Escalating conflict claims more lives

Sana’a city, Sa’ada and Taizz face increased conflict

35 civilians were killed and 120 injured in a single attack on one of Sana’a’s most densely populated areas, where people were shopping in preparation for the Eid holiday. On 24 September, a suicide attack on Balili mosque during Eid prayers killed at least 25 people and injured dozens.

There are continued reports of damages to civilian and UN property. According to UN sources, an air strike destroyed a UNICEF warehouse that contained water supplies for 11,000 people in Dhamar Governorate, south of Sana’a, on 17 September. WFP’s premises in Sana’a were damaged on 18 September, and a world heritage site in Sana’a was damaged the following day. In Sa’ada Governorate, air strikes and cross-border shelling continued to kill and injure civilians, cut electricity and destroy civilian infrastructure, such as private residences, markets and schools. As of 12 September, some 66 schools were either totally or partially damaged. The escalation of violence,
particularly from 15 to 20 September, has seen an exodus of people from their homes in search of safety. A total of 40,000 people are internally displaced within the Governorate.

Fighting escalated in Taiz city and Taizz Governorate, leading to insecurity and fuel shortages. This has impeded the flow of life-saving medical supplies and water distribution through the cross-line movements. According to humanitarian partners, Al-Rawda hospital in Taiz city has not received medical supplies for at least one month, and humanitarian supplies, including medicines for children, have been confiscated by armed groups. The water supply network in Taiz city, which previously served over 300,000 people, has remained non-functional since 18 August due to damage and the inability to move fuel supplies from the central depot to the water-pumping stations.

**Daily incidents of conflict recorded in five governorates**

![Chart showing daily incidents of conflict recorded in five governorates](chart.png)

**Explosive weapons kill and injure highest number of people in the world**

Some 4,493 civilians were killed or injured by explosive weapons in Yemen during the first seven months of 2015. This is more than in any other country, according to the new report *State of Crisis: Explosive Weapons in Yemen*, produced by OCHA and UK-based charity Action on Armed Violence (AOAV).

Ninety-five per cent of people killed or injured by explosive weapons in populated areas were civilians. More than half (53 per cent) of the reported civilian toll was recorded in Sana’a and surrounding districts. Explosive weapons can be air launched, ground launched or improvised explosive devices.

The report indicates that since the conflict began, hundreds of civilian homes and infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, have been destroyed by explosive weapons, and civilians have been driven from their homes. In the report, OCHA and AOAV urge all parties to the conflict to heed the call by the United Nations Secretary-General to avoid the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas.

The report’s author, Robert Perkins, said: “An already vulnerable population is now faced with a country reduced to rubble by falling bombs and rockets. Their homes destroyed, their families torn apart, it will take many years to recover from the last few terrible months in Yemen.”

Food imports increase, but no fuel

In the first two weeks of September, food imports increased into Al Hudaydah and Aden, Yemen’s two main ports, compared with the previous two weeks. However, commercial fuel imports, upon which Yemen is dependent, have not entered the country since mid-August.

Major imported commodities

An average of 4.1 million metric tons (MT) of food was imported into Yemen each year during 2013 and 2014, according to the Yemen Food Security Information System Development Programme, implemented by FAO and the Food Security Technical Secretariat of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. On average, 171,000 MT of food was imported every two weeks. Data recorded by OCHA shows an increase in food imports to 160,000 MT during the period 1 to 15 September, from 111,000 MT from 16 to 31 August. The number of ships berthing at Aden and Hudaydah ports increased from 11 to 17 for the same period, but food imports have yet to reach pre-crisis levels.

Hudaydah port was badly damaged by air strikes during August, but it can accept bulk cargo and containerized cargo from ships equipped with cranes to offload. It will cost an estimated US$87 million to replace the damaged cranes and deploy equipment to fully re-establish the port infrastructure. Transport of cargo from Aden and Hudaydah ports to other parts of Yemen remains challenging, as many road networks remain inaccessible or difficult to access due to damage and continued violence.

Food arrivals at select Yemeni ports

Source: WFP/US Navy
In-country fuel stocks needed for hospital generators, water plants, grain mills and transporting goods to local markets have been depleted, as there were no commercial fuel imports in the first two weeks of September. Fuel imports in August were only 12 per cent of the estimated 544,000 MT monthly requirement. Aden’s oil terminal, the first port of entry for fuel in Yemen, has not received commercial fuel since mid-August.

A WFP-chartered vessel carrying 180,000 litres of truck fuel and UN relief items received clearance to berth in Al-Hudaydah. However, it was unable to offload as the port closed for Eid. Another vessel with a consignment of 1.8 million litres of fuel to support humanitarian operations arrived at Ras Isa oil terminal. It was offloading as of 28 September.

**Funding Update**

**New YHRP pledges and contributions welcomed from Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States**

The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) is 44 per cent funded, with $699 million in contributions made against the $1.6 billion in requirements for the year. The increase reflects the announcement of an additional $89 million in contributions from the United States and additional funding from Saudi Arabia, bringing its contribution to $253 million.

The least-funded life-saving clusters in the YHRP are protection and shelter/non-food items, respectively funded at only 14 per cent and 27 per cent of requirements.

Donors have pledged an additional $83 million to the YHRP that has not been received. This includes a new pledge of $30 million from the United Kingdom. An additional $366 million has been contributed to humanitarian programmes outside the appeal, with significant in-kind contributions from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar totalling $324 million.

Following the launch of a new $14.5 million funding allocation by the Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund in early September, clusters and OCHA are now evaluating the 58 proposals received. The funding is expected to be allocated to national and international NGOs to support food security and agriculture ($4.5 million), nutrition ($2 million), health ($3 million), water, sanitation and hygiene ($3.5 million) and protection ($1.5 million).

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to coordinate their assistance through the YHRP and relevant clusters to ensure the greatest possible impact of their contributions, and to inform OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service (http://fts.unocha.org) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mail to fts@un.org.