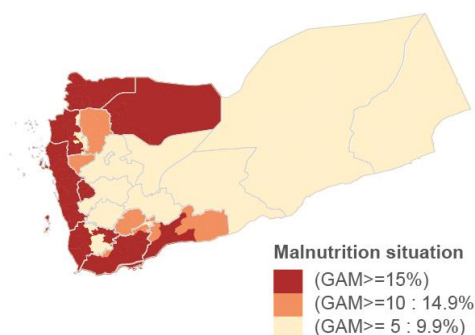
1 Million children under five with global acute malnutrition

255,000 children under five severely acutely malnourished

750,000 pregnant and lactating women undernourished

Source: UNICEF

Malnutrition (31 March)¹



This year, humanitarian partners have established an additional 228 outpatient therapeutic care programmes across the country to treat severe and moderate acute malnutrition, including 34 in Sa'ada in northern Yemen. Targeting the needs of the most vulnerable children is crucial to break the cycle of poverty.

New funding to sustain food rations for the most vulnerable

Faced with recent funding shortfalls, WFP will use a donation from the Japanese Government to purchase 29,000 metric tons of wheat, wheat flour, beans and vegetable oil for distribution to food insecure households.

Japan donated \$25 million to support the year-long \$242 million WFP emergency operation. This operation targets three main areas: emergency food assistance to 3.5 million food insecure people and cash transfers for another 400,000; food assistance to 600,000 internally displaced people; and nutritional support for 405,000 children under 5 and 157,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women. This is important because Yemenis displaced from their homes by conflict, and young mothers and children are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. As of early April, the operation was 48 per cent funded.

On 28 April, a project was launched in the Bani Matar District of Sana'a Governorate to deliver 25,000 tons of emergency food assistance to 900,000 people. The project, the first step in a larger programme to reach 3.9 million food insecure people across Yemen, is being implemented by Islamic Relief Yemen. Each household will receive a two-month ration of 50 kilograms of wheat, 10 kilograms of beans and five litres of vegetable oil.



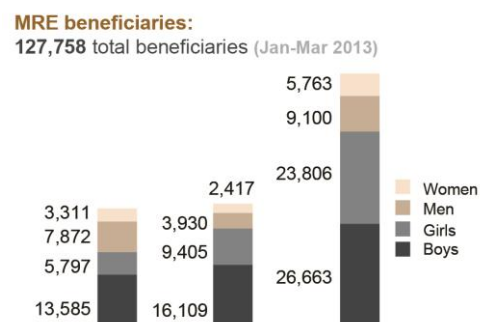
Children are particularly vulnerable in times of food shortages.

In brief

The demining programme has provided mine risk education to over 1.6 million people since 1999.

Over 127,000 people have received mine risk education in 2013

The demand for de-mining in Yemen continues to be high. Between July 2011 and March 2013, 71 children were killed by mines and explosive devices in areas deminers have not reached. Eight de-mining staff were killed and 20 wounded over the same period. In addition to mine action and clearance, the Yemen de-mining programme has provided mine risk education to 1,653,438 people since 1999, while 2,059 victims received assistance. The number of devices destroyed from July 2011 to February 2013 is 289,957, including 89,352 anti-personnel mines, 774 anti-vehicles mines, 196,321 UXOs and 3,510 booby traps.



More Children than adults received MRE training during the reporting period. Source: YEMAC

Support centre opens for returnees in Sa'ada Governorate

The Social Services Centre in Sa'ada was opened by UNHCR, in collaboration with a local NGO to provide returnees and host communities with various services. These include social, legal and psychological services, the provision of a hotline and enhancing relations with Government offices and NGOs working with target beneficiaries.

As of 1 April, 103,014 people were internally displaced in Sa'ada Governorate, while 6,986 had returned home. In total, 322,444 people remained internally displaced across northern Yemen while 36,845 had returned to their original homes.

Heavy rains inundate several governorates

Heavy rains continued to pound several Governorates, killing people and destroying property. According to the Yemen National Centre for Meteorology, 40 people have reportedly died in recent rains, most of them women and children. The most affected governorates include Shabwah, Marib and Al Bayda, as well as other mountainous regions across the country. Some roads and bridges have also been destroyed. Authorities are urging local people in affected areas to heed meteorological advice.

Inter-agency assessment for Abyan and Lahj Governorates

Humanitarian partners in southern Yemen are planning an inter-agency rapid assessment in Abyan and Lahj Governorates. The assessment will specifically focus on food security, water and sanitation, and protection needs of vulnerable war-affected communities, especially women, youth and marginalized groups. The outcome will inform programme design in Abyan and Lahj for the remainder of 2013. OCHA is advocating with cluster coordinators for similar assessments to be undertaken in other southern Governorates, such as Al Dhale'e and Shabwah.

Mid-year review of Humanitarian Response Plan

The mid-year review of the 2013 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) started with a briefing to partners and other stakeholders on 5 May in Sana'a. Over the next six weeks, the process will continue with consultations and input from clusters. A workshop will take place on 28 May to discuss priority revisions in the YHRP. The 5 May briefing was attended by 55 participants, including donors, Government officials, members of the Humanitarian Country Team and local NGO partners.

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