

HIGHLIGHTS

- Following escalation of hostilities in Taizz, the Humanitarian Coordinator calls on parties to agree on a humanitarian pause.
- Shortages of food and basic commodities continue to be recorded in markets.
- Emergency obstetric and newborn care in Ibb is strengthened through the provision of equipment distributed to 16 health facilities.
- The CERF allocates \$13 million to Yemen.

Total population	26 m
# of people targeted by assistance	13.6 m
# of people targeted by health care assistance	10.6 m
# of people targeted by food assistance	8.9 m
# of people displaced	2.8 m
# of deaths (WHO)	6,606
# of injuries (WHO)	33,064

Source: HRP and HNO-WHO

FUNDING

\$1.8 billion
requested

\$461 million
funding against HRP

26% funded
(01/08/2016)



Midwives at the Al-Thawrah Hospital, Ibb Governorate. Credit: UNFPA

In this issue

- [Food insecurity in Yemen](#) P.1
- [Cluster response](#) P.2
- [Health care in Ibb](#) P.4
- [Focus on Aden](#) P.4
- [Allocation form the CERF](#) P.5

The Humanitarian Coordinator calls for a Humanitarian Pause to fighting in Taizz

In July, heavy ground clashes, airstrikes and missile strikes increased, especially around Al Jawf, Hajjah, Taizz, Marib and Nihm District of Sana'a.

The reinforcement of the closure on Taizz City as well as the escalation of hostilities in the Al-Sarari Village within Sabir Al Mawadim District, prompted the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), Jamie McGoldrick to call on all parties to agree immediately to a humanitarian pause in Taizz Governorate in order to protect civilians, facilitate the treatment and evacuation of the war wounded and the delivery of urgently needed medicine and other life-saving assistance. In his statement, issued on 26 July, the HC stressed that it is unacceptable to hold civilian populations hostage and deprived of humanitarian assistance in pursuit of political and military gains.

As of the end of July, the situation in and around Taizz remained fluid. Due to difficulties in reaching the area, the precise humanitarian needs cannot be verified although reports indicate that the population is in dire need basic services and commodities. Al-Sarari Village currently has no medical facility, and due to the likelihood of conflict-inflicted casualties, the most pressing concern is to deploy a medical team and supplies to the area and evacuate the wounded.

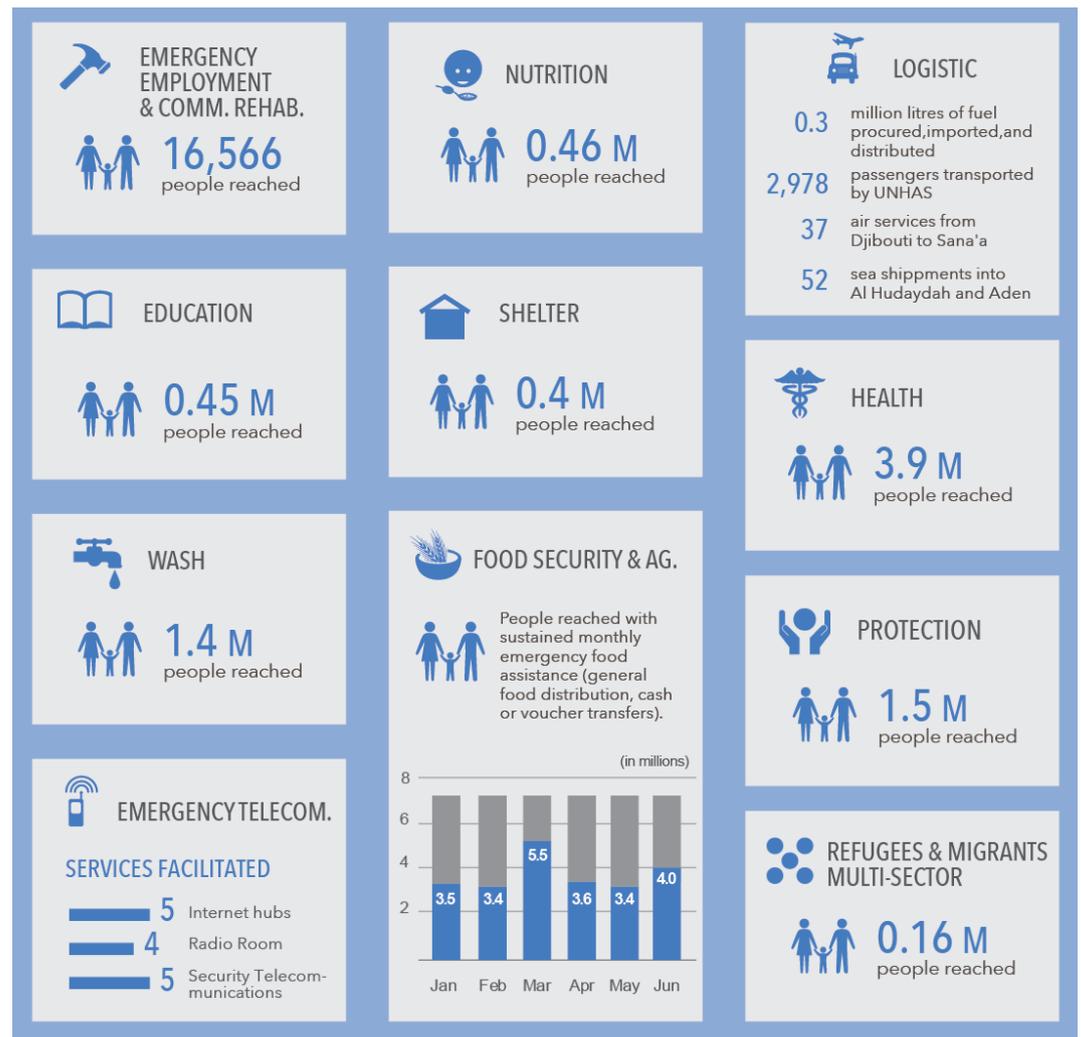
Food insecurity increases by 10 percent since last year

Sixteen months since the escalation of the conflict, the humanitarian situation in Yemen continues to deteriorate. Around 51 per cent of the population (14.1 million people) is suffering from food insecurity and malnutrition. This is an increase of nearly 10 per cent since June 2015. Furthermore, the conflict is driving a range of interconnected economic and humanitarian challenges. This includes loss of livelihoods, rising prices of basic commodities, limited imports of food, fuel and medicine, depreciation of the Yemeni Rial and the depletion of central bank reserves.

Four million people have been reached with assistance by end June 2016

In response to the daunting situation, humanitarian partners have delivered throughout the conflict and across the country, reaching four million people up to 30 June 2016. Overall, some 13.6M people are being targeted with assistance in 2016. However, low levels of funding are significantly hampering the humanitarian response. The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan is only 26 per cent funded and additional funds are urgently needed to increase the current level of humanitarian response. Some agencies have already highlighted that, if new funds are not available soon, activities such as food distribution will need to scale down. Overall, the situation highlights the need for the international community to act with a greater sense of urgency to assist Yemen, before the situation deteriorates further.

Cluster response as of 30 June 2016



Source: Clusters, June 2016.

Breakthrough as WFP reaches 55,000 people in Taizz using voucher assistance

In July, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) reached 55,000 people in a hard-to-reach district of Taizz City, Al Qahira, providing food assistance through food vouchers using a local supplier's network.

This is a significant development as the Global Acute Malnutrition in Taizz City is 17.5 per cent, 14.4 per cent in the highland, and 25.5 per cent in the lowland. Approximately 1 million people (33 per cent of the population) in Taizz Governorate are suffering from food insecurity in line with the Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC Phase 4).

WFP launched this innovative way of delivering food assistance earlier this year in Sana'a City. The project, known as the "Commodity-Voucher through Traders' Network (CV-TN)", allows WFP to supply food commodities to families through a contracted local retailer in exchange for vouchers. Each voucher gives a one-month supply of wheat grain, pulses, vegetable oil, salt and sugar as well as Wheat Soya Blend (WSB) – a protein-rich blended food. The monthly entitlement is enough to cover the needs of a family of six people.

The programme has enabled WFP to reach more than 600,000 people compared to only 120,000 in February including in Taizz and Aden. WFP plans to expand its voucher reach to the Al Mudhaffar district of Taizz governorate. However, WFP requires an additional \$85 million to be able to reach a targeted 1 million people across Yemen by the end of this year.

"Expanding the voucher programme is an effective way to address access challenges. In addition to helping vulnerable families it gives a much needed boost to the local markets used for the purchase of inputs."

WFP Yemen Country Director

WFP requires an additional \$85 million to be able to reach a targeted 1 million people across Yemen by the end of this year through voucher assistance."

The rising human and economic costs of the conflict in Yemen

Since the escalation of conflict in April 2015, more than 6,494 people have died and 32,169 people have been injured. These statistics come from functioning health facilities and the actual numbers are expected to be higher. More than 2.8M people remain Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), living in basic camps or with host families and struggling to meet basic needs. The three top needs for internally displaced are: food (49 per cent), drinking water (20 per cent) and shelter (9 per cent). The provinces with the largest numbers of internally displaced are: 1) Taizz, 2) Hajjah, 3) Sana'a, 4) Sa'ada and 5) Amanat Al Asimah.

While the conflict continues, concerns about the state of Yemen's formal economy continue to grow. The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) reports that the exchange rate in the parallel market has fluctuated at around YR 300 per 1USD in May 2016, compared to YR 225 per 1USD in May 2015. The public debt as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has reached an alarming level of 94.4 per cent in 2015, exceeding the safe limit of 60 per cent. In such an economy, the ability of commercial food importers to access lines of credit and place orders for basic goods remains severely limited.

Shortages of food and fuel continue to be recorded in the market

Yemen has always relied heavily on imports to meet its food needs. Before the crisis an estimated 90 per cent of food came from abroad, including 85 per cent of its staple grain. However, the conflict has introduced significant barriers to the importation of basic commodities.

According to the Logistics Cluster snapshot on shipping food and fuel for June 2016, shortages of food and high food prices continue to be recorded in the market.

In June 2016 a total of 333,643 MT of food was imported through the ports of Aden, Al Hudaydah, and Saleef. Wheat flour imports constituted 58 per cent of the overall food imports.

June saw a small decrease of fuel imports compared to May, with 135,110 MT of fuel imported through the ports of Aden and Al Hudaydah. June imports correspond to 25 per cent of the monthly fuel needs, estimated at 544,000 MT. Shortages of fuel in Aden have been affecting humanitarian operations. As a result of the recent fuel crisis, the Logistics Cluster received increased demands for diesel and is planning to transport additional diesel to enable humanitarian operations. Procurement has started for 150,000 liters of diesel and petrol from Yemenia Petroleum Company in Aden to ensure there is available fuel for the partners. The Logistics Cluster has sufficient fuel stock to cover eight months requirement for the diesel and four months requirement for the petrol in Sana'a and Al Hudaydah. Significant delays are still experienced in the ports of Aden, Al Hudaydah and Saleef. The longest delay at anchorage in June was recorded for Saleef Port, with vessels waiting for berth an average of 19 days.

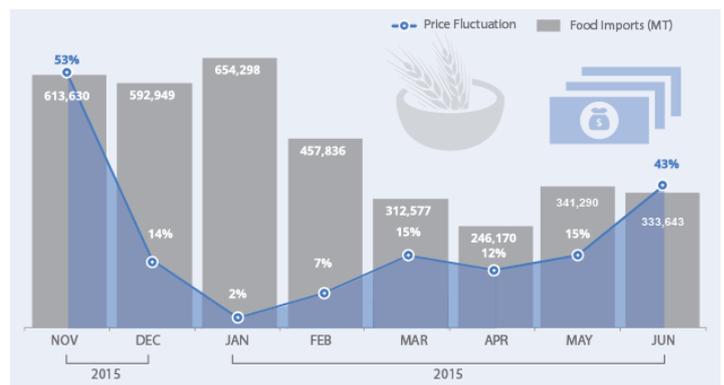
National average prices of basic commodities continue to increase

The WFP Market Watch Report for June highlights that the national average prices have increased: wheat flour (21 per cent since May); sugar (18 per cent); vegetable oil (3 per cent). Compared with pre-crisis prices the national average price of wheat flour has increased by 38 per cent; red beans by 68 per cent, vegetable oil by 32 per cent, sugar by 24 per cent and onions by 12 per cent. On average wheat flour prices are 42 per cent higher than pre-crisis level.

"The burden of the public debt has grown to alarming levels, hindering economic growth and development and placing a heavy burden on current and future generations."

Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Monthly food imports and price fluctuation



Source: Logistic cluster, June 2016.

"Significant delays are still experienced in all major ports in Yemen. Most of the delays are due to port congestion and reduced operational capacity."

Yemen Logistics Cluster

In June, prices for petrol and diesel were on average between 78 per cent and 123 percent higher than pre-crisis levels corresponding to a monthly increase of eight per cent and 21 per cent respectively. Cooking gas is 119 per cent higher than pre-crisis levels. Lahj showed the highest spikes with diesel (106 per cent) and petrol (136 per cent) higher than the previous month.

The economic crisis in Yemen has become a daily concern for the Yemeni people as prices in the market dictate what a family can eat, whether a sick person can afford medicines, how many metric tons a merchant can import from abroad or whether a local trader is willing to send a truckload of vegetables to a neighbouring town.

Agriculture sector is severely impacted by the crisis

The recent damage and needs assessment prepared by the International Labour Office (ILO) in collaboration with the Yemen Central Statistical Office (YCSO) highlighted the impact that the conflict has had on the employment and the labour market.

Agriculture has been a sector severely affected by the crisis with a loss of almost 50 per cent of its workers, followed by the private service sector (8.1 per cent), with transport and trade (the two largest sub-sectors) suffering even bigger losses. The decline in industrial employment has been marginal; these employment losses were slightly compensated for by employment in construction, which increased by 8 per cent, mainly in the Aden governorate.

Strengthening reproductive health care in Ibb

In July 2016, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) distributed over \$600,000 worth of equipment to meet the reproductive health needs of women and their new-borns in Ibb. The equipment will reach nearly 250,000 women of reproductive ages (15-49 years), of which 23,000 are estimated to be pregnant, across the governorate, including among those that have been internally displaced.

Emergency obstetric care equipment has been distributed to six hospitals and 10 health clinics to address complications during pregnancy and birth and hopes to avert nearly 100 maternal deaths in the next nine months.

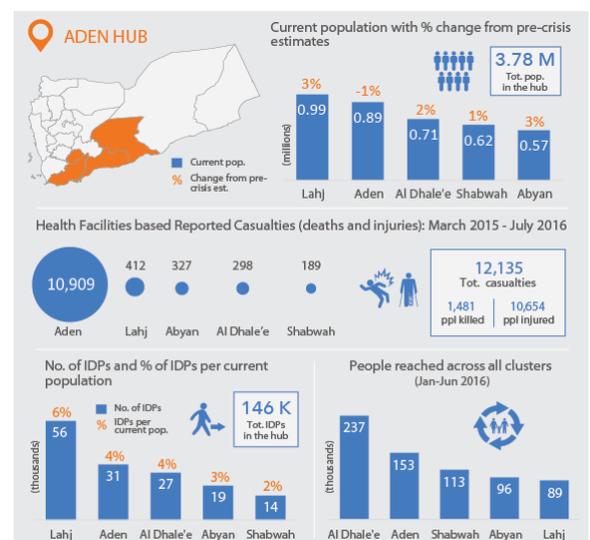
Making emergency obstetric and new-born care available to all women who develop complications is critical in reducing maternal mortality even in times of crisis. This is because all five of the major causes of maternal mortality – haemorrhage, sepsis, unsafe abortion, hypertensive disorders and obstructed labour – can be treated if facilities are equipped with emergency obstetric care and are well-staffed. In such settings, many new-borns who might otherwise die can also be saved.

UNFPA is supporting the establishment of 13 private clinics for mid-wives; and continues to provide dignity kits and services to address issues of gender-based violence among conflict affected women and girls in Ibb.

Focus on Aden

Despite the several security challenges progress has been made by humanitarian partners to strengthen their presence and response in Aden. Coordination between humanitarian partners and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has improved and assistance continues to be provided by 36 Organisations (UN Agencies, 12 NNGO, 15 INGO) operating in the Governorate.

In Aden, over 350,000 people are in a food security crisis according to the latest food security analysis from the sector. Some 267,000



Source: WHO, Clusters, TFPM (Jun 2016).

people were reached with sustained monthly emergency food assistance. This is a significant increase since the beginning of the year when some 139,000 people were reached in January 2016.

Allocation from the Central Emergency Response Fund to Yemen

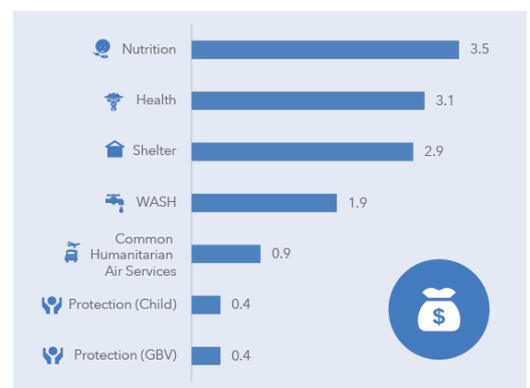
In early July 2016, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), a pooled fund mechanism managed by UN headquarters in New York, announced the allocation of \$13 million towards meeting critical needs of vulnerable communities affected by conflict in Yemen. Funding was made available from the under-funded financing window of the CERF, as the Yemen Response Plan remains only 26 per cent funded as of July. Following consultation processes among humanitarian partners in Sana'a as well in the other humanitarian hubs (Aden, Al Hudaydah, Sa'ada, and Ibb), the Humanitarian Coordinator prioritised the use of CERF funding to support the implementation of IDP action plans in, Amanat Al Asimah and Lahj and Ibb governorates, which were developed following the endorsement of a country wide IDP strategy. Recipient UN agencies will deliver an integrated package of assistance to IDPs, host communities and returnees including health and nutrition services, provision of shelter kits and NFIs, rehabilitation of water resources and provision of protection services.

The allocation from the CERF will further complement the allocation of \$34.7 million from the Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund in support of 4.5 million people. The graph below shows the complementarity between the two grant allocations.

HPF: FUNDS BY SECTORS/CLUSTERS (in US\$ million)



CERF: FUNDS BY SECTORS/CLUSTERS (in US\$ million)



Source: FTS, July 2016.

For further information, please contact:

George Khoury, Head of Office, khouryg@un.org

Andrew Alspach, Deputy Head of office, OCHA Amman Hub, alspach@un.org

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