

This report is produced with inputs from the Humanitarian Country Team in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by the OCHA Yemen country office and covers the period from 14 December 2011 to 28 December 2011. The next report will be issued in early January 2012.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The 2012 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, seeking US\$447 million to address the acute humanitarian needs of 3.7 million people, was launched on 14 December.
- In accordance with the political transition agreement signed last month, some checkpoints have been lifted in the capital. However, a heavy military presence remains in some areas.
- Violence between pro- and anti-government factions continued in Sana'a and Taiz, with one incident alone resulting in at least 9 deaths.
- In Sa'ada Governorate, violence reportedly also continued between Al-Houthis and Salafists in the town of Dammaj as well as other towns in the governorate.
- The Security Council called on all parties to ensure the political transition in Yemen stays on track, reiterating the need for unimpeded humanitarian access.

II. Situation Overview

Progress was made during the reporting period toward removing checkpoints and military outposts across Sana'a in accordance with the political transition agreement signed last month. Some roads are now clear, although forces remain in place in certain neighbourhoods, particularly in Al-Hasaba District which was the site of intense fighting earlier this year.

Despite the political transition agreement, violence between pro- and anti-government factions continued in Sana'a and Taiz. On 24 December, thousands of anti-government protesters arrived in Sana'a from Taiz as part of the so-called "March of Life". This five-day procession covered over 250 km and sought to pressure the government of national unity into trying President Saleh for his role in the violent crackdown against opposition demonstrators. As the march entered the capital, clashes broke out with government forces. Local media reported that at least 9 protesters died, with hundreds more injured. On 25 December, newly appointed Prime Minister Basindwah threatened to resign if the perpetrators were not identified within 48 hours.

Violence also continued in Sa'ada and Abyan Governorates. In Sa'ada Governorate, the siege of a Salafist institute in the town of Dammaj by Al-Houthi fighters entered its second month. A spokesman for the school reported 71 deaths in the 69-day siege, including five children, one woman and 15 foreigners. New clashes between Al-Houthis and the Salafists were also reported in the town of Kitaf in Sa'ada, increasing the risk of a sectarian struggle in the governorate. Mediation efforts are ongoing. In Abyan Governorate, fighting also continued between Government forces and Islamic militants. UNHCR reports that up to 140,000 people have been displaced in southern Yemen since mid-2011. Efforts to verify these numbers are underway.

Engagement by Yemen's international partners continued during the reporting period. On 20 December, the final statement of the 32nd Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit welcomed the formation of the transitional government in Yemen and called on all parties to implement the political transition agreement. On 22 December, the UN Security Council called for implementation of the agreement and emphasized the need for unimpeded humanitarian access. Finally, local media reported that the World Bank would re-open its Yemen office shortly. The Bank froze operations in the country in March.



Map Sources: UNCS, Europa Technologies.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Nov 2011.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

More cluster-specific information on needs and response will be available in the next situation report, due in early January 2012

Implementation of the Sa'ada Response Plan continued in December. Progress was particularly recorded in WASH, shelter activities, food security and food aid, livelihoods programmes, nutrition activities, health projects and education. Some projects had faced delays as a result of restrictions imposed by Al-Houthis, and some activities continue to face interruptions or have not been allowed to proceed, including protection programmes.



EARLY RECOVERY

Plans are underway to establish an Early Recovery sub-cluster in Aden in early 2012. The sub-cluster will help consolidate recovery efforts in the south, coordinate early recovery activities and complement programming in other clusters.



FOOD

Partners continued to make progress on the Comprehensive Food Security Survey (CFSS), a nationwide assessment to provide a basis for improved targeting of the most food insecure persons. By the end of the 2011, data should be collected from all governorates, with the exception of Al-Jawf and Sa'ada, where humanitarian access is insufficient. Preliminary results are due by the end of February, and the final report is expected in March or April 2012.



NUTRITION

The twelfth round of Social Protection Monitoring was conducted in early December. The survey found that many households had seemingly depleted their food stocks and other resources following the celebration of Eid Al-Adha. Nearly two-thirds of surveyed households reported reducing the number of meals among under-five children – the highest number since reporting began in June 2011. Protein intake decreased significantly compared with previous weeks, with increasing numbers of households reporting no consumption of meat.



PROTECTION

A humanitarian agency has warned that thousands of mostly Ethiopian migrants remain stranded in northern Yemen. The migrants reportedly face deplorable conditions, and more than 30 have died in the past month. The agency has been able to repatriate more than 6,000 migrants during 2011, but thousands more are waiting to return to their country of origin and require assistance. Over the past year, more than 18,000 Ethiopian migrants were registered in the northern Yemeni town of Haradh on the border with Saudi Arabia. Funding for ongoing operations, however, is running short.

IV. Coordination

Local NGOs conducted a rapid assessment in Taiz to assess the impact of recent violence on the population. Results and an assessment report are expected shortly.

A workshop was held with the Executive Council of Al-Houthis and members of Yemen's Humanitarian Country Team on 14-15 December in Sa'ada. The purpose of the workshop was to improve understanding between the two groups, to discuss humanitarian principles, and to move forward discussions on appropriate ways of working in the governorate. Further dialogue is planned over the coming weeks and months.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Humanitarian Forum and OCHA hosted a meeting on humanitarian efforts in Yemen and Syria on 17 December in Cairo. Fifteen Yemeni NGOs participated in the workshop, which focused on ways of strengthening the involvement of local organizations in humanitarian operations.

In partnership with the Dubai International Humanitarian City, the Yemen Humanitarian Country Team hosted a media event and photography exhibition in Dubai on 18 December. The event sought to raise the humanitarian profile of the country and was attended by senior UN, NGO and government representatives.

For more details, visit:

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/yemen-pictures>

V. Funding

The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) for 2012 was launched on 14 December. The new Plan addresses the needs of vulnerable people nationwide, aims to address a series of complex emergencies across the country, and includes three separate but complementary response plans for the north, south and central/western regions. The YHRP seeks \$447 million to support over 3.7 million people facing acute humanitarian needs.

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an e-mail to: fts@reliefweb.int.

YHRP 2011
292 million
requested (US\$)

63 %
funded

YHRP 2012
447 million
requested (US\$)

11 %
funded

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