Situation overview

- The number of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) / suspected cholera cases continue to increase at unprecedented level in Yemen. More than half of the total cases have been reported in Sana’a City (Amanat Al-Asimah), Hajjah, Amran and Sana’a governorates.
- From 27 April to 24 May 2017, a total of 42,207 suspected cholera / AWD cases were reported from 19 governorates. Out of the total reported cases, 420 deaths were reported (1% case fatality rate).
- The number of deaths reported over the last four weeks is almost three times higher than deaths reported from October 2016 to March 2017.
- A total of 313 cholera cases have been confirmed by laboratory testing.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suspected cases</td>
<td>42,207</td>
<td>Confirmed cases</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
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<td>Governorates</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Case fatality rate</td>
<td>1%</td>
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Health Cluster response

- A World Health Organization-chartered aircraft carrying intravenous fluids and cholera kits has successfully landed at Sana’a airport in Yemen. At 67 tons, it constitutes the largest planeload of medical goods WHO has brought into the country since the escalation of the conflict in March 2015.

- The first of UNICEF’s three chartered planes landed in Sana’a on 25th May with 12 metric tons of Health and WASH supplies. The remaining two are scheduled for 27 and 28 May bringing in 40.6 metric tons of supplies.

- Health cluster continues to scale up the network of oral rehydration points for the treatment of mild and moderate cases of dehydration. By now, health partners established 136 Oral Rehydration Corners (ORCs) in the 12 most affected governorates operating by 13 health partners.

- In addition, health cluster has established 99 Diarrhea Treatment Centers (DTCs) in 17 governorates operating by 13 health partners.

- Health cluster has shared the gap analysis which indicated the gap in the response to cholera.

- Compared to projected needs for DTCs and ORCs, the following graph
indicate that health cluster has reached only 30% of the target of DTCs and only 8% of the target for the ORCs.

- Utilizing a fund of US$ 10 million from the Yemeni Humanitarian Funds, health partners are expected to scale up the response in 13 selected governorates with highest attack rate. Activities are expected to start in the coming week.

- Health cluster partners have so far provided 37 cholera kits and DDKs, over 1 million sachets of ORS, 404 cholera beds, 140,300 bags of IV fluids to health facilities in the cholera-affected areas in Yemen provided by WHO and UNICEF.

- King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Aid has dispersed around 550 tons of medical supplies in 25 trucks for cholera response to all cholera-affected governorates in Yemen.

- Health cluster has a stock of medical supplies in Yemen around 150,000 bottles of ringer lactate and 25 cholera and DDKs stored in 7 locations mainly with WHO and UNICEF.

- In addition, WHO and UNICEF are expecting 148,000 bottle of ringer lactate, antibiotics, Water Purification Tablets, and Family Hygiene kits, 5 million ORS sachets and 116 Cholera kits and DDK through chartered flights and sea in the coming 3 weeks.

**WASH Cluster response**

- Partners have been responding to contain the cholera outbreak in 103 districts in 18 governorates in the last three weeks. Out of the 49 most affected districts (200 or more cases in the 2nd wave – as of 20 May) WASH partners are reaching affected communities in 41 districts. Partners are expanding their activities further to provide services to reach all of the most affected districts in the coming days.

- The National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) has tested 221 private wells and water purification stations in Amanat Al Asimah and has found more than 60% are either not complying to national standards, or are producing contaminated water. 40 stations have been closed, out of which 10 have reopened after complying with standards, and 8 others are in process of doing so. Similarly, in other locations the private water purification stations were closed after testing, 3 in Sa’ada, 4 in Hodeida and 5 in Ibb. Monitoring the quality of private wells and purification stations through NWRA is being scaled up to Hodeidah, Hajjah, Al Mahweet and Amran. In addition, a rapid water quality analysis of the household water storage tanks was conducted in the hotspot locations of Sanaa and Ibb governorate by cluster partners, it was observed most of the water storage tanks are contaminated. Awareness on its clean-up is initiated as a priority.

- In recent days, the wastewater treatment plant in Amanat Al Asimah has started functioning again with support from WASH partners. Partners have committed to provide support to operation and maintenance for at least three months, benefiting approximately 2.5 million people.

- In the last three weeks, 380,000 people have benefitted from chlorination of water sources in 19 districts in 8 governorates. Nearly 1,300,000 people have benefitted people from disinfecting 140 water tankers filling
stations (approx. 12,000 trips), chlorinating over 212,000 cubic meters of drinking water in all districts of Amanat Al Asimah and in Dhamar city. Amran and Dhamar city water networks have received supplies to chlorinate the public water networks, reaching more than 340,000 people. Over 250 volunteers have been trained on water disinfection at private wells, water storage reservoirs and water tankers, covering both public and private groundwater wells; benefiting about half a million people.

- Almost 527,000 people have received chlorine tablets for household water treatment in 64 districts in 14 governorates. Household water tanks were disinfected in 57 districts in 13 governorates, benefiting 500,000 people.
- 1,440 Community Volunteers (CVs) and 780 Community leaders have received orientation on C4D messages/practices in 58 hotspot districts, at field and central levels. 300 Imams across the country received orientation and IEC materials, and will be able to conduct cholera-awareness activities at the community level. More than 137,000 people were reached with hygiene awareness messages, through household visits, public events and school visits in 56 districts in 16 governorates. WASH partners reached 81,000 people with consumable hygiene kits in 20 districts in 7 governorates.
- Mass media coverage scaled up. Seven radio flashes are broadcasted in 25 local and national radio stations (public and private), five TV flashes are aired on ten public and private channels. SMSs continue to be disseminated through four telecommunication companies, reaching 8,000,000 beneficiaries. Key messages on health and WASH are disseminated through billboards in 28 main streets in Sana'a and Amanat Al Asimah governorates.

Challenges and concerns

- Analysis shows that regular WASH programming was very limited in the most affected districts, only 16 out of the 49 districts had ongoing WASH activities before the cholera outbreak, reaching a total of 675,000 people in the first quarter of 2017, compared to the 3.7 million people in need.
- Gap analysis in health response showed that only 30% of DTCs and 8% of ORCs needed are established.
- Funding gap is keeping many INGOs and NNGOs behind in the response.
- Lack of salaries for public employees which hampered all public services including WASH and health services.

Funding

- Health and WASH clusters have recently issued a new appeal requesting for US$ 66,741,164 million to implement the integrated cholera response plan to contain the spread of cholera in Yemen. Only contributions totaling US$11,340,763 million (17% of requirements) have been received with a gap of US$ 55.4 by health and WASH partners.

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