

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Newly displaced populations and host communities in the north and south of Yemen need immediate life-saving assistance.
- The security situation for international staff working in Yemen continues to be a major challenge.
- The many incidents of measles in Yemen have made parents eager to have their children vaccinated.
- The funding gap to implement the 2012 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen now stands at nearly 360 million dollars.



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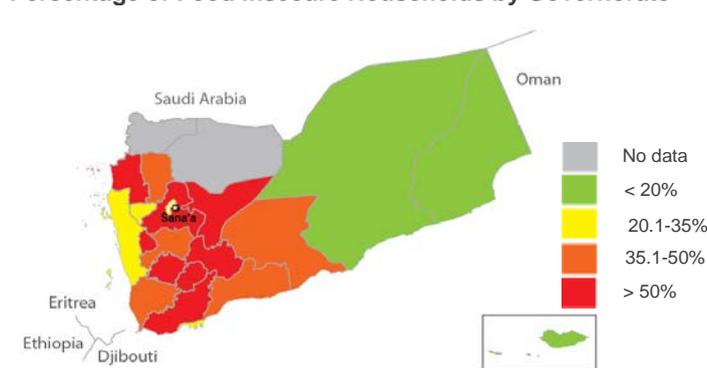
- Over 10 million Yemenis food insecure P.1
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## Food insecurity doubled in two years

Food insecurity in Yemen has reached alarming levels. 44 per cent of the population - over 10 million people - are food insecure. Half of them, five million people, are severely food insecure. This means that they cannot produce or buy enough food. The highest level of severe food insecurity is now in Al Bayda Governorate, where the level has reached over 60 per cent. These are preliminary findings of the recent Comprehensive Food Security Survey (CFSS) conducted by WFP together with UNICEF and the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of Yemen.

The survey was conducted during November and December 2011 and is based on interviews with close to 8,000 households in 19 out of 21 governorates. Compared to the findings of a similar study conducted at the end of 2009, food insecurity has doubled over the two years, and there is a massive increase in the number of severely food insecure.

Percentage of Food Insecure Households by Governorate



44 per cent of Yemeni households are food insecure, meaning that they cannot produce or buy enough nutritious and healthy food to feed their family. In the above map, governorates in red have the highest percentage of food insecure households. Due to hostilities the survey could not be conducted in Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates, reflected in grey on the map. (Source: CFSS March 2012 preliminary findings – WFP, CSO, UNICEF).

The survey findings indicate that an additional five million people, or 22 per cent of the population, were found to be moderately food insecure, but at the risk of moving into the "severely food insecure" category, exacerbated by rising food and fuel prices and conflict. In urban areas, where civil unrest has hit hardest, more than a quarter of households said that insecurity had reduced their ability to buy food. In Sana'a, the capital city, more than half of households at the time reported reduced access to food due to insecurity issues. In other areas, however, increased conflict and also land mines, directly impact the ability of households to produce or buy food.

The survey also documents that one in three Yemenis has fallen into debt to be able to pay for food for their family. A quarter of food purchases are done on credit. Immediate joint action is required to keep the many vulnerable households from slipping further into hunger. While food and agriculture is the sector of the Yemen 2012 Humanitarian Response Plan that has received the highest share of funding for 2012 (please refer to

### FIGURES

# of IDPs	465,000
# of refugees	220,000
# of new IDPs in 2012	94,500
# of measles cases	4,384
# of measles deaths	155

### FUNDING

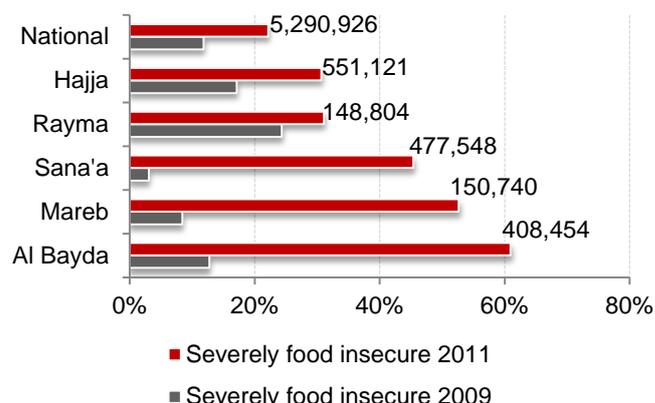
**447 million**  
requested (US\$)

**20%** funded

*The humanitarian response must go beyond supply of food. Nutrition, clean water and access to primary health care are important components.*

funding update on page 6), the findings of the CFSS documents that the food insecurity in Yemen is much more serious than estimated when the original plans and budgets were made at the end of 2011.

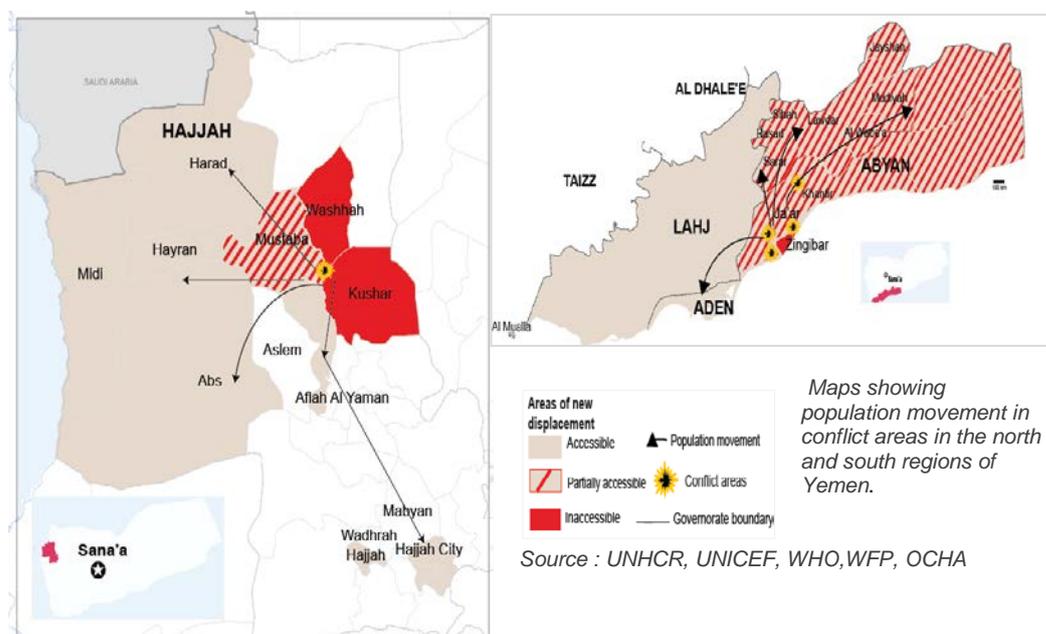
The humanitarian response required, however, now needs to go beyond supply of food. The most pressing humanitarian priorities are nutrition of women and children; providing clean water; access to primary health care; and food security. Analysis is ongoing to ensure a well-targeted response from other sectors to the crisis.



Source: CFSS March 2012 preliminary findings – WFP, CSO, UNICEF).

## 95,000 new internally displaced

Over the last two months, nearly 95,000 people have been forced to leave their homes as a result of two new conflicts. Since mid-February 2012, an estimated 56,000 people (8,000 families) have been displaced in the south of Yemen from Abyan Governorate. In the north, an estimated 38,500 people (5,500 families) have been displaced inside Hajjah Governorate alone. Both areas are already saturated with internally displaced persons; 144,000 IDPs in the south and 102,000 in Hajjah. Another 124,000 internally displaced persons in other governorates in the north bring the total number countrywide to approximately 465,000, which still is the UNHCR official figure as of February 2012.



This indicates that 20 per cent of the total estimated population of internally displaced in Yemen have left their homes over the last few months due to conflict. Prospects of them being able to go home any time soon are bleak; many of the newly displaced are likely

*Fear of armed clashes is forcing civilians to flee toward safer places. They are not likely to go home soon.*

to remain so for a protracted period. Shelter is a pressing need, as most of the new arrivals have to manage with plastic sheeting and makeshift accommodation.

The impact on host communities is heavy, as many of them are already severely affected by the countrywide crisis, while they are at the same time, trying to extend their support to IDPs. Identification of the most vulnerable groups of IDPs living in the community remains challenging.

The overall humanitarian response focuses on gathering and analysis of data to identify humanitarian needs; implementation of life-saving activities to reduce mortality and morbidity levels; ensure preparedness by working with local, national and international actors to plan timely, well supported and safe responses to needs arising from new crises; monitor, report and advocate for the rights of beneficiaries for protection and mitigate against abuse; and emergency response and preparedness activities to strengthen livelihoods and facilitate first line rehabilitation of basic services. For example, project activities include provision of tents, kitchen sets, primary health services, emergency water and sanitation facilities including hygiene sets, and protection of women and girls including against gender based violence.

### **New clashes – more internally displaced**

In the south, an attack by armed groups on an army barracks in Abyan Governorate at the beginning of March 2012, during which heavy weaponry was seized and 22 soldiers were killed, was followed by retaliatory aerial and naval bombardments on anti-government strongholds in the coastal Abyan towns of Zinjibar and Ja'ar. Both sides have since threatened their intent to escalate military engagement in the near future. This led to new spontaneous displacement.

On 1 April, media sources stated that around 30 Yemeni soldiers and 13 anti-government militants were killed in two separate clashes that erupted in Al-Milah area in Lahj province. An IDP woman died from shock. She was part of a group of IDP families fleeing fighting on the way from Al Milah to Al Anad. The incident raises the issue of safety of vulnerable groups during flight.

Fear of armed clashes is forcing civilians to flee toward safer places. Negotiations with the government are ongoing to keep roads open to allow safe exit for civilians in conflict areas.

An estimated 8,000 new families have fled in the south. Approximately 4,000 families have moved to quieter areas inside Abyan whilst another 4,000 families have fled to the nearby Aden and Lahj Governorates, held by government forces. Those arriving in Aden and Lahj are compounding the unsustainable burden on the hosting communities. Public services have already reached the point of collapse. The residential areas of the hosting community are saturated and 74 schools are fully occupied by IDPs. Those fleeing inside Abyan remain in areas under Ansar Al-Shari'a control. Only a few agencies, namely ICRC, IOM and CSSW, have sufficient security assurance to work there.

In the north, there have been six wars over the last eight years during which the Al-Houthis have expanded their territorial control in and around Sa'ada Governorate. More than 17,500 families remain displaced in nearby Hajjah Governorate at the beginning of 2012. Currently, there is a fragile truce between Al Houthis and the Yemeni government, but fighting between Al Houthis and opposing tribes in the areas of expansion in Hajjah intensified mid-January 2012.

### **Not likely to go home soon**

Most families flee at short notice as the fighting engulfs or comes close to their community. The majority flee on foot, walking for several hours before they reach a point where transport is available. Under these circumstances they are not able to carry food or other items required to prepare food or store water. Often they only have the

*The response plan targets beneficiaries who are internally displaced and also affected members of host communities.*

clothes they are wearing and any small valuables, including small reserves of cash. Pregnant women, children and the elderly are the most affected by this sudden and traumatic displacement.

It is likely that these 13,500 new IDP families will remain in displacement for a protracted period, possibly years. The fighting in the south is intensifying rather than subsiding and in the north, although the fighting is sporadic, the IDPs have no confidence that any truce will be sustained. Even if a truce does hold it will be many months before families will consider return as they fear reprisals; their livelihood and homes are damaged or destroyed and entire villages are booby trapped with mines. 24 people including an 8 year old girl have been killed in the last month while making attempts to salvage assets from their abandoned homes.

The Humanitarian Country Team has given priority to assistance for shelter and non-food items; water, sanitation and hygiene; food, health and protection. A request for seed funding has been submitted to the Central Emergency Response Fund to provide immediate life-saving assistance in the first 3 months while additional resources are mobilized for the continued response from donors. The response plan targets beneficiaries who are internally displaced, as well as affected members of host communities.

## Access and security constraints continue

The security situation for international staff working in Yemen continues to be a challenge. Security incidents affecting humanitarian access have repeatedly been reported over the last weeks. For example, the Deputy Country Director of an international NGO was shot dead in Taiz on 18th March. This has led to decreased access in Taiz for international staff members. A hostage incidence case where a foreign national was abducted in Hudaydah on 14 March is still unresolved and causes major concern. There has also been evidence of an increased threat from anti-government forces to international staff working in Aden. International staff have been advised to maintain a low profile and observe a curfew.

Out of 91 security incidents reported by UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in Yemen over the last week of March 2012, 50 incidents were in the southern region, particularly in Aden where 28 incidents were reported. In the south, intensive operations continue and new attacks may take place; in the north fighting between Al-Houthis and local rivals show no signs of abating, specifically in Sa'ada and Hajjah Governorates.

In Aden, international staff are now back in their offices after credible threats and a period of working from home around 20 March. In general, there are indications that the security situation for international staff is deteriorating. UNDSS and the Security Management Team are following the situation closely.

In the north, humanitarian partners are in a constructive dialogue on how best to overcome concrete access constraints as identified by agencies, and it is hoped that hurdles to delivery of humanitarian aid can be reduced. New attacks against internationals could, however, according to security analysts take place. Over the last few days, threats have focused on internationals in Sana'a.

### **INGO registrations continue but with challenges**

In the March issue of the Yemen Humanitarian Bulletin it was reported that the registration of two new international NGOs had been completed, namely International Medical Corps and Qatar Charity. This month, however, progress has been very limited. The registrations for MERLIN, Partners Yemen and Saferworld are all still pending.

On 26 March, OCHA shared with partners a first issue of a Humanitarian Access Report, which highlights trends, challenges and achievements to delivery of humanitarian aid and to protection of civilians in Yemen.

*902 schools in 12 governorates were damaged as a result of the 2011 conflict.*

## Schools damaged, education disrupted

Recent events in the country have caused major disruption to children's education. Some schools have been closed, while in others attendance has decreased significantly because parents are keeping their children at home for safety. Close to 300,000 children within the conflict affected governorates (Sana'a city, Taiz, Lahj, Abyan, Aden and Sa'ada) are being denied quality education, as their schools are either damaged, destroyed or occupied by others. Of these, 200,000 children were not able to access their schools which were occupied by armed forces or IDPs, especially in the southern governorates of Aden and Abyan and the capital Sana'a. Moreover, the central education authorities no longer have funds to provide adequate quality assurance supervision to governorates and districts.

The worst affected governorate, Sa'ada, has experienced six consecutive armed conflicts over the past seven years with more than 200 schools destroyed or damaged and more than 170,000 children affected.

Before the current crisis, girls' enrolment in school was low, at less than 70 per cent. The increasing violence has made the situation much worse. A government report, published by the Ministry of Education in March 2012, revealed that an estimated 902 schools in 12 governorates were damaged as a result of the 2011 conflict. According to the 2010 education survey conducted by Ministry, the number of children who were out of school in 2010 was 754,508 (Source: UNICEF).



*This child goes to school in a hut in Addahi in Hedaydah. Hundreds of thousands of children have no school at all to go to and have had their education disrupted. .Photo: Mohammed Al-Asaadi/UNICEF Yemen/March 2012.*

## Measles vaccination reaches 93 per cent in the north

The new countrywide measles vaccination programme which started in mid-March has had a very promising start in the north where it has now reached 93 per cent coverage in the target child population in 15 districts in Sa'ada Governorate. WHO reports that there is increased acceptance of the campaign by Yemeni communities due to the impact of the disease over the past 3-6 months. Parents are eager to save their children from this preventable disease. Previous vaccination campaigns only reached 80 per cent coverage. In the recent vaccination campaign the coverage of polio vaccination in the 15 districts in Sa'ada was 80 per cent.

In the 8 March Humanitarian Bulletin, a total of 3,800 measles cases were reported in Yemen from January 2011 till early March 2012, while 126 deaths had been officially reported. Figures for the reporting period have later increased – official numbers are by end March 4,384 measles incidents and 155 deaths. The highest incidence is found in Abyan, Al Bayda and Aden.

In March 2012, five million dollars was granted from the Central Emergency Response Fund in support of a vaccination campaign aiming to contain the outbreak of a measles epidemic in Yemen. The campaign is managed by UNICEF (vaccines and social mobilization) and WHO (vaccination) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. Further funding is now needed as campaign moves to south and central areas of the country

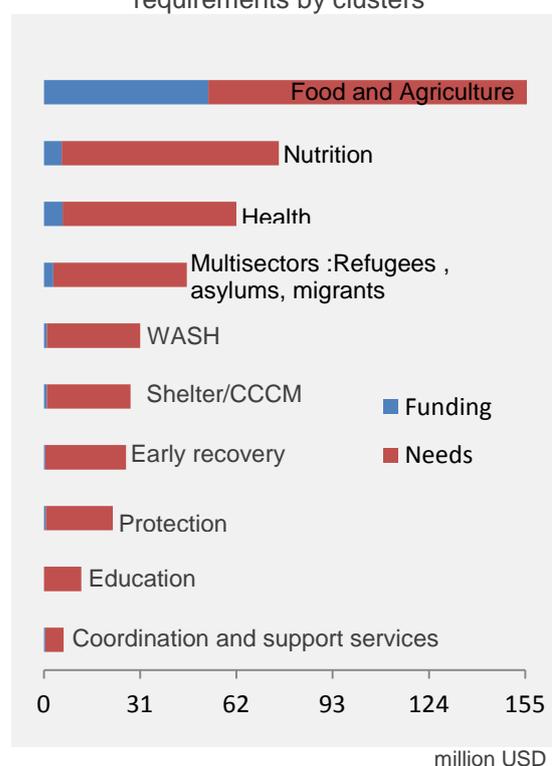
Several donors have made new pledges, but some clusters have received no funding for their work in 2012.

The vaccination campaign includes three activities: vaccination against polio and Vitamin A supplements to children below 5, and vaccination against measles of children up to 10 years old.

## Funding update

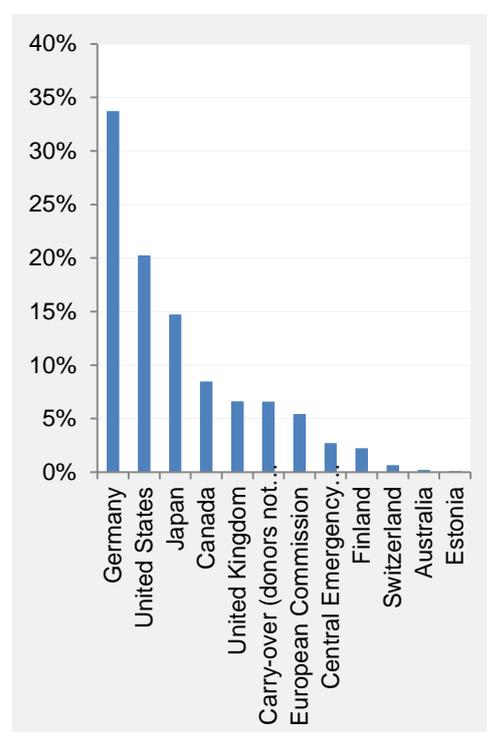
The 2012 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan is currently 20 per cent funded, amounting to approximately US\$88 million received. The funding gap remains at \$360 million. Several donors, however, have recently made new pledges, including the United States, who on 27 March announced \$36 million in additional emergency assistance to help ease the hunger that millions of Yemenis are experiencing. The contribution is earmarked for food aid through World Food Programme and the international NGOs ADRA and Mercy Corps. An additional U.S. contribution planned for later this year will focus on health, education, agriculture and economic growth.

Resources available versus requirements by clusters



Funding by sector: While some clusters have received a good portion of the funding they require for 2012, other clusters are at zero funding or close to zero (Source: FTS UNOCHA).

Funding by donor



Funding by donor: OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS) in the above graph reflects Germany as the biggest donor to the Yemen 2012 Humanitarian Response Plan.

### GCC member states review humanitarian needs in Yemen

A meeting between the UN and humanitarian partners, the Government of Yemen and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was held on 21 March to assess the humanitarian situation in Yemen and coordinate the efforts of GCC members in support of humanitarian needs in the poorest country of the Arabian Peninsula. Representatives of more than thirty countries and international organizations participated in the meeting.

It was noted that while considerable progress has been made to solve the political impasse, the humanitarian situation in Yemen continues to deteriorate and now urgent needs to be addressed. Concerned countries expressed their determination to continue to enhance their efforts in dealing with the humanitarian situation in Yemen. The GCC encouraged member states to urgently support the priority and underfunded sectors as

*The Emergency Response Fund continues to disburse around half a million dollars per month to meet new unforeseen needs.*

identified in the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2012. The GCC and other traditional donors present will reconvene in July 2012 following the mid-year review of the 2012 Response Plan.

#### **Emergency Response Fund enlarged**

In March 2012, The Humanitarian Country Team endorsed criteria for an expanded Yemen Emergency Response Fund (ERF) to meet funding needs in an evolving and unpredictable humanitarian situation, as a more flexible supplement to the one year Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan. Current donors to the ERF are Australia, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

The fund continues to disburse around half a million dollars per month in light of new unforeseen emerging needs. In March 2012, the ERF received four proposals from two international and 2 local NGO's. Three applications have been processed and approved by the WASH, Protection and Food clusters, while the fourth is a health proposal that is still under consideration.

For further information, please contact:

**Raul Rosende**, Head of Office, Yemen, [rosende@un.org](mailto:rosende@un.org), Tel. (+967) 712 222 207

**Signe Jepsen**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, New York, [jepsen@un.org](mailto:jepsen@un.org), Tel. +1 (917) 367 2334

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