

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Cessation of Hostilities declared
- 24 people killed, 49,000 affected by flash flooding in seven governorates
- \$34 m available through the Humanitarian Pooled Fund

Total population	26 m
# of people who need assistance	21.2 m
# of food insecure people	14.4 m
# of people displaced	2.8m
# of children at risk of malnutrition	1.8 m
# of deaths (WHO)	6,444
# of injuries (WHO)	31,091

Source: HRP and HNO-WHO

## FUNDING

**US\$1.8 billion**  
requested

**US\$294 million**  
Funding against HRP

**16%** funded

*In April, the Humanitarian Coordinator urged the International Community to scale up its funding support to ensure that critical needs are met.*



Displaced students at a school in Sana'a. Photo: Charlotte Cans

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## Cessation of Hostilities declared in Yemen

### A crucial respite in some areas

A Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) was declared in Yemen on 10 April, paving the way for the resumption of peace negotiations in Kuwait on 21 April. The prospect of a much needed respite in violence at a time of appalling suffering and trauma was welcomed by the humanitarian community. Since March 2015, the escalation of the conflict has taken a severe toll on the population; an estimated 21.2 million Yemenis (82 per cent of the total population) need some sort of humanitarian assistance.

Some 19.4 million people lack adequate access to clean water or sanitation and access to healthcare services for 14.1 million people has been disrupted. Over 500,000 pregnant women lack access to health care that would support safer births. WHO reports that more than 6,400 people have died and over 31,000 have been injured. However, the actual casualty numbers are likely much higher given that these figures are only from the records of functioning health facilities.

The violence has had a negative impact on food availability. An estimated 14.4 million Yemenis are food insecure, of whom 7.6 million severely so – a level of need that can only be met by external assistance.

The conflict has also had significant impact on the education system. According to UNICEF by April 2016, 1,600 schools remained closed and the conflict had forced an additional 560,000 children out of school. This is on top of the 1.6 million who were already out of school before the crisis. As such the total number of children out of school is estimated at around 2.16 million. This is a consequence of insecurity, occupation by IDPs or use by armed groups.

Displacement increased fivefold over a period of one year, with 2.8 million people reported displaced at the end of March 2016. In addition, over 176,000 people have fled the country since the intensification of the conflict, with most seeking refuge in the Horn of Africa, despite significant security and safety concerns in those countries.

### Humanitarian programming during the Cessation

Despite the fact that conflict continued in some parts of the country, the CoH has largely held in April. This provided some opportunities for humanitarian partners to expand responses in certain areas, conduct assessments or directly monitor activities that up to that point had been monitored remotely. For example, in Sa'ada Governorate, UNICEF was able to re-start the rehabilitation of a water facility in Kitaf district serving some 10,000 people which had been damaged in airstrikes. Additionally, humanitarian partners delivered medical supplies to districts where access was previously more limited, including areas along the border with Saudi Arabia. The cessation also coincided with an ongoing food distribution to about 270,000 people.

*The focus is to take advantage of access for delivery, when and where possible, as well as conducting assessments and directly monitoring activities*

Following assessments, emergency clean water was trucked to Taizz Governorate benefitting over 45,000 people and three mobile health and nutrition teams were deployed to Taizz City, where partners delivered medical supplies for over 130,000 people. In Hajjah and Al Jawf governorates, child protection partners provided psychosocial support for conflict-affected children, mine risk education in areas where intensive fighting took place as well as training to partners and communities on child protection in emergencies.



Polio Vaccination campaign in Yemen. Credit: WHO

The Cessation of Hostilities coincided with the launch of a nationwide three-day polio vaccination campaign that targeted more than five million children (under 5 years of age) in over 3.2 million households. Organised by the Ministry of Health and supported by WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank, the campaign reports reaching some 4.7 million children in 323 districts of the 333 districts targeted.

Although the number and intensity of airstrikes and clashes had diminished considerably, they do continue and this threat is still present. As a result activities have not expanded dramatically or uniformly, as partners have taken advantage of greater access where and when permitted.

### **Bureaucratic impediments hinder the humanitarian response**

Prior to the start of the Cessation, clusters had developed short-term operational plans to scale up assistance. Operational plans aimed at reaching more than 500,000 additional people in Al Bayda, Al Dhale'e, Al Jawf, Amran, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Marib, Sa'ada and Taizz with general food distribution, WASH and health assistance. Operational plans include the expansion of programme cycle activities, namely monitoring and assessments. Clusters and the Yemen Humanitarian Country Team have emphasized that the degree to which relief efforts can be scaled up will depend mainly on whether bureaucratic impediments are eased. The cessation holding and the availability of adequate resources are also important factors.

In late April, the humanitarian organizations reported that the cessation had brought little real change to their ability to deliver in Yemen. Bureaucratic impediments persisted both in areas that had not been experiencing active conflict prior to the cessation as well as in areas of active conflict. Bureaucratic impediments included a lack of clearance or delays in approving missions, assessments and ground movements of relief consignments. In her briefing to the Security Council, on the humanitarian situation in Yemen, the Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-wha Kang highlighted that "while airstrikes, rockets and ground fighting indiscriminately kill civilians, administrative obstacles are only nominally less devastating, directly contributing to hunger, sickness, deprivation and death".

### **Ships continue to face delays in obtaining clearances and fuel and food imports remain insufficient**

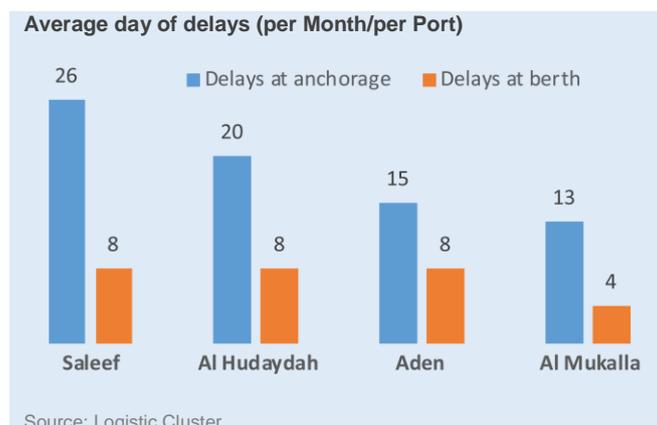
Commercial imports have noticeably decreased in March and April, primarily because of the delays in obtaining clearance to enter ports. Delays in the delivery of commercial goods into Yemen have a direct humanitarian consequence. Constricting the pipeline of food, fuel, and medical supplies into the country means that less is available for civilian consumption and what is delivered will be at an inflated price.

In March the number of vessels at anchorage - the area where ships wait before entering ports - decreased to 37 per cent, with 22 anchored in March, compared to 58 in February.

*For relief efforts to scale up significantly bureaucratic impediments must be removed immediately*

This can be attributed to delays at the ports and lack of infrastructure, some of which has been destroyed during the conflict.

Despite the decrease in the number of ships entering Yemen, delays still exist in all major ports. The main reasons for the delays are the reduced operational capacity of the seaports, together with rapidly changing security situations. As indicated in the graph, the highest delay at anchorage in March was recorded for Saleef port, with a vessels waiting for berth for 26 days, while Al Hudaydah Port experienced an average delay of 20 days of anchorage before reaching the docks to unload the cargo.



*More needs to be done to ensure that essential commodities enter Yemen and are accessible to the average Yemeni citizen.*

The volume of food and fuel imports into Yemen decreased in February and March 2016 compared to previous months. This has led to a decrease in the availability of both supplies on the market resulting in an increase in prices.

The March fuel imports represent eight per cent of the average monthly, country-wide fuel needs of 544,000 MT. General food imports in March decreased by 32 per cent compared to February, and by 47 per cent compared to January 2016. The purchasing power of the average citizen has decreased considerably and their savings are depleted. On average, food prices in March were 15 per cent higher than pre-crisis levels. Essential commodities are priced out of the reach of ordinary Yemenis. The humanitarian community continues to advocate for more essential commodities to enter Yemen, reach those in need, and be accessible to the average Yemeni citizen.

## Flash flooding affects seven governorates

Three days into the Cessation of Hostilities, heavy rains inundated the seven governorates of Al Hudaydah, Amran, Hajjah, Sana'a, Al Mahwit, Aden and Marib. At least 24 people were killed and 49,000 affected by flash flooding. Humanitarian partners have been working with local partners and authorities to assess damage to critical infrastructure like roads and water supply systems, with a view to supporting repairs.

Al Hudaydah Governorate was most affected with 20 villages inundated and eight people killed. In Amran, more than 3,000 households (18,000 people), many of whom were housed in public schools after having been displaced by the conflict, were affected. In the seven affected governorates, livestock and houses were lost, worsening the livelihoods plight of already fragile households. Various infrastructure including water pumps and roads were extensively damaged.

The flash flooding has prompted heightened humanitarian activity. In each of the seven governorates, humanitarian partners delivered life-saving assistance including food, non-food items including tents, hygiene and sanitation supplies, farm inputs and seeds as well as medical supplies. In the first week of the response, more than 33,500 people, including IDPs, were reached, the largest number being in Aden through the supply of water.

The response to the floods in Marib Governorate was reported as low compared to other areas. This can be attributed to the fact that the humanitarian presence is limited due to the tense security conditions in the area. Marib Governorate has an estimated population of 306,000 people (in 2014) with 94 per cent of its population in need of some form of humanitarian assistance according to the 2016 YHRP. FAO estimates that only five per cent of those in need are being reached at present. There are 15,676 displaced families (95,869 individuals) currently located in Marib Governorate. These IDPs are identified to have been displaced either from other governorates or from within Marib Governorate itself.

*The response in Marib Governorate is very low, only 5% of people in need have been reached*

Throughout the month of April and at the beginning of May, humanitarian partners and authorities continued to assess and respond to the needs of affected communities. Constraints in movement are due to damaged infrastructure and localised clashes. Additionally, in some areas like Amran, local authorities have appealed for support to keep the emergency/operations response room functioning.

## Humanitarian Coordinator visits Sa'ada

Between 23 and 26 April, the Humanitarian Coordinator Jamie McGoldrick, conducted an assessment mission to Sa'ada Governorate to review the humanitarian situation and discuss with local authorities priority needs. Humanitarian organisations estimate that 980,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Sa'ada including over 245,000 IDPs. Roads and bridges in all districts of the Governorate have been extensively damaged by recent floods in addition to the damage suffered as a result of the conflict.

Accompanied by George Khoury, Head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Yemen, the Humanitarian Coordinator visited the Intensive Care Unit at

Jamhuri Hospital, which is facing impending closure due to lack of resources. This is one of the few remaining functioning hospitals in Sa'ada and is the main treatment facility for critically wounded patients. The Humanitarian Coordinator noted that the closure of the Unit at Jamhuri Hospital would have dire consequences as critical patients would need to travel long distances to receive medical support.

The mission visited Haydan city, where they saw the impact of the conflict on civilian infrastructure. Damage suffered by schools and Haydan hospital resulted in 3,000 students deprived of access to education and 10,000 people with no access to health care. The closest medical facility available is now two hours away, but roads have also been affected making travel difficult.

During his mission, Mr McGoldrick met with the Governor of Sa'ada, the Executive Council and Qatabir local authorities to discuss the need for increased support in the areas of shelter, health and education. Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to support people in need, the Humanitarian Coordinator requested local authorities to facilitate the work of humanitarian agencies. The Humanitarian Coordinator also urged the International Community to scale up its support to ensure that critical needs are met.

Map of Yemen showing areas affected by floods in April



Haydan school damaged by bombs Credit: Jamie McGoldrick

## The Humanitarian Pooled Fund is making US\$34 M available

*\$34 M is now available from the Yemen Pooled Fund for humanitarian programmes*

Overshadowed by other crises in the region, the emergency in Yemen is not receiving the attention or support it deserves. Well into the second quarter of the year the Yemen Humanitarian Response Fund has received \$284 million or 16 per cent, out the requested \$1.8 billion. These funds are needed to assist 13.6 million people in Yemen. As key lifesaving clusters remain severely underfunded the suffering of millions of vulnerable people remains protracted.

An allocation of US\$34 million from the Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund is on-going to inject fresh funding in the humanitarian response, particularly with regard to Internally Displaced People (IDPs).

The allocation will promote an integrated and coordinated response for IDPs. This will include: encouraging multi-sector programming and the use of different response modalities (cash, voucher and in-kind assistance). The focus on IDPs is important because with no formal camps in Yemen, displacement has led to dispersed populations in urban and rural areas. As such, IDP populations are often difficult to identify or assess for vulnerability or specific needs. Most IDPs live with host families, exhausting already stretched basic services of host communities. This has an impact on their living conditions and contributes to their protection risks. IDPs face a range of protection challenges, have limited access to services (shelter, food, water, health, and education), and lack livelihood opportunities.

Projects funded by the Humanitarian Pooled Fund range from \$US500,000 to a maximum of \$US2.5 million. Gender and protection constitute key criteria for the selection of projects. Projects must demonstrate an analysis of relevant gender issues, activities designed to address gender differences, as well as targets/indicators that will enable reporting on distinct benefits to males and females. Additionally, projects must demonstrate how protection will be included in programming, including (a) avoid causing harm; (b) meaningful access; (c) participation and empowerment; and (d) accountability. They also must demonstrate how protection issues for different groups will be identified, monitored, referred and addressed throughout implementation.

Proposals will be reviewed by cluster leads and co-leads with a view to begin the disbursement of funding by 19 June. Information on the allocation can be found: <http://www.unocha.org/yemen/application-process-allocations>

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