

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conflict has resulted in a critical humanitarian situation in Amran, and humanitarian partners are scaling up.
- The 2014 YHRP requests \$592 million to assist 7.6 million vulnerable people.
- There were 3,539 landmine survivors in Yemen as of October, many of them without adequate healthcare or livelihoods.
- Number of African migrants arriving in Yemen has dropped sharply, with new arrivals dropping by 39 per cent in 2013.
- CERF provided \$14 million in January for under-funded life-saving activities.

FIGURES

People without access to safe water, sanitation	13.1 m
Food insecure people	10.5 m
People without access to health care	8.6 m
Acutely malnourished children	1 m
Internally displaced people	306,614
Returnees	227,966
Refugees	243,220
Migrant / refugee arrivals in 2013	65,319
Sources: UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, WHO, UNICEF, IOM	

FUNDING

592 million requested (US\$)
0% funded



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Tribal clashes fuelling humanitarian crisis in northern Yemen

Over 40,000 people displaced in Amran since October, including almost 20,000 during the last week

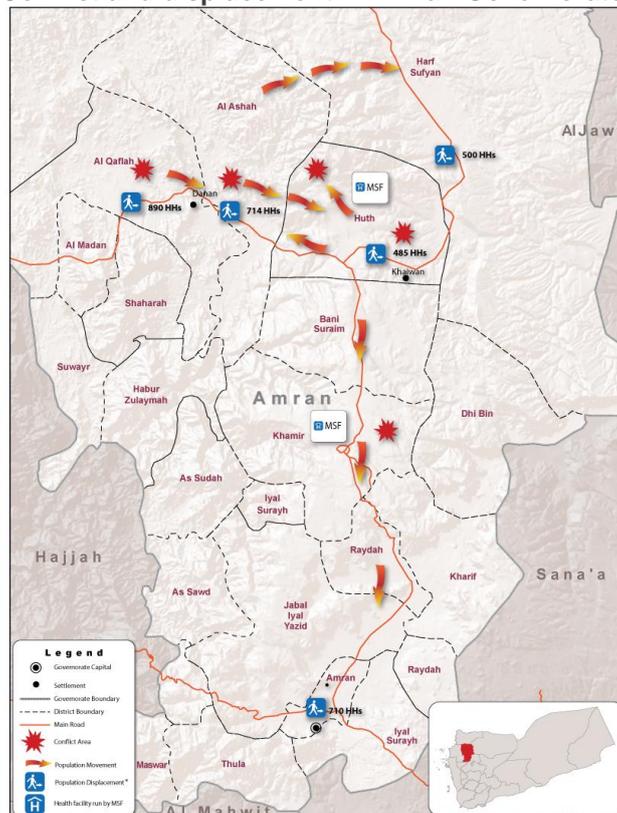
An estimated 42,350 people have been displaced by violence in Amran since October 2013, out of a total population of about 900,000 people. Clashes between Al Houthis and tribesmen in Amran Governorate further escalated in mid-December and one local civil society organization estimates that 19,250 people were displaced during the last week of January alone. A truce was agreed on 4 February, but serious humanitarian needs persist. The Government's Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Executive Unit reports that it has received requests for assistance from at least 15,000 people who were displaced between November and December 2013. If the recent truce does not hold, preliminary data indicate that up to 14,000 people could be affected, including 7,000 who could be forced to return home, and another 7,000 living in Huth town, the epicentre of the violence.

Despite the truce on 4 February, tension continues and clashes were reported the next day. Tribesmen and their allies are also reportedly planning to fight back.

Humanitarian partners expand presence to meet growing needs

UN agencies and humanitarian partners are expanding their presence in Amran to respond to growing needs. Partners are especially concerned about the protection of civilians, in particular women and children, as well as limited access to affected people. To date, humanitarian partners have assisted 7,100 displaced people, mostly within Amran City, and are now trying to establish the scale of needs.

Conflict and displacement in Amran Governorate



Map of Amran showing areas of recent displacement

Humanitarian access to Dammaj is still restricted despite the truce signed on 9 January, but humanitarian partners have delivered some urgently needed assistance

Assistance trickling into northern Yemen as truce holds in Sa'ada

Following a truce reached on 9 January between Al Houthis and Salafis in Dammaj (Sa'ada Governorate), humanitarian partners in northern Yemen began delivering urgently needed assistance to thousands of people. There are an estimated 6,000-8,000 people in urgent need of assistance in Dammaj. Humanitarian partners have so far delivered some medical supplies and chlorine for treating unsafe water. Some medical personnel have also been deployed and plans are underway to vaccinate children. These efforts represent some success in gaining access to Dammaj, but much more is needed.

According to humanitarian sources, there is a shortage of milk for babies, and people are facing a heightened risk of communicable diseases. But the response to these needs continues to be hindered by limited humanitarian access, with authorities reporting that the area is contaminated with mines and unexploded ordnance.

Dammaj was under siege from August 2013 to January 2014. The fighting prevented humanitarian workers from delivering assistance to about 15,000 residents, despite aid stockpiles in Sa'adah City, 8 km away. Unconfirmed reports say at least 200 people were killed during this time, including 29 children and four women. Another 600 were injured, including 71 children and nine women.

The violence intensified in August 2013, and later expanded to Kitaf (in Sa'ada Governorate) and parts of Hajjah Governorate, affecting a total of about 100,000 civilians, including almost 20,000 IDPs and others around Al Mazraq camps in Hajjah. An estimated 10,000 people from Dammaj were displaced to Sana'a and Al Hudaydah.

Community-driven early recovery in Sa'ada

More than 800 families considered "most vulnerable" in northern Sa'ada Governorate have received support with livelihood assets and income-generating projects. According to the Early Recovery Cluster, these families include IDPs, returnees, war-injured people, female-headed households and people with special needs. Some 67 per cent of those reached are women. The increased involvement of women in early recovery activities should go some way to address the role of gender as a cause of vulnerability in Yemen.

Over 940,000 people in the governorate (almost the total population) need humanitarian assistance, according to the 2014 Humanitarian Needs Overview. High food insecurity levels persist, while malnutrition and access to basic services remain serious challenges. In addition, the local communities are hosting a significant IDP population.

Dammaj insecurity disruptive to markets and food security

Continued insecurity in Dammaj could disrupt access to markets and limit food availability, the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network warned in a January update. Detailed information on food insecurity in affected areas is not available, it said, but further conflict will negatively affect food security. At least 360 houses, eight mosques, four health facilities, six water reservoirs and two schools were damaged or destroyed. But a comprehensive needs assessment has not yet been conducted in Dammaj due to access restrictions.



Both IDPs and the host community in Dammaj urgently need humanitarian assistance. Photo: OCHA

Clashes reportedly also cause displacement in Al Dhale'e in the south

Clashes in southern Al Dhale'e Governorate have displaced at least 166 families, local sources said. Fighting reportedly broke out in mid-January between the Al Hirak

Food insecurity levels and malnutrition have remained very high in Sa'ada, increasing vulnerability in an area that also hosts significant IDP populations

In the past month, 22 children in Al Dhale'e Governorate have been killed or maimed in fighting between armed groups

movement and government forces in Sanah and Al Jaleelah areas. A house was hit in Al Jaleelah, killing eight people, including two children. There are increasing reports of grave human rights violations and possible violations of international humanitarian law. In both conflict-affected areas, children's basic rights have been violated. Thousands are unable to go to school, and many have been injured or severely distressed.

Tensions have risen in the area between the southern Al Hiraq separatist movement and local government/security forces since December 2013. In the past month alone, 22 children have been killed or maimed. Many were caught up in indiscriminate shelling, and one boy was shot while participating in demonstrations. Humanitarian partners in Aden are planning an assessment, but security concerns have delayed the plan.

Children bearing the brunt of conflicts

The recent conflicts in northern and southern Yemen have badly affected children. There are verified reports that many children have been killed or maimed on the frontline, and houses, schools and water wells have been partially or completely damaged, forcing parents to leave conflict-affected areas with their children. All schools in Al Dhale'e City have been closed. At least one school in Sa'ada Governorate has been used as a military barracks for armed men. Its windows are now blocked with sandbags and stones. It is estimated that 1,885 children have been affected by the damage or destruction of their schools in Sa'ada. The markets are deserted and people remain fearful of mines, unexploded ordnance or explosive remnants of war.

More than half of all Yemenis need assistance in 2014

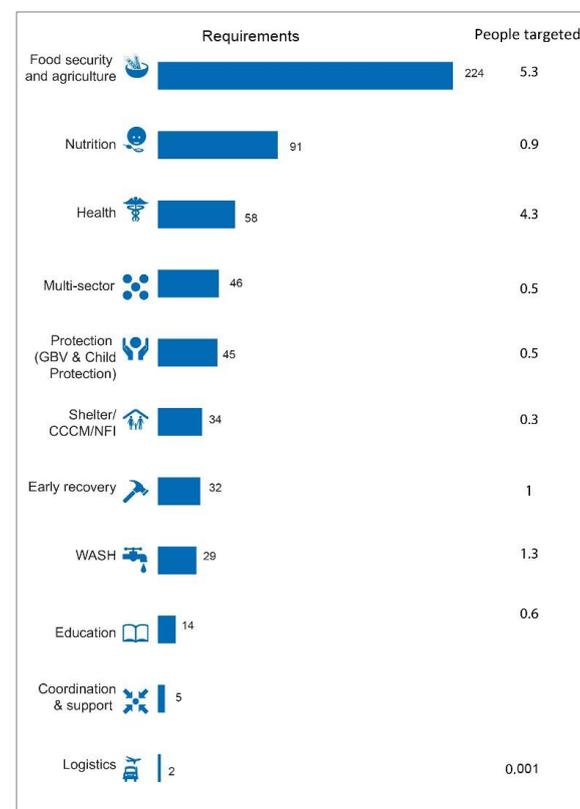
The 2014 humanitarian response plan, which shows that needs have remained the same as in 2013, requires \$592 million to implement

2014 humanitarian response plan requires US\$592 million

Humanitarian needs in Yemen this year have not significantly changed from 2013. Yemen continues to face a large-scale humanitarian crisis, with 58 per cent of the population - 14.7 million people - in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian partners require \$592 million to assist 7.6 million of the most vulnerable people in 2014, compared to \$706 million last year. The reduced requirements are a result of improved prioritization and better targeting of aid recipients.

Despite positive political developments in 2013, the situation remains characterized by widespread insecurity and violent conflict, as well as new displacements, civil strife, political instability, chronic food shortages, a breakdown in social services, endemic poverty, and continuing arrivals of refugees and migrants. An estimated 10.5 million Yemenis are food insecure; 1,080,000 children under the age of 5 are acutely malnourished; 13.1 million Yemenis – over half of the population – have no access to improved water sources

Requirements (in millions of US\$) and people targeted by Cluster in 2014 (in millions)



Source: YHRP

The 2014 response plan emphasizes life-saving programmes and aim to provide assistance to 7.6 million people

or to adequate sanitation facilities; and 8.6 million lack access to sufficient health services.

This year's strategy builds on that of 2013 and emphasizes life-saving programmes for the most vulnerable. It targets 7.6 million people. The highest priority needs are: food and nutrition; health; water, sanitation and hygiene; shelter; livelihood opportunities; and the protection of IDPs, refugees, migrants and other vulnerable groups, such as children and women. Clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance is a top priority to strengthen protection and to facilitate the resumption of agriculture-based livelihood activities.

The Humanitarian Country Team presented the 2014 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) to donors in Geneva in early February.

Landmine victims coping the hard way

Landmine victims lack healthcare, incomes

A large number of families of landmine victims in Yemen have no employed bread-winners or other regular sources of income. As a result, they are unable to cope with expensive, long-term medical or rehabilitation treatment, according to a recent assessment by Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC), UNICEF and the Governor of southern Abyan Governorate.

These families cannot afford medical appliances, such as prosthetic limbs, wheel chairs and hearing aids, which would help the injured cope with disability and allow the return of some degree of normality.

According to YEMAC, there were 3,539 landmine survivors in Yemen as of October 2013, with 700 amputees on a waiting list for prosthetic devices. Abyan has at least 755 landmine victims.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that families of victims sink into poverty, resulting in food insecurity and reduced access to basic services. They often resort to negative coping mechanisms, including child labour. Many victims suffer acute and long-term health problems. Others remain permanently disabled, with injuries ranging from loss of limbs to loss of vision and severe burns.



Landmines can cause immense damage and contaminate farmland.
Photo: UNDP

Landmines a legacy of years of conflicts

Landmines in Yemen are a legacy of conflicts in the 1960s and the 1970s, and more recently in southern and northern governorates. The presence of landmines, explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance has significantly hampered humanitarian access, the return of IDPs and the re-establishment of agricultural livelihoods. In Dammaj, the presence of landmines, which were reportedly laid during the August-December conflict, has limited humanitarian access even after the recent truce between parties to the conflict there.

Humanitarian partners in Yemen are supporting the National Mine Action institutional and implementation system through mine clearance, mine risk education and victims' assistance. So far, cleared areas have been handed over to local communities in 18 governorates: Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Al Maharah, Amran, Dhamar, Hadramaut, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahj, Marib, Sa'ada, Sana'a, Shabwah, Taizz and Al Dhale'e. Several other governorates remain contaminated, including Sa'ada and Amran, as well as other areas with recent conflict.

Families of landmine victims in Yemen tend to sink into poverty and resort to negative coping mechanisms because many people who become incapacitated are bread-winners

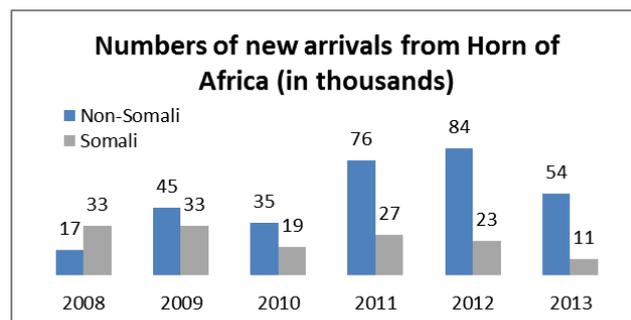
The sharp drop in numbers of African migrants arriving in Yemen is partly due to increased sensitization at source countries

Sharp drop in African migrants arriving in Yemen, but thousands still stranded

Female migrants still vulnerable to harassment and slavery

The number of migrants arriving in Yemen from the Horn of Africa has dropped sharply, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Nairobi-based Regional Mixed Migration Task Force Secretariat. In December 2013, 244 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, an 82 per cent decrease from November and a 96 per cent decrease from December 2012 and 2011, according to the Secretariat. Annual arrivals of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees fell by 39 per cent from 107,532 in 2012 to 65,319 in 2013.

The sharp reduction is attributed to increased outreach on the risks of migration in countries of origin, changes in labour laws in Saudi Arabia that have made it more difficult for undocumented workers to find employment there, and efforts within Yemen to deter irregular migration. However, the Mixed Migration Task Force Secretariat, in a December update, noted that female migrants/refugees arriving in Yemen are still vulnerable to harassment, kidnapping, domestic servitude and other forms of slavery. There are an estimated 100,000 migrants stranded in Yemen, and the number could increase given reinforced controls at the border with Saudi Arabia.



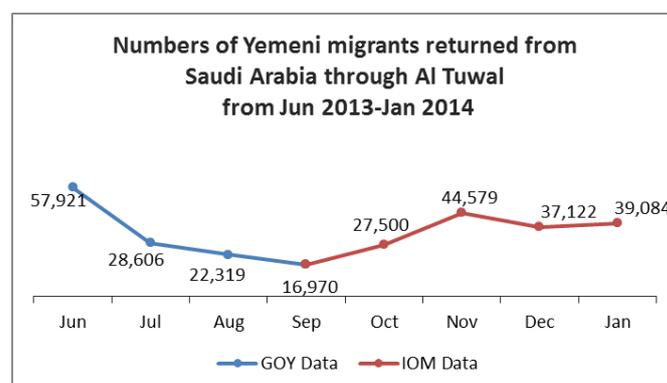
Source: UNHCR

The Global Alliance for the Rights of Ethiopians in Saudi Arabia donated \$32,000 to support IOM's ongoing assistance to Ethiopian migrants stranded in Yemen. This was the second contribution in January. Earlier, \$30,000 was received from the Ethiopian diaspora in Washington, DC. More than 155,000 Ethiopians have returned home from Saudi Arabia since 2013.

More Yemeni workers returning from Saudi Arabia; reports of protection violations on the rise

More than 12 per cent of the Yemeni migrant workers who have returned from Saudi Arabia through Al Tuwal border crossing point in Hajjah Governorate since changes to Saudi labour laws have received health assistance. According to IOM, the proportion of migrants exhibiting vulnerabilities and reporting protection violations increased between October 2013 and January 2014. The most common vulnerability was illness. Others reported being deprived of food and drinking water en route from Saudi Arabia. At the same time, the number of returnees seeking health care has increased. Physical trauma cases also rose from 7.4 per cent in November to 12.5 per cent in December.

The Yemeni Government estimates that about 444,334 Yemenis returned from Saudi Arabia over the past year. According to IOM data, 274,695 Yemenis returned through Al Tuwal between June and January 2014, of whom 87,379 were provided with food; 15,488 were provided with health care; and 5,488 were assisted with non-food items. Others are arriving through border



Source: IOM

Despite being returned from Saudi Arabia, some Ethiopian migrants are making attempts to go back to the Kingdom in search of economic opportunities

crossings in Sa'ada and Al-Jawf Governorates, where there is no government or humanitarian presence and thus very little information on the scale of return or the status of the returnees.

In southern Yemen, the Mixed Migration Working Group reported that some Ethiopians who were returned from Saudi Arabia are attempting to return to the Kingdom including some in Kharaz refugee camp in Lahj Governorate. In Ethiopia, authorities are reaching out to potential migrants along known migration pathways to discourage people from irregularly travelling to Saudi Arabia via Yemen.

In Brief

National dialogue conference ends

The National Dialogue Conference that started in March 2013 concluded on 25 January, with recommendations intended to pave the way for a new constitution and elections that will resolve the current political transition. There was agreement on issues that should have a positive impact on the humanitarian situation, including drawing up a national strategy to empower women and to address human rights violations. The conference agreed that Yemen will adopt a federal state set-up.

Kuwaiti INGO to implement water projects

A Kuwaiti INGO, Direct Aid Society, has approved \$10 million for projects in various governorates such as rain water harvesting, modern water technology projects using solar and wind energy, desalination and water treatment plants. It will also engage in trucking water to the most affected areas, drill wells and raise awareness on water-related issues. Yemen is the seventh most water-stressed country in the world. Experts suggest that cities like Sana'a could run out of water in the next few decades.

CERF allocates \$14 million for life-saving projects in under-funded Yemen response plan

The Humanitarian Country Team in Yemen has endorsed guidelines for the allocation of \$14 million that has been provided by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for under-funded life-saving activities covering health, nutrition, water and sanitation, and protection, including mine action, air services and common logistics and agricultural livelihoods. Despite the huge humanitarian needs in Yemen, the crisis continues to be underfunded. There is need for donors to step up and increase support. Last year, CERF provided \$17 million to Yemen through its underfunded window.

The approval of \$10 million funding by Direct Aid Society will see the implementation of various projects that should improve water availability



The funds approved by Direct Aid Society will improve the availability of safe water in Yemen. Photo: OCHA

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