

## HIGHLIGHTS

- New pledges totaling more than \$116 million have been committed by donors to the Yemen operation.
- UNICEF supports 600,000 children to take final year school exams.
- Child marriage increases as result of the economic crisis.
- Humanitarian assistance delivered to 4.6 m people.
- 700,000 people assisted in Al Hudaydah hub since January 2016

Total population	26 m
# of people targeted by assistance	12.6 m
# of people targeted by health care assistance	10.7 m
# of people targeted by food assistance	8.0 m
# of people displaced (IDPs & returnees)	3.1 m
# of deaths (WHO)	6,885
# of injuries (WHO)	35,022

Source: HRP and HNO-WHO

## FUNDING

**\$1.6 billion**  
requested

**\$751 million**  
funding against HRP

**46% funded** (30  
September 2016)



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## Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the conflict

The month of September was marked by continued conflict, with Yemeni civilians bearing the brunt of the failure to reach a political solution. Large numbers of airstrikes were recorded, mainly in central and northern governorates such as Al Jawf, Amran, Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Taizz, Sa'ada and Sana'a. Ground clashes continued in Al Jawf, Lahj, Hajjah, Marib, Sana'a, Sa'ada and Taizz governorates.

On 11 September 2016, an airstrike hit a drilling rig which was constructing a water well in Sa'ada. A follow-up airstrike in the same location killed and injured many other additional people who came to rescue those insured in the initial attack. Reports from local hospitals indicated that 30 people were killed and 17 wounded. On 12 September, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen issued a statement to register the humanitarian community's on-going concern at the unrelenting attacks on civilians and on civilian infrastructure throughout Yemen by all parties to the conflict. He called on all parties to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, to protect civilians and to recommit to the April 10<sup>th</sup> Cessation of Hostilities agreement.

However, on 21 September 2016, an airstrike hit a residential area of Al Hudaydah city killing 24 people and wounding over 100. The UN Secretary-General condemned the multiple air strikes on the Red Sea port city and expressed his sincere condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims. In Taizz, indiscriminate shelling of urban areas continued.

While United Nations and Non-Governmental Organization officials continue to highlight the need for a political solution and the necessity by all parties to recommit to peace, warring parties and political leaders continue to demonstrate an unwillingness to negotiate a lasting peace and to reach a settlement. Calls to hold the responsible parties accountable for alleged human rights violations are growing.

## Increasing the visibility of the crisis in Yemen

On 21 September, a high-level side event on the humanitarian situation in Yemen was held during the UN General Assembly in New-York. The event was co-chaired by the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Its objective was to raise the profile of the crisis as well as to solicit commitments from donors to financially support humanitarian actors to scale up operations in Yemen. Discussions revolved around the urgent steps needed to help avoid a worsening of the humanitarian situation at the ground level. The collapsing public services and the deteriorating economy were highlighted as key drivers of humanitarian needs as well as the increased suffering of the Yemeni people.

*“We ask that, in addition to the efforts of humanitarian actors, development agencies, international financial institutions, Member States and regional bodies make the necessary financial and policy pledges to enable our programmes to expand.”*

USG O’Brien,  
GA event on Yemen

At the event, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Stephen O’Brien, outlined the progress achieved by the humanitarian community, over the past year, despite the bureaucratic challenges posed by all sides of the conflict and the security risks. He noted the country-wide humanitarian effort in Yemen, working out of five humanitarian operational hubs in Aden, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Sana’a, and Sa’ada. Through this presence, the humanitarian community has reached over 4.6 million people with assistance. The ERC also highlighted the multiple levels of clearance needed to deliver aid imposed on humanitarians by all parties to the conflict by the growing number of local authorities. Additionally he noted how damage and destruction of civilian infrastructure, including roads and bridges, have resulted in long travel delays within Yemen; while the destruction of the cranes at Hudaydah port, the biggest port in Yemen, have disrupted imports of commercial and humanitarian supplies.

At the event, over \$116 million were pledged by the UK, ECHO, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Japan for humanitarian programmes in Yemen.

## Avoiding a lost generation: exams cannot wait

According to UNICEF, even before the escalation of the crisis more than 1.6 million children were reported to be out of school in Yemen. Since March 2015, these numbers have continued to climb with at least 2 million children – nearly 27 per cent of school-age children now out of school. Out of school children are at increased risk of recruitment to fight. Since March 2015, the United Nations has verified that 1,210 children, some as young as eight years old have been recruited to fight.

By the end of the 2015/2016 academic years over 600,000 students from the 9th and 12th grades faced the prospect of having to repeat their school year and miss the opportunity to obtain their Basic and Secondary Education Certificates, due to the Ministry of Education lack of funds.

Justified by the importance of these exams for the future of these Yemeni children, UNICEF was able to provide funding to cover the printing and organization of exams across Yemen and national exams were able to take place in August 2016. However, just a few days before the exams - after the suspension of the peace talks in Kuwait - airstrikes and ground fighting resumed in many areas. A mother in Sana’a recalled this dilemma: “I asked myself, should I let my daughter attend the exam with the risk of airstrikes all over the city? I held my breath until she returned home”.

Farah, 9th grade student taking National Exams at Bakatheer School, Aden.



Photo: UNICEF Yemen/2016/Ansar Raseed/Aden

The diminished operational capacity of the national education system is also having devastating consequences for education quality. Teachers, students and parents are often afraid to move during times of constant hostilities. In some locations, crowded classrooms shared the already limited space with IDPs.

The Ministry of Education reported in August that 2,108 educational facilities across the country have been directly affected by the conflict as it follows:

- 1,109 schools were partially damaged due to shelling or airstrikes
- 231 schools were totally damaged due to airstrikes or shelling
- 737 schools have been occupied by IDPs: 170 are still occupied, 567 have been vacated while 31 schools have been occupied by armed groups: 23 are still occupied, 8 have been vacated.

## Back To School Campaign

In support of the 2016-17 school year, UNICEF is supporting the Back-to-School campaign to provide over 2.5M children with a learning opportunity. The campaign includes the renovation of nearly 700 damaged schools and provision of school furniture, stationery and school bags. Teachers are receiving training on psychosocial support to

*“Children in Yemen were killed on their way to school or while at school. Parties to the conflict should keep children and schools out of harm to give education a chance.”*

Julien Harneis,  
UNICEF Yemen

help students cope with the horrors of the conflict and tents are being provided to serve as temporary classrooms so that children can learn. UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry of Education in organizing community meeting and disseminating messages through local Imams, SMSs, print and electronic media. Some \$34 million are required to support this endeavour. In the past year and a half, UNICEF has reached over 575,000 school children with education material and psychosocial support.

## The social implications of the economic crisis: child marriage

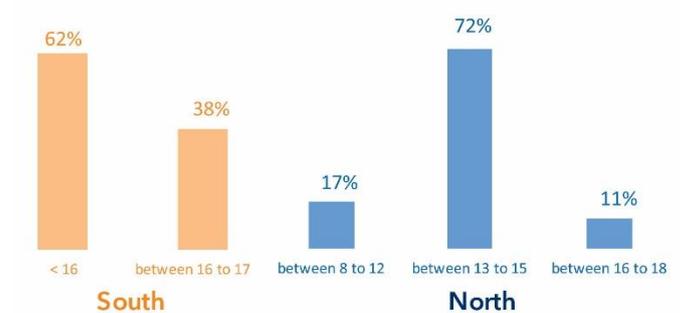
Poverty, economic hardship, unemployment and increasing cost of living are having far reaching consequences for men, women and children across Yemen. For girls the consequences of the conflict are grave. A recent report by UNFPA highlights that the prevalence of child marriage is increasing in many parts of Yemen. It is becoming a more common way used by families to cope with economic pressures brought about by internal displacement.

A thematic assessment on “Child Marriage” implemented by UNFPA partner-INTERSOS that took place in 11 southern and northern governorates – Abyan, Aden, Al-Dhale’e, Al Hudaydah, Amran, Lahj, Hadramaut, Hajjah, Sa’ada, Shabwah and Taizz - shows that the most affected areas are Hajjah, Sada’a and Taizz- as all areas affected by the ongoing conflict. Based on the interviews with survivors, the prevailing age for child marriage among girls is 15 years old.

“Child marriage” is categorized as a type of Gender Based Violence in as much as it can lead to a lifetime of disadvantage and deprivation. Evidence collected around the world and region shows that girls who marry early often abandon formal education and become pregnant. Maternal deaths related to

early pregnancy and childbirth are an important factor of mortality for girls aged 15–19 worldwide, accounting for 70,000 deaths each year. If a mother is under the age of 18, her infant’s risk of dying in its first year of life is 60 per cent greater than that of an infant born to a mother older than 19 years of age.

Child marriage statistics



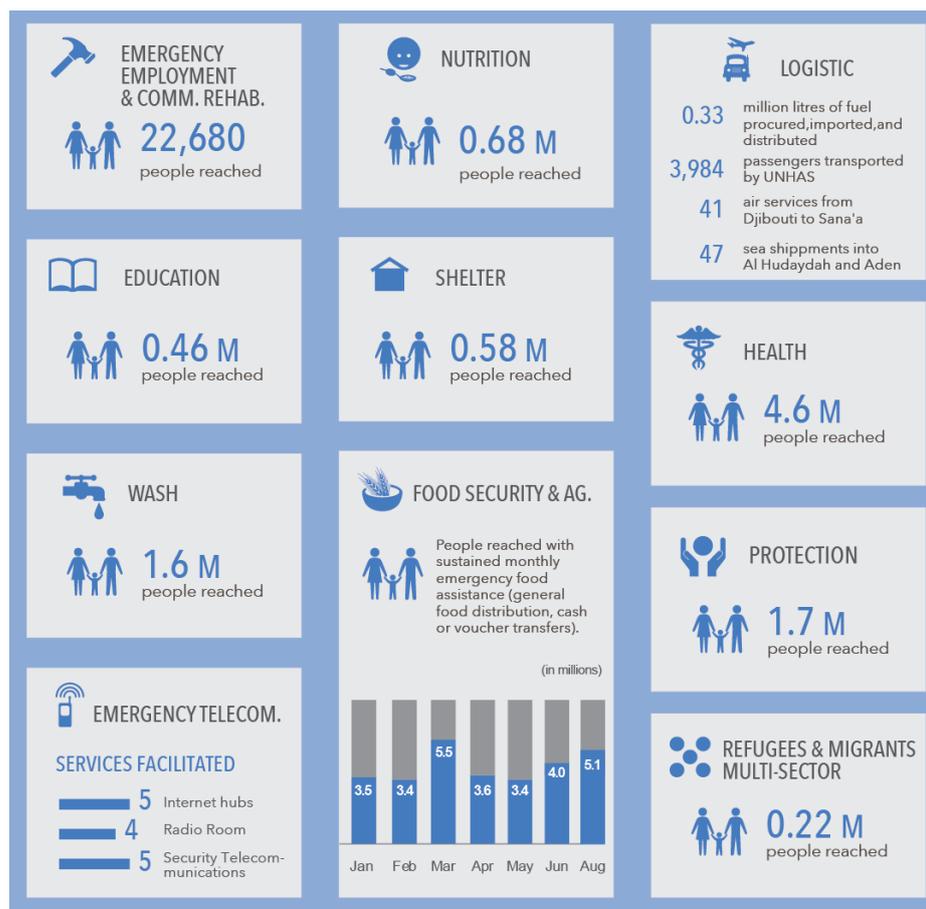
Source: INTERSOS

## 4.6 million people receive humanitarian assistance

Despite bureaucratic, security, and funding challenges, close to 100 national and international humanitarian partners have provided direct assistance to 4.6 million people, across all governorates in Yemen, since January 2016. An average of 3.9 million people per month were reached with regular emergency food assistance in July and August 2016, while over 320,000 people have received emergency livelihoods assistance during the January to August period. There is a risk of a major scale down in emergency food assistance and part of emergency livelihoods assistance due to low funding levels. As of 30 September, donors had contributed \$751 million to the 2016 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP), or 46 per cent of total revised requirements (\$1.63 billion).

In August 2016, humanitarian partners released the Revised 2016YHRP, resulting in a seven per cent decrease in the number of people targeted with assistance, and 9.3 per cent decrease in financial requirements. These decreases have been driven primarily by funding shortages and more focused prioritization. They do not reflect improvements in the dire humanitarian situation. With intensified air strikes and ground clashes, as well as continued bureaucratic impediments, humanitarian space in Yemen continues to shrink.

## Overview of People Reached per Sector since January 2016



Source: Cluster, Aug 2016.

## Focus on the Al Hudaydah Hub

The humanitarian response in Yemen is coordinated through five operational humanitarian hubs in Aden, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Sana'a and Sa'ada. The Al Hudaydah Hub covers Al Mahwit, Raymah and Hajjah governorates. Altogether some 3.24 million people (51 per cent of local population) face either "crisis or emergency levels" of food insecurity and there are over 650,000 IDPs in the hub. Overall some 700,000 people have been reached with humanitarian assistance since January 2016.

Some fifty one humanitarian organisations work in the Al Hudaydah hub. Areas of priority assistance are: relief food distribution, the rehabilitation of water sources, support to medical facilities, treatment of severe acute malnutrition cases, and protection activities such as mine risk education, supporting child friendly spaces, and support to stranded migrants and asylum seekers.

The western coast is a traditional pathway for migrants and refugees from Africa, especially Ethiopia and Somalia, to head north in search of a better life. In recent months large numbers have been detained by authorities who increasingly view them as a security risk. IOM plays an important role in Al Hudaydah prison and the Migrant Response Centre to provide medical assistance and food to migrants until they can be evacuated back to their countries of origin.

Key infrastructure such as schools, health facilities, ports, airports, roads and bridges have been badly damaged throughout this hub since the conflict escalated in March 2015. An airstrike in April 2016 in Hajjah reportedly killed nearly 100 people. In August 2016, a hospital in Hajjah, supported by an international NGO, was hit by an airstrike resulting in the deaths of staff and patients. The violence and conflict continues to hinder humanitarian action. A few humanitarian organisations have reduced their staff due to security concerns.

## Al Hudaydah Port: a critical lifeline

Al Hudaydah Port is a major gateway for commercial imports. Pre-crisis estimates point to 60 per cent of imports entered Yemen via the port. This was significant in a country which is heavily dependent upon imports to meet more than 90 per cent of its food, fuel, and medicine needs. In August 2015, the port was significantly damaged by hostilities which affected warehouses, gantry cranes, customs buildings and the container platform.

Since then, the port has been operating significantly below its pre-crisis capacity. Offloading is mostly done manually without container capacity causing massive delays for commercial and humanitarian imports. In August 2016, WFP reported that the average time that vessels spend at anchor, waiting for berth was as many as 26 days.

### Humanitarian situation in Al Hudaydah Hub (Aug 2016)

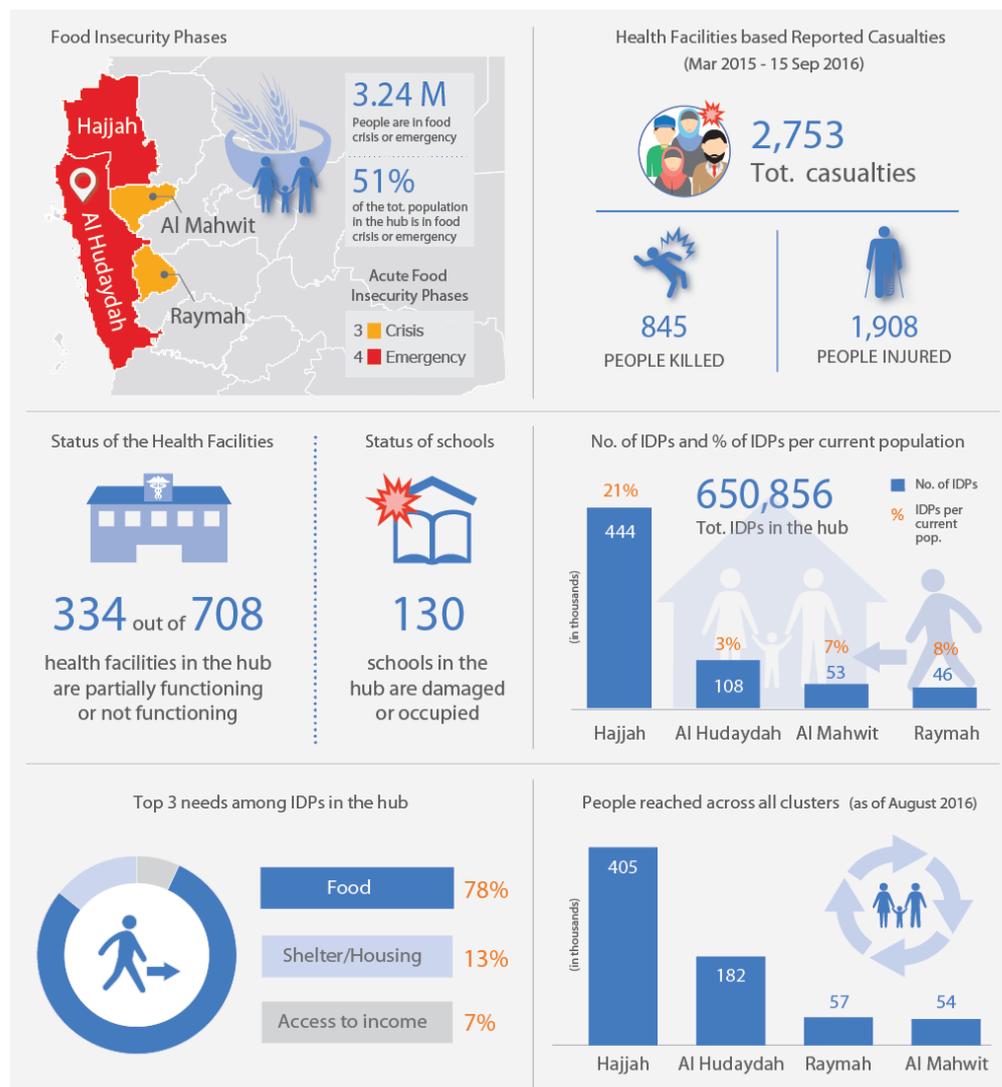


Figure 1 Source: IPC (Jun 2016); WHO (15 Sep 2016); WHO & MoH, Preliminary Findings (Sep 2016); Education cluster (Jul 2016); TFPM, 10th Report (Aug 2016); Clusters (Aug 2016).

Humanitarian partners are supporting efforts to clear the container quay side, including dismantling of five cranes, removal of debris from the water quay side and training of port staff and management. Efforts to augment the capacity of container handling is also taking place with the repair of five old cranes owned by Al Hudaydah port, and procurement of two brand new mobile cranes with 60 MT capacity.

### For further information, please contact:

**George Khoury**, Head of Office, OCHA Yemen, [khoury@un.org](mailto:khoury@un.org)

**Andrew Alspach**, Deputy Head of Office, Amman Hub, [alspach@un.org](mailto:alspach@un.org)

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