UNICEF Yemen Situation Report
Reporting period: May 2012

Highlights:

- Sa’ada continued reporting measles cases; 170 in April and 101 up to 13 May. An outbreak of dengue-chikungunya fever was reported in Lahj, Hajjah and Hodeidah governorates, with 887 suspected cases.

- Findings from a UNICEF and Dutch Government supported nationwide WASH survey show only 45% of Yemenis have access to improved water; 27% have adequate sanitation.

- Armed confrontation escalated in Abyan governorate between government forces and Ansar Al-Shari'a/AQAP. Two boys were reportedly killed and one boy injured in Khanfar district. Forty two schools in Lawder and four in Khanfar were reportedly partially damaged as a result of the conflict.

- Crisis conditions continue to severely affect Yemen’s children. A review of the consolidated humanitarian appeal indicate an increase in funding requirements of up to 38% (from US$ 50 million in January) to address immediate needs.
Nutrition cluster
- The cluster response plan has been revised. Four additional projects have been included in the CAP 2012 with an appeal of US$87,567,180, of which US$58,802,550 is urgently required.
- 27 technical officers from MOPHP and Nutrition cluster partners were trained on Nutrition in Emergency.
- During Q1 2012, a total of 45,850 under-five IDP children received blanket supplementary feeding, representing 35% of 129,100 target, while among non-IDPs, cluster partners covered 38,690 children aged 6-24 months with blanket supplementary feeding, representing 17% of 221,000 target.
- A total of 33,585 children under 5 affected by severe acute malnutrition out of a targeted 130,000 (26%) had received lifesaving nutrition interventions as of end Q1 2012.
- A total of 23,789 malnourished pregnant and lactating women out of a targeted 75,677 (31%) were provided with supplementary feeding during Q1 2012.

WASH cluster
- Findings from a UNICEF and Dutch Government supported nationwide WASH survey show only 45% of Yemenis have access to improved water; 27% have adequate sanitation.
- WASH cluster partners reviewed the emergency situation in Aden; preparedness is on track.
- A country-wide district-by-district WASH priority map to guide interventions was produced and distributed. A WASH-Nutrition integrated map of Hodeidah was produced with priority districts based on a mutual match.
- 104 community volunteers in Hodeidah received WASH training.
- Mid-year review (MYR) was conducted for the CAP 2012 amounting to an estimated US$20 million increase for WASH projects with three new partner projects and four revised projects.
- Number of WASH cluster partners reached 35, with five sub-clusters – Haradh Aden, Taiz, Amran, Hodeidah – and focal points in Sa’ada and Al-Jawf. New partners including International Rescue committee, Intersos, Merlin, and DRC met bilaterally and were oriented on developing WASH response.

Education cluster
- The Education cluster in collaboration with the Ministry of Education is finalising an evaluation of the Back-To-School campaign conducted in school year 2011-2012. The evaluation is expected to inform planning for the upcoming similar campaign expected to start in August 2012, by which the Ministry of Education and partners are aiming to ensure that all children have access to education.

Child Protection sub-cluster
- A sub-cluster meeting was briefed on progress so far in the MYR for CP CAP 2012 and the urgent need for enhanced monitoring and evaluation as well accurate and disaggregated data reflecting results achieved in child protection. The members also discussed the coordination with the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) related to mine risk education in highly affected areas. The members also raised their concern about the military presence in some schools and the need for advocacy with concerned parties. UNICEF as sub-cluster lead followed up with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, sharing details about schools of concern.
- Seyaj Organization for Childhood Protection has signed three agreements with Yemeni artists to produce musical works against child recruitment in the framework of a campaign funded by the Federal Republic of Germany. Renowned artists such as Mohammad Al-Adhroai, Jameel Qadhi and Fawaz Al-Shihab will participate. Seyaj will also produce videos with the aim of reaching a broad audience.

UNICEF Response
Nutrition
- Supported training of 20 Nutrition coordinators on the nutrition registers and CMAM data registrations.
- Provided technical assistance for the training of MOPHP on Nutrition in Emergency.
- Finalized SMART surveys in Hajjah and Rayma; findings will be published in June 2012.
- Implementation of the integrated multi-sectoral response plan is on-going in Hodeidah with the training of over 60 community volunteers on the integrated nutrition package.
- Sufficient nutrition supplies are in country and in the pipeline till end of Q3 2012.
A further 12 Infant and Young Child Feeding corners were established in Aden, Lahj and Haradh. A total of 349 mothers were counselled in April compared to fewer than 200 in March 2012.

Health
- Despite the measles vaccination campaign in early March Sa’ada continued reporting measles cases: 209 in March, 170 in April and 101 up to 13 May. 93% of the cases affected unimmunized children; 66% were under 2 years old. Failure to vaccinate due to obstruction by the de facto Houthi authority, lack of social mobilization with many parents unaware of the date, place and reasons for the campaign were cited by the caregivers as the main reasons their children were not vaccinated. UNICEF is negotiating with the de facto authority and government for an unhindered mop-up campaign.
- An outbreak of dengue-chikungunya fever was reported in Lahj, Hajjah and Hodeidah, with 887 suspected cases of which 250 were confirmed dengue fever and four chikungunya; there were 14 confirmed deaths.

WASH
- **Hajjah**: UNICEF continued to supply water to 39,462 IDPs in Hajjah governorate. Also, UNICEF and Haradh Executive Unit for IDPs signed an agreement on the provision of 280,000 litres safe water daily for 2,000 new IDP families in Haradh, Khairan Al-Muharraq, Hayran, Abs and Mustaba. UNICEF continued to support adequate sanitation for 27,435 IDPs: 3,933 settled in camp 3, 15,242 settled outside camps and 8,260 in the Al-Khamisain area. 128 community latrines were constructed for new IDPs in Abs, Al-Qofi, Walmadab, and Al-Khamisain. 3,380 pit latrines were emptied. Monthly consumable were distributed to 4,406 IDP families in Hajjah (32,369 people). 404 water diarrhoea cases were reported (16 in camp 3, 192 in outside camps and 196 in Al-Khamisain. This indicates a much lower occurrence of diarrhoeal cases in camps where complete WASH services are provided than among new IDPs and IDPs living with host communities.
- **Amran/Arhab**: UNICEF is providing 167 m³ daily water supply with an average of 15.5 litre/capita to 11,152 IDPs in Amran and Arhab governorates (children: 2,986). 457 IDP families in Arhab district received hygiene kits; 130 water filters were distributed to vulnerable families. In Amran, 300 children received school hygiene kits. Monthly hygiene consumables were distributed to 1,097 IDPs families (643 families in Amran, 454 in Arhab). Hygiene education sessions were conducted in 14 schools in Amran city, Jabal yazeed, Radea, Eyal serah, and Arhab areas) targeting 8,045 schoolchildren (boys: 5,165, girls: 2880).
- **Aden/Lahj/Abyan**: Ten 2000 litre water tanks were distributed to ten schools that accommodate Abyan IDPs, to increase water storage capacity for 495 families (2,098 individuals, 854 children). In Aden’s Dar-Saad district 1,268 families (5,445 individuals, 2,605 children) received hygiene kits. Monthly consumable cleaning materials were distributed to 1,255 families (5,274 men and women, 2,087 children) living in 29 schools in Aden governorate. Provision continued of complete WASH services to 2,213 Abyan IDP families (9,474 people, 3,137 children) in 45 schools in Aden and Lahj. A technical assessment for the rehabilitation of 11 water wells in four Abyan districts was conducted by Abyan Rural Water Authority to restore drinking water for 43,700 people including IDPs.

Education
- UNICEF continued to provide support to more than 5,000 IDP and host community children in nine schools in Hajjah’s Haradh and Khayran Al-Muharraq districts. Grade 1, 2 and 3 students have already sat for the final exams. A joint assessment by UNICEF and district education officials on the education situation and general performance of the new IDP children in schools in Al-Khamisain revealed that both IDP and host community children suffer from low quality of education and that their performance has deteriorated compared to previous years. Reasons for this include children missing out on education days last year and low quality of teaching. The children need extra classes during summer to improve their performance in the coming year.
- UNICEF completed the construction of 19 semi-temporary classrooms in three IDP schools in Haradh district (Alyarmok, 26 Sep and Tashar) which will be handed over to Haradh District Education Office (DEO) soon. These new classrooms are expected to benefit 1,265 children (895 boys, 370 girls) in the school year starting September 2012.
- Some 1,756 preschool children in in schools in five target districts in Taiz and Ibb are benefitting from 1,475 chairs and 311 tables in 55 schools provided by UNICEF. UNICEF also supported an ECD class for 36 children in Taiz city with learning and play materials and story books for Child-To-Child learning initiatives.

Child Protection
*Monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations*
- Armed clashes continued in Abyan between government forces and Ansar Al-Shari’a/AQAP, with two boys reportedly killed in the village of Al Husn (Khanfar district) and one boy injured in the village of Batis (Khanfar district).
district) where perpetrators are yet to be verified. An 8 year-old boy was reportedly abducted with his father by AQAP in Abyan. At least 11 boys (all originally from Abyan) have been reported this month as recruited by Ansar Al-Shari’a, including one boy who reportedly died during combat in Sa’ada against government armed forces.

- In Al Mualla district in Aden, an explosive device was reportedly placed by an unknown group in the backyard of a high school for girls. Police defused the device with no casualties occurring.
- District Education Offices reported 42 schools in Lawder and four in Khanfar are partially damaged as a result of the conflict in Abyan.

**Child Protection Response**

- UNICEF met with the Minister of Interior to follow up on a letter he issued on 18 April addressed to the Head of Police, Head of National Security Forces, Heads and Directors of all department/authorities under the Ministry of Interior, and Director of Security in all governorates, instructing the full implementation of the Police Commission Law No. 15 of 2000 which stipulates that the age of new recruits should be no less than 18 and no more than 25 year, and the release of all those who are proven to be below 18 years old. UNICEF offered to extend its support on the full implementation of the law, and agreed with the Minister to work with the Military Affairs Committee for Security and Stability to develop an action plan to end the use and recruitment of children by armed forces and groups.
- As part of the partnership between UNICEF and Intersos, a Child Protection Center in Haradh provided protection and interim care to 46 unaccompanied children.
- A total of 19,001 IDP and IDP affected and vulnerable children (10,866 M, 8,135 F) were provided with psychosocial support through recreational, sports and play activities in partnership with MOSAL as well as with Save the Children, FODR, HRITC and Shawthab, Life Makers and Mercy Corps in governorates including in Hajjah, Sa’ada, Amran Aden, AL-Amana and Taiz. This took place in school/community and home based child-friendly spaces (CFS) with focus on the most vulnerable children. Out of these, 99 children (boys: 65, girls: 34) were identified as severely vulnerable and provided with needed services.
- 646 (187 F, 255 M) NGO staff and community volunteers from Abyan were trained on Child Protection in Emergency and Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms to enable them to monitor and report on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict and disseminate key protection messages.
- A total of 7,538 (3,519 boys, 4,019 girls) and 138 parents and community members (M: 52; F: 86) received awareness on child protection in emergency.

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