



IDPs receive food in Mazra'a, Hajjah Governorate Photo Credit: NFDHR

HIGHLIGHTS

- Health system urgently requires additional support
- Market disruptions and diminishing incomes negatively impact food security
- UN humanitarian pooled fund releases US\$14.9 million for 24 projects

In this issue

- Health system on verge of collapse P.1
- Food insecurity worsens P.2
- Pooled fund enhances response P.3
- United Nations responds to cyclones P.4

FIGURES

Total Population	26 m
# of people who need assistance	21.1 m
# of people targeted for humanitarian assistance	11.6 m
# of food insecure people	14.4 m
# of people displaced	2.3 m
# of children at risk of malnutrition	1.8 m
# of deaths (WHO)	>5,700
# of injuries (WHO)	>27,000

Source: HRP and HNO

FUNDING

1.6 billion

Requested for 2015 (US\$)

49% (\$782 m)

Funding against the HRP

\$1.20 billion

Total humanitarian funding received for Yemen

Source: FTS, 24 November 2015

Health system on the verge of collapse

System is struggling to provide care for those suffering from chronic diseases

Over 14 million people in Yemen are unable to access adequate healthcare and the health system is in a state of collapse. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 600 of around 4,000 health facilities have stopped functioning due to a lack of fuel, supplies and personnel. Health facilities and staff are directly suffering from the impact of the conflict: according to WHO, at least 69 health facilities have been damaged or destroyed, eight health workers have been killed and 20 injured since March.

With no domestic production of pharmaceuticals, Yemen's healthcare system is reliant upon imports for essential medicines and equipment. Despite recent improvement in the quantity of imports, restrictions over the last few months have severely impacted the health sector. Shortages in the availability of essential medicine often mean that chronic diseases, such as hypertension, diabetes and heart disease, go untreated.

"It is difficult to find medicine to treat cancer and burn wounds", explained Dr. Nasr Al-Qadasi, general manager of Al Jumhuri Hospital in Sana'a, the second biggest hospital in the capital. "This includes anti-retroviral medication to treat HIV/Aids". The absence of reliable electricity in many parts of the country puts an additional strain on health facilities that now rely on back-up generators to keep facilities functioning. "We are running our generators 24 hours a day since escalation of the conflict," added Dr. Al-Qadasi. "We need much more fuel than before yet the price of fuel has doubled compared to pre-conflict levels."

WHO and partners together with humanitarian organisations are assisting hospitals and health facilities with fuel and medical supplies. International organisations are also paying incentives to health workers and supporting the Ministry of Health. "Without the support of international organisations we would not be able to continue functioning", explains Dr. Al-Qadasi. The healthcare system urgently requires additional support. Every day, many patients travel to Sana'a seeking treatment, as many health facilities in other parts of the country are no longer functioning.

Waiting on the street for a hospital bed

Mohammad Atef waits impatiently, sheltering in a parking lot outside the Al Jumhuri Hospital along with his cancer diagnosed wife and two children. His wife is in dire need of chemo-therapy and her only hope is few steps away from her. The endless tiring journey from his home town Sada'a just ended short of a hospital bed, ironically at the front entrance of the hospital. The children, who are too young to understand much of what is happening, are having some bread for lunch. Their mother is asleep on a blanket next to them. "This hospital is the only hope for cancer patients and we are waiting for a bed to become available for her, and until then, there is no other choice but to stay here in the parking lot."

An estimated 14.1 million lack adequate access to basic healthcare. Medical supplies for mass casualty management and medicine for chronic diseases are in short supply.

Responding to the large number of inpatient requests, the hospital administration has even converted offices into patient wards but the case load is overwhelming and unprecedented. “Despite our all efforts to upscale the institute to its maximum capacity, there is a never ending flow of patients reaching to us from very far and outreach areas”. Dr. Nasr Al-Qadasi, General Manager of the city’s second biggest hospital expressed his concerns. “We are stretched to exhaustion due to the on-going crises and increased caseload. Unfortunately, we have to prioritise the treatment of patients according to the criticality level of their illness” further



The Atef family waits in the hospital parking lot for urgent care at Al Jumhuri Hospital, Sana'a.

explained Dr. Qadasi. Some families waiting for hospital beds are able to rent hotel rooms or even houses, but Atef and his family have no other choice but to wait in the parking lot.

Worsening food security

14.4 million people now food insecure

Although most restrictions on commercial imports into Yemen were eased during October 2015 and wheat imports returned to pre-crisis levels, food insecurity continues to be high. Approximately 14.4 million people are now food insecure; this includes 7.6 million people who are severely food insecure. This represents a 36 per cent increase in the number of food insecure since late 2014. The continued lack of disposable income has reduced the purchasing power of Yemeni families, while fuel shortages have disrupted transportation networks and the functioning of markets which in turn has interrupted the supply of food and caused prices to increase.

The average price of wheat in Yemen has increased by 52 per cent over pre-crisis levels – and this is despite a global decline in wheat prices. In some areas, prices have spiked even higher. In Taizz Governorate, for example, the price of wheat at the end of October was 119 per cent over pre-crisis levels. More than 2.5 million people have lost their jobs and families are depleted their savings in the face of rising prices. The average cost of a basket of goods required to provide 2,000 kilocalories per day is 170 per cent higher than pre-crisis levels.

Running irrigation pumps and machinery for cropping is nearly impossible due to fuel shortages. According to FAO, delayed rains and high seed costs have worsened the situation. Domestic agricultural production which engages over half of Yemen’s population, is expected to fall by 30 per cent due to poor rains and the high cost and uneven availability of seeds, fertilizer, tools, fuel and other items. Transport capacity and market accessibility for domestic produce is also affected by fuel shortages.

Commercial fishing, which previously produced more than 600 tons of fish a day, has also been affected by the conflict. Fishery production has decreased by an estimated 50 to 75 per cent in coastal governorates. Due to the presence of foreign navy ships many fishermen do not risk taking their boats out to sea. It is estimated that around 150 fishermen have been killed since March. According to FAO estimates, over 65 per cent of fishermen have lost their livelihood along with some 650,000 workers employed in packing, cold storage and the transportation of fish.

The UN and partners are prioritising emergency food and livelihoods assistance for 7.6 million people with the most urgent needs. From March to October, food security cluster partners reached over 8.1 million people with ‘one time’ emergency food assistance, or a cash/voucher transfer. An additional 2.4 million people regularly receive monthly food supplies. Over 115,000 people received agricultural, fisheries and livestock inputs (tools, seeds, fertilizer, fishing nets, boat engines, livestock fodder and vaccinations), while nearly 160,000 people received longer term livelihoods support. The UN and partners are

Food insecurity is worsening due to declining purchasing power, sporadic food availability, higher prices, and disruptions to markets.

also increasing the water supply by rehabilitating damaged water infrastructure and distributing solar water pumps.

Humanitarian Pooled Fund enhances response

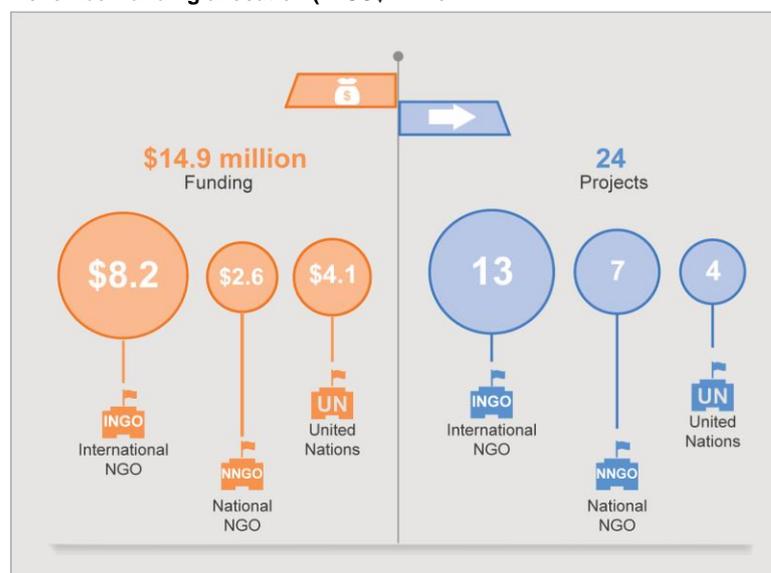
Additional funding for humanitarian response

The Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF) is a strategic financing tool at the disposal of the Humanitarian Coordinator that channels resources to humanitarian partners to respond to needs and priorities identified in the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The Yemen HPF has received \$57 million in contributions and pledges from donors, which with a carryover of \$9 million brings the total available funding to \$66 million. The funding received represents 11.8 per cent of the funding received against the 2015 Yemen HRP.

In November, \$14.9 million was allocated to 24 life-saving projects in the north-west and south-west of Yemen. Approximately 580,000 people will benefit from assistance from the food security, nutrition, health, protection and WASH sectors.

An additional \$14.9 million was allocated in November to 24 projects to benefit 579,431 affected people in Yemen

November funding allocation (in US\$ million)



Source: OCHA Yemen

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were prioritised as recipients of the funding to ensure a rapid response and extension of services to areas where access has been limited. As a result, 72 per cent of funding from this allocation has been channeled through NGOs, with 14 per cent going to national actors. The funded projects will provide:

- Unconditional food or cash assistance (\$85 per month for three months) for 6,000 households and livelihood inputs for 5,000 fishermen allowing them to return to work.
- Ready-to-use therapeutic food for 16,000 children with severe acute malnutrition and 16 mobile teams to provide malnutrition screening and treatment services in nine governorates (Abyan, Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Dhale'e, Hajjah, Lahj, Sa'ada, Shabwah and Taizz).
- Medical supplies and equipment for ten hospitals as well as support for 13 mobile clinics and six health centres to deliver primary health care services to 215,000 people in 21 out of Yemen's 22 governorates (with the exclusion of Socotra).
- Improved water supply services for around 79,000 people and improvements to sanitation services through the delivery of 8,000 hygiene kits and 450 latrines in 6 governorates (Al Bayda, Al Dhale'e, Hajjah, Lahj, Shabwah, Taizz).
- Protection monitoring services and safe spaces for vulnerable individuals in conflict affected governorates, and activities to raise awareness on the threat of landmines/UXOs and risks associated with child recruitment.

The Yemen HPF is planning to launch a fourth reserve allocation of US\$17.3 million on 29 November. This is in response to the two cyclones that hit Yemen and the health sector more generally. The allocation will specifically target UN agencies, and will fund the replenishment of essential relief items in the food security and agriculture, health, WASH, emergency shelter/non-food item and logistics sectors. It is likely that monies will be dispersed in late December through to early January 2016.

United Nations responds to two cyclones

55,000 affected by two tropical cyclones

Two rare tropical cyclones, Chapala and Megh, hit Socotra Island and the southern Yemen mainland between 1 and 12 November. The Government of Yemen reported 26 people were killed and 78 injured by the cyclones, with 12 deaths on Socotra, and eight in Mukalla. The Task Force on Population Movement estimated that 5,974 families (about 42,000 individuals) were displaced by the cyclones across 13 districts in six governorates, including on Socotra. Many of the displaced have returned to their homes. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies estimates that up to 55,000 people were affected by the cyclones.

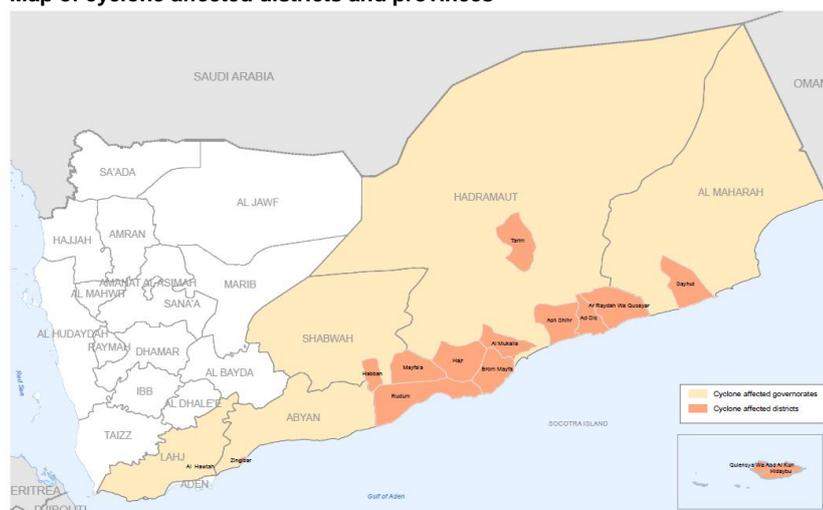
The last major storm to hit Yemen in 2008 killed 73 people, displaced 25,000, and affected approximately 700,000. Calls by national authorities for people to seek shelter before the two 2015 cyclones made landfall appear to have reduced the impact and humanitarian consequences.

Humanitarian Response

Priorities for humanitarian response continue to be food, fuel, essential household items, tents and medical supplies. The UN and partners continue to distribute food, potable water, non-food items and tents in Hadramaut, Shabwah, Al-Maharah and Abyan governorates.

As of 19 November, WHO provided 35 metric tonnes of medical supplies to health facilities in Hadramaut, Shabwah and Al Maharah governorates, including to six general hospitals, 18 district hospitals, and 34 health centres. UNHCR and partners have distributed 2,250 emergency household kits and over 420 tents to 15,025 people, including 7,147 women and girls, in Hadramaut, Shabwah and Al Maharah governorates. WFP and partners have provided high energy biscuits to 18,997 people in Shabwah and Hadramaut governorates. IOM provided daily water trucking services to 6,553 people in Shabwah and Abyan. In addition, UNFPA distributed health kits to provide emergency maternal and reproductive health services to over 6,500 women and girls.

Map of cyclone affected districts and provinces



Source: OCHA Yemen

For further information, please contact:

Trond Jensen, Head of Office, jensen8@un.org

Paul Thomas, Deputy Head of Office, Amman Hub, thomasp@un.org

James Weatherill, OCHA New York, Coordination and Response Division, weatherill@un.org, Tel: +1 917 367 6288

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.unocha.org/yemen | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int

Humanitarian priorities in cyclone-affected areas continue to be food, fuel, non-food items, tents and medical supplies.