UNICEF Yemen Situation Report
Reporting period: April 2012

Highlights:

- All 66 schools in Lawder district, Abyan governorate, have been closed since 9 April due to fighting between government forces and Ansar Al-Sharia militants, following an attack on Lawder town by the Al-Qaida affiliated group.

- Four children (4 girls) were reportedly killed in Abyan and Sa'ada and five children (4 boys and 1 girl) were injured in Abyan, Lahj and Hajjah governorates. Out of these incidents, three girls were killed in Lawder district, Abyan, in alleged mortar fire by Ansar Al-Sharia, and one girl was killed and one boy and one girl were injured in mine/UXO incidents in Sa'ada and in Ahim, Hajjah governorate.

- Urban water and sanitation systems are facing continuous deterioration in service quality and coverage, especially in Aden and Taiz, as a result of power cuts and a lack of financial resources and maintenance.

- The integrated measles, polio and vitamin A supplementation campaign targeting over 8.2 million children (6 mo. to 10 years) achieved a coverage rate of 94%, 90% and 85% for measles, polio and vitamin A, respectively. The number of reported measles cases fell to 106, with zero death.

© Iona Craig/2012
A young boy has come to collect water for his family in Hajjah, north Yemen. The family has been displaced by armed conflict, and is now living with other IDPs in a school building. UNICEF is supporting water supply to more than 63,000 IDPs and vulnerable host community members in Yemen's north and south. UNICEF is also supporting education for displaced children, and is providing alternative learning spaces where schools are occupied by IDPs.
Inter-Agency Collaboration, Coordination, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships

All UNICEF-led clusters and sub-clusters have begun preparations for the Mid-Year Review of the 2012 Consolidated Appeal Process, which is expected to be completed by 18 June.

Nutrition cluster
- The total number of health facilities nationally providing therapeutic nutrition interventions increased from 474 to 518 between end January and end April. There are now 253 operational supplementary feeding programs, compared to 161 by end 2011.
- Nutrition cluster members reached a total of 25 in addition to three observers (MSFF, MSFE and ICRC). The meetings are chaired by UNICEF with the MOPHP acting as co-chair, and are attended by all partners.
- At regional level, four nutrition sub-clusters in Sa’ada, Aden, Haradh and Hodeidah are meeting on a regular basis.
- Under the leadership of the cluster, SMART survey planning is on-going. Relief International and Action Contre La Faim are in the process of recruiting international experts to further build the capacity of partners and directly support Hajjah and Rayma surveys.

WASH cluster
- WASH partners began revising their CAP projects in view of the evolving situation on the ground and a potential need to expand WASH interventions. Key changes affecting the cluster since the launch of the CAP 2012 are: Scale of deterioration in the water and wastewater systems especially in large urban settings; new internal displacement; and the potential for adverse impact of WASH-related diseases in summer.
- A national-level WASH assessment exercise will start in May 2012.
- The capacity of the Hygiene Promotion Working Group led by UNICEF in Aden has been augmented by the hiring of a dedicated national expert to support working group activities.
- The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) awarded USD 2,483,079 to cover WASH needs of new IDPs and host communities in North Yemen. The WASH cluster led the preparation of the CERF proposal.
- New WASH sub-clusters were activated in Hodeidah and Taiz, to strengthen coordination of planning and response.
- Needs assessment planning and information gathering continued in all targeted northern and southern governorates. The WASH cluster has drafted a plan for an assessment to identify water and sanitation gaps in 4-6 northern governorates.

Education cluster
- The Inter-agency Network of Education in Emergencies (INEE) training was conducted in Aden, with 29 participants representing Aden, Abyan, Lahj and Shabwah education offices; Save the Children; UNHCR and local NGOs.
- A task force under the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster was formed to spearhead the process of finding alternative settlement for IDPs. The move is aimed at freeing IDP-occupied schools ahead of the next school year, which commences in September, as well as providing ample time for rehabilitation works in dilapidated schools. UNICEF is a member of the task force.

Child Protection sub-cluster
- Two meetings were held by the Child Protection sub-cluster (CPSC). In the first meeting, UNHCR shared a presentation on the roll-out of global agenda for the protection of children in Yemen. The members also finalized the standard supply kits for children in child friendly spaces (CFS), the minimum standards/guidelines for the CFS and the standard proposals on child protection /prevention of violence and the mine risk education activities, which will help partners apply for funding for their child protection response. Moreover, the members discussed the CAP Mid-Year-Review for child protection progress made and called to accelerate the child protection response.
- Meetings were also held in the Child Protection Working Groups in Haradh and Amran to better coordinate the child protection response after identifying gaps especially in the areas of psycho-social support, unaccompanied minors, referral mechanism and mine risk education.
- The Opening Session for Children Parliament 2012-2014 was held on 26 April, with the sponsorship of Mr. Yahia Al-Raei, President of the Yemeni Parliament House. It was attended by child MPs representing all governorates, as well as international organizations, the government, and the children’s parents.
UNICEF Response

Nutrition
- As a result of the scale-up plan for 2012, the total number of new children with severe acute malnutrition SAM enrolled in the OTPs in Hodeidah governorate in Q1 2012 (7,747) was more than four times higher than in Q1 2011 (1,781).
- 1,900 SAM children were enrolled in OTPs in Lahj, Aden and Shabwa in Q1 2012.
- In Sa’ada governorate, a total of 224 new SAM children were enrolled in OTPs in April.
- Preparations are on-going for a three-strata (coastal, mountainous and IDPs) SMART survey in Hajjah governorate. Training of enumerators has been completed; fieldwork will commence in the first week of May and will last for three weeks.
- UNICEF signed a MoU with the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP) to facilitate release of nutrition supplies from ports to all governorates to ensure timely delivery of supplies.
- Sufficient therapeutic supplies are in stock/pipeline to cover the targeted estimated caseload until end of August.

Health
- The two phases of the national measles, polio and vitamin A supplementation campaign targeting over 8.2 million children (6 mo. to 10 years) was completed. The campaign achieved a coverage rate of 94%, 90% and 85% for measles, polio and vitamin A, respectively. It was supported by UNICEF in partnership with MOPHP and WHO.
- The number of reported measles cases fell to 106, with zero death.
- In preparation for a nation-wide Polio Immunization Day (planned for late May), UNICEF is procuring all the required five million doses of polio vaccine.

WASH
- UNICEF extended the provision of daily water supply to an additional 1,255 IDP families (5,274 men and women and 2,087 children) as a result of water shortages in four Aden districts.
- In total, UNICEF supported water supply to over 63,670 people in camps, settlements, public buildings and vulnerable host communities in Haradh, Amran, and Aden.
- In Amran, 2,200 school children received school hygiene kits, and over 10,000 school children received hygiene education.
- Sa’ada town: the construction works in ten schools was completed, serving 8,529 school children (4,080 boys and 4,449 girls) and 366 teachers (231 male and 135 females).
- Aden: The construction of water and sanitation facilities in two additional alternative school buildings was completed, serving over 15,369 people (812 teachers, 8,104 boys and 6,453 girls).
- In Haradh and Aden, approx. 4,927 IDP families have benefited from the distribution of monthly hygiene consumables.
- A rapid assessment for menstrual hygiene management and baby hygiene in emergency was conducted in Haradh and Aden. The analysis and final report will be completed before 15 May. Results will be shared and used for a global exercise on menstrual hygiene management.
- UNICEF and Local Water and Sanitation Cooperation in Aden agreed to extend cooperation to restore basic water supply systems in the most affected districts of the city, which hosts more than 160,000 Abyan IDPs. In addition to the increased demand, power cuts and lack of maintenance have severely affected the water supply systems.

Education
- All 66 schools in Lawder district, Abyan governorate, have been closed since 9 April due to fighting between government forces and Ansar Al-Sharia militants affecting an estimated 23,391 students. Thirty of the district’s 66 schools have been reported as occupied either by IDPs or armed groups from both sides of the parties to the conflict.
- Support to IDP school children in in Al-Khamisein area (Khayran Al-Muharraq district) continued through the provision of tents and learning materials, bringing the total of tents erected so far to 11 in four schools, benefiting over 900 primary school IDP and host community children.
- Support for continuing education is on-going for more than 4,500 children in five IDP schools in Haradh district.
- The construction of 17 temporary class rooms (hangars) in two IDP schools in Haradh district is on-going. These new structures will provide a better learning environment for children in the schools.
Child Protection

- **Monitoring and reporting of grave child rights violations**: Four children (4 girls) were reportedly killed in Abyan and Sa’ada and five children (4 boys and 1 girl) were injured in Abyan, Lahj and Hajjah governorates. Out of these incidents, three girls were killed in one incident in Lawder district, Abyan, in alleged mortar fire by Ansar Al-Sharia, and one girl was killed and one boy and one girl were injured in mine/UXO incidents in Sa’ada and in Ahim, Hajjah governorate.

- The rapid increase in mine/UXO risk has been highlighted in two press releases issued separately by UNICEF and ICRC. Children continue to be victims with worrying trends of incidents affecting them.

- To complement and expand on on-going community awareness campaign, nineteen (M:15, F: 4) NGO representatives, teachers and community volunteers from Al-Khamiseen, Ahim/Khushar, Khayran Al-Muharraq and Mastaba were trained on mine risk education to help them carry out community awareness sessions. This took place in a training workshop organized by the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) in coordination with UNICEF. As a response to the Education/Child Protection rapid assessment that took place in Taiz schools at the beginning of 2012, the concerned sub-clusters have developed a comprehensive work plan to provide education and child protection response for affected children in the governorate.

- 50 children (30 boys, 20 girls) were provided with information and life skills on child protection in emergency in Taiz, organized by the Human Rights Information Training Center. Peer educators previously trained by Life Makers reached at least 750 children (boys: 400, girls: 350) including children out of school, and provided them with messages on child rights and child protection.

- A total of 11,533 IDP and affected children (4,791 M, 6,742 F) were provided with psychosocial support through recreational, sports and education activities in partnership with MOSAL in Hajjah, Sa’ada and Amran as well as with Intersos and Shuthab, Life Makers, HRITC, Save the Children, and Mercy Corps in Aden, Al-Amana, Taiz and Haradh. This took place in 34 child-friendly spaces (CFS) based in schools and 20 community/home based CFSs in host communities. Out of this number, 91 vulnerable children (boys: 39, girls: 52) were identified and provided with needed services. In addition, the Helpline and the PSS clinic run by the Arab Human Rights Foundation based in Sana’a received 2,498 children (boys: 999, girls: 1,159) and other family members (M: 140, F: 200) and provided them with psycho-social support.

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