

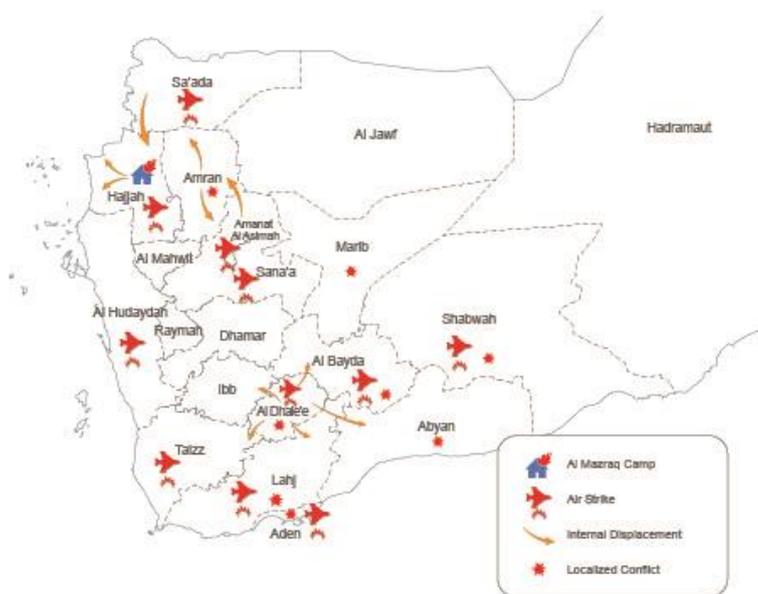


This report is produced by OCHA Yemen in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Yemen. It covers the period from 23 March to 31 March. The next report will be issued on or around 3 April.

Highlights

- Conflict has escalated significantly in Yemen since 23 March, when clashes between Houthi fighters and other parties intensified mainly in the south. On 26 March, air strikes began to hit Houthi targets and military installations, primarily in Sana'a and Sa'ada before expanding to other Governorates. As of 31 March, 13 of Yemen's 22 Governorates were affected.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), escalating violence has killed 361 people and injured 1,345 – many of whom are civilians. Casualty reports are often underestimates of true number of casualties. Displacement is also rising quickly. Overall displacement estimates could not be verified.
- Conflict has had an impact on civilian infrastructure – including an IDP camp that was hit by an air strike in Hajjah Governorate on 30 March, killing 29 civilians and injuring 40. Indiscriminate shelling in Al Dhale'e and Lahj has damaged or destroyed two schools, two mosques and many houses.
- Immediate humanitarian needs are for mass casualty management, protection and WASH services. In the south, reported fuel shortages are threatening people's access to water. Partners in Aden estimate water services could be cut off within three to five days unless more fuel is provided to power water pumps. In Lahj, electricity and water services have not been functioning for several days. Response efforts are focusing on supporting mass casualty management. Access has been severely constrained by ongoing clashes in the south and the unpredictability of air strikes in the north.

Locations of clashes, air strikes and displacement



Source: OCHA based on reports from partners
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Situation Overview

Conflict has escalated significantly in Yemen since 23 March, affecting 13 of Yemen's 21 Governorates. In the south, armed clashes erupted mainly in Lahj, Al Dhale'e and Aden Governorates following a push southward by Houthi-affiliated militants, and quickly expanded. Arms have been widely distributed to the population in Aden following the looting of a weapons storage facility. Children and teenagers have been observed taking part in hostilities. Local residents and partners report a significant increase in criminality and generalized insecurity. As of 31 March, heavy clashes were continuing in parts of Al Dhale'e (mainly Al Dhale'e District), Lahj (mainly Al Hawta) and Aden (mainly around the airport and Mansoura and Crater Districts).

Early on 26 March, air strikes began against Houthi targets, focusing initially on Sana'a and Sa'ada Governorates. As of 31 March, air strikes had hit 11 Governorates and could be expected at any time of day or night. More limited fighting was also reported in Shabwah, Marib and Al Bayda in the last week between Houthi militants and mainly

tribal opponents. Escalating conflict has already had a pronounced effect on civilians. Humanitarian partners are working to verify incoming reports, estimate impact and provide assistance.

Civilian casualties

As of late 29 March, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that the violence in Yemen had killed 361 people and injured 1,345 – many of them civilians. These figures will rise as additional reports are verified. On 30 March, an air strike hit a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Hajjah Governorate, killing 29 people and injuring 41 – all of whom were civilians. [The Humanitarian Coordinator has deplored this attack](#). Civilian casualty reports in Yemen are frequently underestimates, as many affected people lack the means to seek treatment in hospitals, and families may bury their dead before reports can be collected. According to international humanitarian law, all parties to conflict are legally obligated to do everything in their power to avoid civilian casualties.

Displacement estimates

Local partners have reported increasing levels of displacement as conflict and air strikes have intensified. These reports could not be independently verified and are intended to be indicative only. Based on the most recent, unverified reports from local partners, about 14,500 families (101,500 people) may have been displaced by recent violence, including 9,000 families (63,000 people) in Al Dhale'e. Almost all IDPs are reportedly staying with relatives near their areas of origin. Displacement in Yemen is often fluid, with people frequently returning home within several days after a perceived threat has diminished. Displacement estimates are almost certain to change – perhaps significantly – over the coming days and weeks. Displacement alone is not a reliable indicator of need, although previously vulnerable people who flee their homes are more likely to face increased hardship.

Civilian infrastructure

Recent conflict has had a serious impact on civilian infrastructure. In Al Dhale'e, two schools and two mosques have reportedly been targeted by shelling, in addition to many houses in Al Dhale'e District. In Sa'ada, an electricity station was reportedly hit by an air strike, as was a market in Kitaf wa Al Boqe'e District. On 30 March, the air strike that hit an IDP camp in Hajjah also destroyed a bridge adjacent to the camp and damaged a nearby market and health facility. Economic facilities have also been hit, including a major food supplier's warehouse in Sana'a and a cement factory in Lahj according to Yemeni media reports on 30 March. Partners have also received reports of parties to conflict forcibly using private residences in the south to take shelter. According to international humanitarian law, all parties to conflict are legally obligated to refrain from targeting or commandeering civilian infrastructure.

Priority humanitarian needs

Immediate crisis needs are mainly concentrated in the health, WASH and protection sectors, with the most urgent priority being mass casualty management. In the coming days, partners anticipate growing needs for emergency shelter and NFIs as displacement reports are verified. According to Government officials, Yemen has enough basic food to cover the next six months in all Governorates. However, rising fuel prices and difficulties transporting fuel and other imports – including the 90 per cent of food that is imported – are expected to reduce people's access to food and water. Aden and Lahj are already experiencing serious fuel shortages that threaten water availability via public water networks; food supplies in Aden markets are also reportedly declining.

Access and humanitarian response

Humanitarian access has been severely constrained by recent insecurity, including air strikes. Crisis response efforts are focusing primarily on supporting mass casualty management. In the south, partners report that it is extremely difficult to deliver programmes – such as water trucking – directly in affected areas, as heavy conflict is ongoing. Response information is still being collected; more details will be available in the next report. Partners are currently planning rapid assessments in parts of Sana'a and Hajjah; exact dates will depend on security conditions.

Funding

Before the current crisis, humanitarian partners estimated they would require \$747.5 million to provide a range of life-saving, protection and resilience assistance to 8.2 million people. This includes \$284.6 million for the most critical life-saving and protection programmes.

As of 31 March, the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) was only 8 per cent funded. Donors are encouraged to prioritize rapid, full funding for the most critical programmes in the YHRP in order to support immediate crisis response. Partners are currently reviewing the need to revise the overall funding request in light of recent developments.

Humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing fts@un.org or visiting <http://fts.unocha.org>

Humanitarian Response

Operations are being coordinated by Emergency Task Forces in Aden (covering the south) and Sana'a (covering the north). This section provides cluster-by-cluster updates in each major area of operation. Reports of response efforts are being continuously received; more details on response will be provided in the next Situation Report.

SOUTH: Aden, Lahj, Al Dhale'e, Abyan



Displacement

Displacement reports:

- According to unconfirmed reports from local partners and local authorities, around 12,200 families (85,400 people) may have been displaced in the south since the escalation in fighting. These reports could not be independently verified and should be treated as indicative only. Most IDPs appear to be staying with relatives or acquaintances in neighbouring areas. Geographic locations are the following:
 - **Al Dhale'e:** Local partners report 9,000 IDP families (63,000 people) have been displaced from Al Dhale'e District, mainly to Al Azareq, Jahaf, Al Hussien and Al Shuai'b Districts or to neighbouring villages within Al Dhale'e District away from the clashes.
 - **Lahj:** Local authorities report 200 families (1,400 people) fled from Al Anad, Hawta and Sabir to Tur Al Baha and Al Waht Districts.
 - **Abyan:** Local partners report that roughly 3,000 families (21,000 people) from Al Dhale'e and Lahj are staying with relatives in various parts of Abyan Governorate. Reports also indicate that about 100 families are staying in five schools in Khanfir District.



Health

Needs:

- Mass casualty management remains the most pressing need in the south. Hospitals are overwhelmed with casualties, including people who have been shot or are suffering from severe burns.
- In Aden, the presence of dead bodies in the streets has raised serious health concerns. This is particularly a problem in Mansoura, Dar Saad, Sheikh Othman, Khormaksar and Mualla Districts. Local sources also report dead bodies in the streets in Lahj.
- Malnutrition treatment services have been suspended in Lahj; no follow-up is being done on severe acute malnutrition (SAM) or moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases.
- The malaria transmission season will begin in early July, and community-level malaria control activities are needed now. However, the current security situation makes it largely impossible to undertake these activities, including distribution of bed nets, pre-positioning of malaria kits in health centres and outreach to families.

Response:

- In Aden, the following hospitals are operational: Al Jumhuriyah Public Hospital, 22 May Public Hospital, Al Sadaqa Public Hospital and a number of private hospitals. Partners are supporting public hospitals with life-saving drugs, IV fluids, reagents to test blood for transfusions, medical camps and treatment teams. Partners are assisting with corpse removal from roads. More support is required for all activities.
- In Lahj, humanitarian partners are supporting Ibn Khaldoon Hospital with medical supplies.
- In Al Dhale'e, partners are providing supplies and medical teams at Al Nasr hospital.

Gaps & Constraints:

Aden

- Medical supplies are available in warehouses, but there is a fear that these could quickly decrease or potentially be looted. More supplies are intended to arrive from Hudaydah, but timelines are unclear. As of 31 March, partners were reporting that airport closures and sea port restrictions were severely limiting the ability to import needed medical supplies and deploy staff.
- 22 May Hospital requires more medical teams to provide services.
- Humanitarian partners and the Ministry of Health require more support to remove dead bodies from streets.

Al Dhale'e

- Citizens are facing difficulty in accessing health services due to having to travel long distances, insecurity or insufficient financial resources.
- More ambulances are required.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- In Aden, if fuel shortages continue, water pumps will not be able to operate, and water could be cut off in all Districts within three to five days. This would affect 1 million people.
- In Lahj, water and electricity have been cut off since 24 March. Staff at water and electricity corporations have stopped reporting to work. Residents who have fled to villages in Al Hawta District are relying on open wells.
- In Al Dhale'e, pre-existing water scarcity has been exacerbated by recent clashes. Residents rely mainly on water trucking, which has become more difficult in light of conflict. Incoming displacement has also placed a significant additional burden on available resources.

Response:

- In Lahj, partners have provided a generator to run a water project in Tur Al Bahah village, which will serve 500 resident families and about 250 IDP families from Al Hawta.
- In Al Dhale'e, partners are working with community volunteers to conduct hygiene awareness through WASH life-saving practices for 150 IDP families on the outskirts of Jehaf and Al Dhale'e Districts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- In Lahj and Al Dhale'e, water trucking is nearly impossible at present due to shortage of fuel, lack of access and insecurity.



Food Security

Needs:

- In Aden, food commodities in the local market are becoming scarce, as vendors are unable to restock supplies. Prices have reportedly increased by 15 to 20 per cent.
- In Lahj, an estimated 200 IDP families (1,400 people) need food aid. Host communities also require assistance, as hosting increases the burden on already poor families.
- In Al Dhale'e, pre-existing food insecurity was a serious problem. With the increase in displacement, IDPs will need food assistance. Host communities will also require assistance to compensate for the additional burden.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to Lahj and Al Dhale'e remains a serious challenge due to on-going clashes and insecurity. Clashes in Aden have disrupted food aid operations, but a local partner is still going ahead with the distribution of food to refugees in camps in the Aden area.



Protection

Needs:

- Indiscriminate shelling by the 33rd Brigade has continued in Al Dhale'e District (mainly in Al Jalilah, Sanah and Al Dhale'e City) since 25 March. Homes, public buildings and the local market have been targeted.
- Children and teenagers have been observed carrying ammunition and fighting in many areas of Aden, including firing anti-aircraft weapons. On 29 March, 17 fighters under age 18 were reportedly captured by an opposing party. The capturing party confirmed they would be treated as children and as prisoners of war.
- Reports have emerged of militants forcibly entering private homes in Aden in order to seek safety. This puts private homes at risk of being targeted with attacks.
- In Aden, residents of Al Basateen (predominately Somali refugees and migrants) were requested to evacuate the area as heavy clashes were taking place. Many have since returned to Al Basateen, but concerns have emerged that this population could be susceptible to forced recruitment.
- In Lahj, local partners report that Al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has placed land mines in Al Hamra area of Al Hawta District in order to guard against any Houthi advance.



Shelter, Non-Food Items (NFIs), and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Needs:

- In Lahj, mud houses in Al Hawta District have been destroyed by indiscriminate shelling during clashes. Many families have been displaced to live with relatives and are in need of NFIs. Host community stocks are also inadequate. Partners currently estimate that 200 families have been displaced in Lahj.
- In Al Dhale'e, clashes have reportedly targeted houses, public buildings, schools and markets. Many families have been displaced to live with relatives and are in need of NFIs. Host communities also require NFIs, as existing stocks are inadequate.

NORTH: Sana'a, Hajjah, Sa'ada, Marib, Al Bayda



Displacement

Displacement reports:

- According to unconfirmed reports from local partners and local authorities, at least 2,500 families (17,500 people) may have been displaced in the north since air strikes began on 26 March. These reports could not be independently verified and should be treated as indicative only.
 - **Sa'ada:** According to the Government IDP Executive Unit, 2,254 families (15,778 people) have fled Sa'ada since air strikes began. Of these, 1,000 families are reportedly in Amran Governorate, and 1,254 families have moved to Hajjah (including 520 families who moved into the Mazraq IDP camps before an air strike hit one camp on 30 March). A number of people are also internally displaced within Sa'ada, having sought refuge from air strikes in neighbouring areas.
 - **Hajjah:** According to an international partner, many Mazraq IDP camp residents were observed fleeing following the air strike that hit one camp. IDPs were reportedly moving towards Al Madab, Al Khathra, Zahab Hajar and Haradh town. As of 31 March, it was estimated that almost 50 per cent of IDPs in Camp 1 had left for surrounding areas; a precise estimate was not available.
 - **Sana'a:** The Government IDP Executive Unit estimates that 150 families (1,050 people) have fled Sana'a for Amran. A local partner's assessment of Bani Hawat neighbourhood in Sana'a following air strikes indicates that 40 families (of 120 families living there before the crisis) fled the area. Additional reports have been received of large numbers of people moving to safer areas of town or leaving for family villages. These movements are extremely fluid, and no estimates are available.



Health

Needs:

- Mass casualty management constitutes the most pressing need in areas affected by air strikes or armed clashes. Hospitals need support to ensure they have adequate supplies and staff available to treat casualties.
- In Haradh District (Hajjah Governorate), the Mazraq health centre was reportedly damaged by an air strike on the morning of 30 March. This strike also injured 41 people (11 women and 14 children) and killed 29.
- In Marib, health services are operating with very limited functionality. Health services in Marib were extremely limited even before the recent crisis.
- The malaria transmission season will begin in early July, and community-level malaria control activities are needed now. However, the current security situation makes it largely impossible to undertake these activities, including distribution of bed nets, pre-positioning of malaria kits in health centres and outreach to families.

Response:

- Health cluster partners are providing urgent medical supplies and other assistance to support mass casualty management at hospitals in Sana'a, Hajjah (including Haradh), Taizz and Sa'ada. More details will be available in the next report.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The second largest hospital in Sana'a (48 Hospital) has been partially evacuated by authorities for fear of shelling, as it is located close to a military base. Full evacuation will reportedly take place soon.

**Needs:**

- Air strikes in the north put civilians at grave risk of injury or death. They can also be extremely traumatic events, leaving people – especially children – in need of psychosocial support.
- Operations serving 120 migrants at the Haradh Migrant Response Centre (MRC) have been suspended due to the security situation. The MRC was providing basic food and health assistance. Humanitarian activities at Al Tuwal border crossing have also been suspended, which provided basic medical services, food and NFIs to returning Yemenis deported from Saudi Arabia.

**Shelter, Non-Food Items (NFIs), and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)****Needs:**

- According to the Government IDP Executive Unit and camp management officials, security personnel for the Mazraq IDP camps have refused to return to the camp following an air strike that killed eight of their colleagues. This development raises serious concerns for the security of camp's general population, as well as for aid delivery efforts.

Response:

- Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) is assisting newly arrived IDPs in Amran with cash grants intended to cover renting accommodation and food. NFIs (blankets and kitchen sets) are also being provided.

General Coordination

The Humanitarian Coordinator has activated Emergency Task Forces (ETFs) based in Aden (covering the south) and Sana'a (covering the north), as stipulated in the Yemen humanitarian contingency plan. The ETFs are working to coordinate assistance efforts, including by collating numerous reports of needs and response.

Many international humanitarian staff have been temporarily relocated outside of Yemen due to growing insecurity. Humanitarian operations continue to be implemented and coordinated in-country with remaining international and national staff.

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