

Situation Overview

Sea and airports in areas under the control of the Government of Yemen have re-opened, but the ports lack the capacity required for the volumes of commercial and humanitarian cargo previously handled by Al Hudaydah and Saleef. The re-opening of Aden airport has allowed some humanitarian flights to land, but services to other parts of the country are still blocked. The continued closure of some sea and air ports by the Saudi-led coalition will push Yemen to a further catastrophic humanitarian situation. Eleven days since the blockade was put in place, commercial and humanitarian supplies in the country are running dangerously low.



Impact on the delivery of supplies

- UNVIM reports that as of 15 November, the blockade has prevented 29 vessels with approximately half a million metric tonnes of supplies (300,000 MT of food and 192,000 MT of fuel) from reaching the population of Yemen. This will have a significant impact on people's ability to purchase food further aggravating an extremely fragile food security situation.
- A UN humanitarian vessel transporting 1,313 MT of WHO/UNICEF health, wash and nutrition supplies, worth over than US\$10 million, is currently being prevented from berthing in Al Hudaydah port.
- A UN vessel with 25,000 tons of wheat is waiting to berth off the coast of Al Hudaydah port, incurring significant daily demurrage costs.



Impact on fuel availability:

- The blocking of fuel has led to a significant decrease in supplies, with diesel is estimated to run out in 20 days and petrol in 10 days in the northern areas of Yemen.
- The price of petrol in Sana'a has increased by over 170 per cent from 275 YER/liter to 750 YER/liter in the black market. Few gas stations are currently open, and those that are have very long queues. The price of diesel in the black market has increased by 62 per cent from 325 YER/liter to 525 YER/liter.
- The increase in fuel prices has meant the price of trucked water has increased by 133 per cent in Sana'a. This will further increase the vulnerability of millions of Yemenis with limited access to water and threatens to reverse the gains made in combating cholera.



Impact on health

- The blocking of essential medicine and vaccines and the lack of fuel arriving in Al Hudaydah port will impact millions of people that are already suffering from a lack of health services and multiple preventable diseases. All health facilities are reliant on fuel for delivering essential life-saving services and Diphtheria is spreading fast with 120 clinically diagnosed cases and 14 deaths in the last week. At least one million children are at risk of contracting the disease.
- The inability to re-supply life-saving maternal medicines and supplies will threaten the lives of 400,000 pregnant women and their newborns, including 53,000 pregnant women who are likely to develop complications during childbirth.



Impact on access by aid workers

- The airport in Aden has open with Yemenia and ICRC flights arriving on 14 November and UNHAS arriving on 16 November. The UN vessel also arrived at Aden seaport carrying 23 humanitarian aid workers on 15 November.
- Since 6 November, UNHAS had to reschedule 23 flights. All cancellations were due to non-approval of clearance requests. For the 11th consecutive day, UNHAS has not received clearance to fly to Sana'a airport.
- 386 aid workers (UN, INGOs, NNGOs) remain stranded in Djibouti, Amman, Sana'a and other locations as their flights have been cancelled.



Impact on commercial and humanitarian food stocks:

- As of 1 November, there was an estimated 1.3 million MTs of commercial stocks of various food commodities (wheat, rice, sugar, vegetable oil, salt and pulses) in-country. The lack of commodities entering the country has led to a significant depletion of stocks impacting food prices and people's ability to meet their food needs.
- Wheat stocks (wheat grain and flour) account for 66 per cent (817,000 MT) of the total commercial food stocks, while rice accounts for 217,500 MT. WFP estimates that current rice stocks in-country will be depleted in 108 days, if not replenished, and wheat in approximately 100 days.
- FAO reports that more than 70 per cent of families have no food stocks and are purchasing the food items they need daily. Any increase in prices would impact their ability to feed their families.
- WFP currently has 205,000 MT of mixed food commodities in stocks which is sufficient to assist 7 million people for just under three months (this includes 3.5 million of whom receive full rations and other 3.5 million at 60 percent rations). If, however, the number of beneficiaries goes up due to the blockade, with an additional three million people risk falling into hunger, these food stocks will run out sooner.



Impact on the nutritional status of children and women:

- If humanitarian organisations are not able to re-supply nutrition stocks for the coming months, then the lives of about 150,000 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition are at immediate risk.
- The inability to re-supply life-saving maternal medicines and supplies, will threaten the lives of 400,000 pregnant women and their newborns, with immediate risk to the lives of 53,000 pregnant women who are likely to develop complications during childbirth.



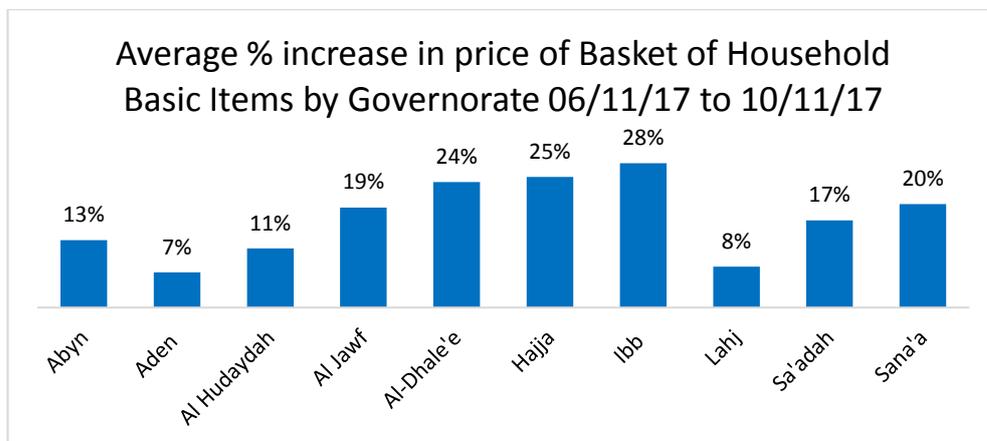
Impact on IDPs and refugees:

- Emergency assistance including shelter kits and essential household items for almost 40,000 conflict-affected displaced families have been interrupted due to the blocking of humanitarian supplies entering Yemen.
- UNHCR reports that following the blockade, some 600 to 800 people are approaching the UNHCR-supported center for IDPs in Sana'a on a daily basis. This is an increase of almost 35 per cent.
- Three boat trips planned by UNHCR and IOM to repatriate 329 refugees back to Somalia have been postponed due to the blockade.



Impact on the economy:

- Commodities prices have increased on average by 21 per cent across the country due to the blockade, severely impacting an already vulnerable population.
- Rice prices have increased by between 50 and 68 per cent in Al Bayda Governorate. Sugar has increased by 32 per cent in Al Hudaydah, 33 per cent in Abyan and 12 to 13 per cent in Shabwah and Al Bayda.
- Prices of locally produced commodities have also sharply increased. In Al Hudaydah, maize has increased by 131 per cent, sorghum by 67 per cent and millet by 15 per cent. Maize has increased by 50 per cent in Ibb and 22 per cent in Sana'a and Hajjah. Millet has increased by 15 to 22 per cent compared to October 2017. These increases threaten 17 million food insecure people and further the risk of famine for seven million who are severely food insecure.
- The currency has devalued with the exchange rate in Sana'a City currently at 425 YER/1 USD, further increasing the prices of essential commodities.



Source: ACTED, OXFAM, ACF and FEWSNET

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