

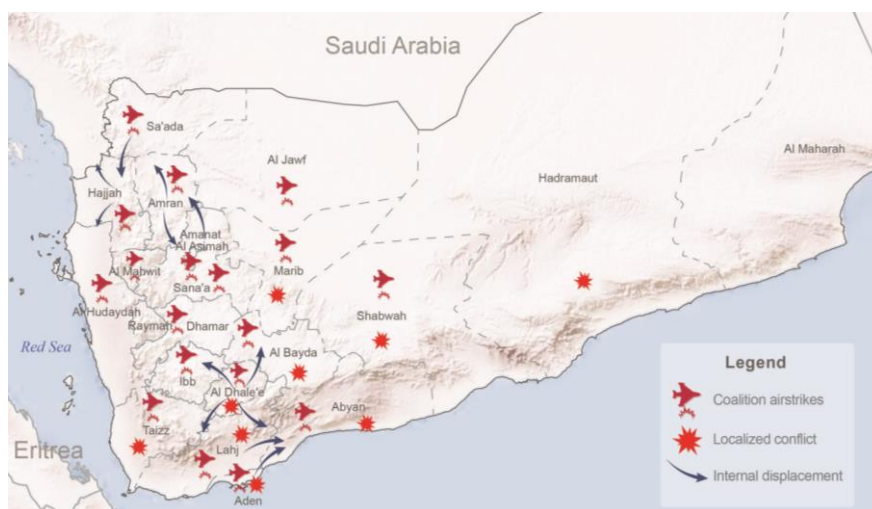


This report is produced by OCHA Yemen in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Yemen. It covers the period from 11 to 16 April. The next report will be issued on or around 22 April. Between Situation Reports, daily Flash Updates are issued.

Highlights

- Heavy airstrikes in Sa'ada over the last several days have exacerbated humanitarian needs. Thousands of people have reportedly fled after airstrikes hit private homes, markets, public buildings and other sites. Communications infrastructure has also been affected, complicating efforts to verify reports.
- Heavy fighting continues to be reported in residential areas of Aden. Electricity and water outages are intensifying.
- Rapid needs assessments in affected governorates of Hajjah, Aden, Al Dhale'e and Lahj found that communities in all surveyed locations ranked food and WASH support among top priority needs. Other priority needs included health, shelter and safety.
- Seven planes have arrived in Sana'a carrying humanitarian cargo – mainly WASH and medical supplies – since 11 April. However, commercial imports of fuel and food continue to be severely restricted, deepening vulnerability across entire Yemeni population and hampering humanitarian response efforts. Partners call on all parties to the conflict to facilitate humanitarian assistance and the importation of basic commodities, including food and fuel imports for civilian purposes without delay.

Areas of conflict and airstrikes



Source: OCHA, local partners, media

Situation Overview

Conditions in Sa'adah City have seriously deteriorated due to intensifying airstrikes. In the last several days, airstrikes have hit a water tank, the electricity station, a petrol station, a plastics processing factory, a shopping centre, and a housing complex for doctors working for Al Rahmah Hospital. Several days earlier, airstrikes had hit private homes, the post office, a community centre, Government offices, markets and vehicles. No verified casualty estimates have been reported, but local partners estimate at least 50 people killed and more than 100 injured. Airstrikes have targeted districts outside the Sa'adah city. Communications infrastructure has been affected, complicating efforts to consolidate and verify reports. Thousands of people have reportedly fled affected areas in recent days despite soaring transportation costs due to fuel shortages and insecurity. Those unable to flee include the most vulnerable, some of whom are reportedly staying in the open in areas of As Safra and Sahara Districts. Shops are closed, with some of the largest private food stores reportedly destroyed in airstrikes. In Sana'a, residential neighbourhoods in the Assir, Ayban, and Faj Attan suburbs were affected; military installations are located near these areas. In Amran, airstrikes over the last several days hit a petrol station, an educational institute and a bridge. Airstrikes also continued to be reported in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah Governorates, although less frequently than the previous week. According to local reports, a local water corporation in Hajjah (Abbs District) was hit. Heavy shelling continues to affect areas around Al Mazraq near the Saudi border. Nineteen out of 22 governorates have been affected by airstrikes since 26 March 2015.

In the south, airstrikes and heavy fighting continued to be reported in Aden. Clashes were reported mainly in Al Ma'ala as fighters attempted to advance towards Tawahi District, and in Dar Saad at the entrance to Aden. According to local reports, parties to the conflict have released local NGO health workers abducted on 7 April. Electricity and water outages are increasingly reported across the city. In Lahj, street clashes in Al Hawta District and the presence of snipers has reportedly curtailed civilian movement.

Casualties

As of 16 April, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that health facilities in Yemen had confirmed 767 deaths and 2,906 injuries since 19 March. Casualty reports almost certainly underestimate the true number of casualties, as they rely on reports from health facilities. According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 405 civilians have been killed and 785 injured. Many people in Yemen do not have the means to access hospitals for treatment, 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.

Priority humanitarian needs

Immediate crisis needs are concentrated in the health, WASH, food and protection sectors. Multi-sector rapid assessments have been completed in several Districts of Hajjah, Aden, Lahj and Al Dhale'e. In all communities, respondents reported food and WASH among their top three priority needs. Depending on the community, respondents also reported shelter, health and safety among their top three priority needs. Humanitarian partners are using these assessments to plan response programmes.

Humanitarian access and basic supplies

Seven planes carrying humanitarian cargo – mainly medical and WASH supplies – have landed in Sana'a since 11 April. The last plane reportedly arrived in Sana'a on 16 April, carrying 17.5 tons of emergency drugs and medical supplies – enough for 41,100 beneficiaries. Two flights out of Sana'a have also evacuated 295 people (over 20 nationalities).

Humanitarian partners welcome the arrival of supplies into the country. However, the scale and speed of critical supplies entering Yemen is far below the level required to preserve civilians' access to food, fuel and other critical commodities, or to sustain humanitarian operations. According to local sources, no vessels or ships have reached Al Hudaydah port in the last several days, crippling private food and fuel imports. Smaller ports are reportedly operating on a dramatically reduced scale. Local sources report that one private vessel carrying wheat grain arrived in As Salif port (Hudaydah Governorate) and a fuel shipment was received at Mokha port in Taizz. These reports have not been independently verified and cannot be considered comprehensive. However, it is clear that the scale of food and fuel imports reaching Yemen is enormously inadequate and is exacerbating already intense humanitarian needs. Humanitarian partners call on all parties to the conflict to facilitate the entry of humanitarian assistance and regular civilian food and fuel supplies without delay.

Funding

On 18 April, humanitarian partners released a Flash Appeal for Yemen. The Appeal seeks \$273.7 million to cover the most essential needs over the next three months in the food security, health, WASH, nutrition, shelter, protection and logistics sectors. [More details are available in the Flash Appeal.](#)

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



Health

For more details on Health needs, response and gaps, contact Dr. Iman Ahmed (ahmedi@who.int).

Needs:

- Mass casualty management remains the most pressing need. Hospitals are overwhelmed with casualties, including people who have been direct victims of violence and those suffering severe burns. [Needs outlined in the previous Situation Report](#) remain valid. Specific needs include:
 - Trauma and surgical medicines and medical supplies, including first aid kits in hospitals
 - Medicines for chronic non-communicable diseases

- Fuel for ambulances and generators in health facilities and to maintain cold chain supplies
- Safe water in health facilities
- Additional ambulances and scaling up of medical teams
- Re-agents and supplies for medical laboratories and blood banks
- Operational support supplies, including alternative methods of generating power, spare batteries for phones and computers, and communications equipment
- Partners call on all parties to the conflict to facilitate efforts to dispatch procured emergency medical supplies to Yemen, as well as to distribute them to affected areas. Partners welcome the arrival of several aid flights over the last week, but substantially more supplies will be needed in order to keep pace with growing needs. Parties to the conflict must also facilitate safe distribution of medical supplies around the country. In Aden, six days of negotiations were needed to deliver drugs and medical supplies, some of which were confiscated (and later released). These events seriously undermine the capacity of health partners to deliver services where needed.
- Partners estimate that 130,000 litres of fuel are required in order to secure immunization cold chain supplies for one month.

Response:

- Efforts to support mass casualty management in hospitals reported in previous Situation Reports continue. Drug distributions to major hospitals in Sana'a, Taizz and Al Dhale'e was completed during the reporting period despite difficulty due to fuel shortages and insecurity.
- Partners worked with health authorities to relocate vaccine supplies from Al Dhale'e to Dhamar due to concerns about cold chain management. Cooling arrangements have been secured after great difficulties in finding fuel for generators.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Following massive airstrikes in Sa'ada, doctors and health staff reportedly fled the area, leaving hospitals and health centres in Sa'ada drastically understaffed. These developments have seriously undermined health response efforts in Sa'ada.
- Assuring medical shipments to Yemen remains the number one constraint on the health response. Health partners are gravely concerned that if this situation persists, the health system will collapse and health response efforts will be unable to fill gaps.
- With the collapse of power systems, information and communication flows are being jeopardized. An accurate, reliable information flow is needed to ensure an evidence-based health response.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

For more details on WASH needs, response and gaps, contact Mr. Derek Kim (dhkim@unicef.org).

Needs:

- Increasing the fuel supply – including via regular commercial imports – is urgently required to ensure that people have access to safe drinking water. Local water corporations need fuel to maintain the water supply to major urban areas. In areas not connected to urban water networks, water trucks have increasingly stopped providing services due to fuel shortages. Most rural water projects have also stopped functioning due to lack of fuel.
- Partners report that solid waste collection services are not available in most urban centres and new IDP settlements due to security concerns and a lack of salary payments. Accumulating waste presents a public health risk and must be addressed.
- Newly displaced and re-displaced IDPs require comprehensive WASH assistance. The most urgent assistance is required for IDPs without shelter.

Response:

- WASH relief items arrived this week at Sana'a airport, including a 1,500-litre collapsible water tank, bacteriological water test kits and 10-litre collapsible water containers. More supplies are urgently needed. WASH partners call on all parties to the conflict to facilitate the rapid, predictable entry of relief supplies into Yemen and their safe distribution to affected areas.
- WASH partners are working with all relevant stakeholders – including the private sector – to mitigate the impact of accelerating fuel shortages on public water networks. Partners are currently negotiating to ensure fuel procurement and delivery for local water corporations in Sana'a, Aden, Al Hawta (Lahj) and Zinjibar (Abyan). Fuel requirement estimates have been completed or are under way for Sana'a, Amran, Dhamar, Sa'ada, Aden, Lahj, Zinjibar, Hudaydah, Taizz and Hajjah. Estimates have also been made to support the cold chain.
- Partners have agreed to support local water corporations in affected areas with 25 barrels (45 kg each) of chlorine powder and 500,000 chlorine tablets.

- Partners continue to provide WASH services to schools and mosques hosting IDPs in the south. At 30th November School in Aden, partners provided one 2,000-litre water tank and rehabilitated toilets, water facilities and the sewage network, benefiting about 160 IDPs. In Abyan, partners provided water trucking to nine schools hosting about 1,150 people. In Lahj, partners provided 17,000 litres of water to 2,200 people living in three schools, two mosques and surrounding areas of Al Hawta.
- 8,400 IDPs in Al Zuhra District of Hudaydah received jerry cans (two 20-litre cans each) and water trucking during the reporting period. However, water trucking has stopped due to fuel shortages. Partners are now pumping water into plastic storage tanks and are considering options to install miniature solar-powered water systems. Water filters will also be provided to the area to ensure safety of available water supplies.
- Public health outreach is under way with IDPs in Al Zuhra to identify safe sites for defecation away from the informal IDP site.
- In Hajjah, WASH partners constructed 11 new water supply points in areas near Haradh hosting IDPs who fled the Mazraq camps following airstrikes. Five of the new water points are being connected to water schemes in Al Qufl and Al Madab villages (benefiting 280 IDP families), and six are being connected to Shaleela village (benefiting 320 IDP families).
- In Hajjah (Abbs District), WASH partners worked with community members to provide access to water from a pre-existing solar-powered water network for over 500 IDPs residing in Bani Kudus village.
- WASH partners provided 290 hygiene kits to new IDPs living in several sites near Haradh (Hajjah). In the same area, partners constructed five water supply points and are connecting these points to water supply schemes in Al Qufl and Al Madab villages, where about 1,960 IDPs (280 families) are living.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Fuel shortages are threatening access to water for millions of people. Water trucking has stopped in many locations.
- Insecurity – due to armed conflict or fear of unpredictable airstrikes – is undermining humanitarian efforts to reach affected people.
- Partners urgently require more funding in order to expand operations and keep pace with new needs.
- Providing services for IDPs is challenged by the fluidity of displacement. Many IDPs are continuing to move as airstrikes target different areas.



Food Security and Livelihoods

For more details on needs, response and gaps, contact Ms. Hanalia Ferhan (hanalia.ferhan@acted.org).

Needs:

- According to WFP, about 12 million people in Yemen are currently food insecure – a 13 per cent rise since the start of the conflict. An estimated 100,000 MT are required to meet food needs every month. Partners urgently need safe, predictable ways to import emergency food supplies into Yemen. Maintaining commercial food imports is also critical, given that Yemen imported over 90 per cent of its staple food before the crisis. Food Security and Agriculture partners call on all parties to the conflict to facilitate the entry of desperately needed food supplies – including through the private sector – and to facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- According to rapid assessment results, affected people are facing severe constraints on their own food supplies and on their access to food. Assessments in Aden, Lahj, Al Dhale'e and Hajjah have all found that affected people's food supplies are running low. Respondents in these areas all identified food among their top three priorities. They also report that food is not widely available in markets. Where food is available, access is restricted by insecurity and high prices.
- Farmers in conflict-affected areas have reportedly lost productive assets and will likely miss the next planting season. Sharp rises in prices of farming inputs are further hindering agriculture. These developments will have medium-term negative consequences for food security.

Response:

- Partners began food distributions in Aden during the reporting period. Distributions are currently under way and aim to reach 105,000 people.
- Partners have completed unconditional cash transfers to 475 IDP families in Abyan and Hajjah Governorates, each receiving YER 18,000 (\$84). A separate programme transferred cash to 302 IDP households in the north and the south of the country.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Security-related access constraints have curtailed response efforts. These constraints are due to both airstrikes and ground conflict. Access to affected people in the south and in Sa'ada has especially decreased compared to pre-crisis levels.
- Fuel shortages (both petrol and diesel) and high fuel prices are undermining operations, including transportation of field teams and supplies to affected people.
- Food shortages in markets in some parts of the country not only affect local people, but hamper humanitarian partners' ability to procure food locally for emergency programmes.
- Response planning efforts are challenged by the extremely fluid nature of displacement.

**Protection**

For more details on Protection needs, response and gaps, contact Ms. Charlotte Ridung (ridung@unhcr.org).

Needs:

- Physical security and safety of civilians remain major concerns. Consistent reports have been received of death and injury to civilians, including women and children, following airstrikes, indiscriminate shelling and small-arms fire.
- Reports have been received of arbitrary killings of civilians, including children, some of whom had been unlawfully arrested. Detentions and abductions of civilians have also been reported.
- Airstrikes have hit civilian infrastructure, including electricity and water infrastructure, public buildings, schools, mosques, hospitals, factories and the Mazraq IDP camps.
- Displacement remains extremely fluid with families moving in and out of displacement, seeking temporary safety and access to services.
- Rising costs of fuel, food and other basic commodities will likely encourage negative coping strategies among some affected people. These strategies may compromise personal integrity, particularly for the most vulnerable women, children and older people.
- The conflict has exacted a major psychological toll on affected people, particularly children. Services to address the psychosocial needs of the population are urgently needed.

Response:

- The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations of child rights remains operational across the country.
- Psychosocial support has been provided to approximately 1,661 children (563 girls and 1,098 boys).
- Public media messages have been broadcast through television and radio to alert children and parents to the dangers of mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and unexploded ordnance (UXO). Messages also address how to deal with distress caused by conflict and summarize how to act during and after airstrikes.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Insecurity owing to on-going conflict and airstrikes impedes humanitarian access and the ability to provide protection services to affected people.
- Obtaining and verifying estimates of displacement and the exact number of affected people remains extremely difficult. The conflict has reduced the ability of cluster partners to conduct protection monitoring.

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

- Currently available humanitarian NFI and shelter stocks in-country are expected run out in the coming weeks.
- Rapid needs assessments in Hajjah, Aden, Lahj and Al Dhale'e found that majorities of affected people in all locations identified the lack of adequate shelter and essential items as urgent needs. In Hajjah and Al Dhale'e, respondents ranked these concerns among their top three priority needs.
- Partners report that the pace of displacement into Abyan from neighbouring areas is intensifying (mainly to Khanfir and Zinjibar districts). Some IDPs in Abyan continue to seek shelter in schools. Local partners estimate that IDP families are currently living in 28 schools in Khanfir, Zinjibar and Lawdar districts.
- Partners in the south report that nearly 800 displaced families in Lahj, Abyan, Al Dhale'e and Shabwah are living in the open under trees and in empty buildings.

- Private homes have been damaged or destroyed by the conflict. Total estimates are not currently available. This week, partners reported that about 120 homes in Lawdar District (Abyan) and 1,200 homes in Al Dhale'e had been damaged or destroyed since the conflict began.
- Large numbers of IDPs reportedly moved from Sa'ada to Amran and Hajjah during the reporting period. According to local partners, these families need NFIs. Within Amran, local partners report increasing movements of people out of the city into neighbouring areas that are perceived as at less risk of airstrikes.
- During the reporting period, local partners also identified the following shelter and NFI needs (more details available from the Shelter Cluster):
 - IDPs in Al Jawf (from Marib) reportedly living in the open and in need of shelter and NFIs
 - IDPs in Marib (from Shabwah) in need of shelter and NFIs
 - IDPs in Al Mahwit in need of shelter and NFIs, including about 30 families currently living in schools or public buildings
 - IDPs in Taizz and Ibb require NFIs and shelter

Response:

- Partners have provided mattresses and blankets to IDPs living in schools or public buildings in Al Mahwit.
- Over 500 families in Hajjah, Hudaydah, Abyan and Lahj have received unconditional cash transfers to cover the costs of basic NFIs and food.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Fuel shortages remain the major challenge to reaching affected people.
- The absence of Government authorities and presence of armed groups in conflict-affected areas make the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected people very challenging. Transporters are fearful of moving aid supplies due to concerns of hijacking on the main roads or potential airstrikes.
- Limited stocks in local markets hinder the procurement of aid supplies.



Education

For more details on Education needs, response and gaps, contact Mr. Kenji Ohira (kohira@unicef.org).

Needs:

- Partners estimate that over 2 million children have lost access to schooling due to conflict-related school closures. This number has increased from the previous estimate (1.5 million) following further school closures in Taizz and Ibb. Altogether, over 3,750 schools have closed due to insecurity – or 61 per cent of schools in affected governorates.
- Partners report that 48 schools have been damaged by armed confrontations or airstrikes, and 49 other schools have been occupied by IDPs or armed groups.
- IDP children (mostly living with host families) who moved from Sana'a, Aden, Lahj and Al-Dhale'e to other areas need assistance to join host community schools.
- Support is needed to provide safe learning environments for those who lost access to education, including learning spaces, school bags, stationary, school kits and recreational kits. Training of teachers for psychosocial support for pupils is also needed.

Response:

- The Ministry of Education has instructed all local education offices to admit IDP children into local schools. Education Offices in Taizz, Ibb and Hudaydah will hold final exams one month early (from 19 April).
- In Taizz, partners are working with education authorities to monitor impact of the crisis on schools, open schools in safe areas and close schools in dangerous areas. Partners have also worked with authorities to integrate 1,358 IDP children (623 girls and 735 boys) into local schools.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Fuel shortages have reduced student and teacher school attendance, as well as authorities' ability to monitor schools.
- Shortages in education in emergency supplies have limited partners' capacity to respond to the needs of IDPs.
- Insecurity, airport closures and road closures have made it difficult for partners to obtain and distribute basic school supplies scheduled to arrive during the first two weeks of April.

General Coordination

Humanitarian organizations remain operational with mainly Yemeni staff. Most international staff have been temporarily relocated outside of Yemen due to insecurity. An operations and coordination hub has been established in Amman. For questions on the coordination structure, contact Mr. John Ratcliffe (ratcliffej@un.org).

For further information, please contact:

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