

# HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 13 December 2018 – 15 January 2019 | Issue 1

## KEY ISSUES:

- Humanitarian partners assisted about 1 million people displaced by conflict in Al Hudaydah Governorate in the last six months. Partners are preparing to assist about 342,000 people who are projected to return to Al Hudaydah City if the situation improves.
- The assisted displaced people include 127,644 in Hajjah Governorate where about 140,000 displaced people have been registered since June 2018.
- The Central Emergency Response Fund made US\$32 million available to support critical services for the scale-up of the life-saving humanitarian responses in Yemen.
- Commercial food imports in December 2018 declined to the lowest level since the UN started monitoring imports in July 2016.

## 1 MILLION DISPLACED PEOPLE FROM AL HUDAYDAH GOVERNORATE ASSISTED IN SIX MONTHS

Humanitarian partners delivered rapid response mechanism (RRM) assistance to at least 166,100 families (over 996,600 individuals) displaced by the conflict in Al Hudaydah Governorate across the country in the last six months. Between June 2018 and 15 January 2019, displaced Al Hudaydah families across the country reached 174,717 (over 1,048,300 individuals) including 109,867 families (over 659,300 individuals) registered in 4 governorates - Hajjah, Mahwit, Raymah and Al Hudaydah.

UN agencies and NGOs operating in Al Hudaydah Governorate scaled up the delivery of assistance to people affected by the fighting, even though access to humanitarian facilities and the people in need remains a challenge. Humanitarian warehouses, including the

Red Sea Mills, where enough food is stored to feed 3.5 million people for a month, remains inaccessible. Other key humanitarian facilities that remain closed include UNHCR, WFP and WHO warehouses, as well as the 22 May Hospital.

Most people assisted by RRM partners are displaced within Al Hudaydah Governorate. Even before the recent escalation of conflict, needs across the governorate were significant with 60 per cent of the population requiring humanitarian assistance. Findings of the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) published on 7 December show that 17 out of the 26 districts in the Governorate are in an emergency food security situation.

### RRM JUNE - DECEMBER 2018

PERIOD OF DISPLACEMENT	REGISTERED IDP FAMILIES	ASSISTED WITH RRM	HUB
June 2018 to 15 January 2019	109,867	104,909	AL HUDAYDAH
	22,600	20,000	ADEN
	10,656	9,600	IBB
	31,594	31,594	SANA'A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174,717</b> (1,048,302 INDIVIDUALS)	<b>166,103</b> (996,618 INDIVIDUALS)	Source: UNFPA

Conflict has reduced in Al Hudaydah Governorate but hostilities have escalated in neighbouring Hajjah Governorate especially in Hayran and Mustaba districts as well as near Haradh town, causing civilian casualties. Partners report that an estimated 300 families have recently been displaced to Abs District. Other IDPs are

living in harsh conditions in Haradh town. Since June 2018, humanitarian partners have provided RRM assistance to 21,274 families (over 127,640 individuals) out of 23,177 families (over 139,060 individuals) displaced to Hajjah.

## CLUSTER AND PARTNER RESPONSES ACROSS AL HUDAYDAH HUB IN DECEMBER-JANUARY

In anticipation of the situation stabilizing in Al Hudaydah City, IOM is establishing three centers to register people who may return home. At least 57,000 displaced families (about 342,000 people) are projected to return to the city, if the situation improves. Partners have agreed on a response package for the potential returnees including a RRM kit, food, shelter and non-food items (NFIs)

During the reporting period, the WASH Cluster installed a solar pump for Al Musharak water well in Al Garrahi District that serves 6,890 people, as well as three solar pumps and four water networks in Az Zuhrah District for 25,830 people. In Al Hudaydah City, UNICEF partners are providing trucked water to more than 7,000 displaced families. A WASH Cluster partner distributed 150 basic hygiene kits to an orphanage in the city.

WFP dispatched 2,700 metric tons (MT) of food supplies from Al Hudaydah and Aden to At Tuhayat District in preparation for a blanket food distribution that will target 19,000 households in the area. The district has not been accessible for the past three months due to security concerns.

UNHCR provided rental subsidies to 1,299 displaced families in Al Hudaydah City and 514 families in Hajjah Governorate; beneficiaries received \$200 to cover rent for three months. UNHCR also provided winterization kits to 1,020 displaced families in Hajjah Governorate and rental subsidies to 514 families.

WHO provided 256,600 litres of fuel to 32 health facilities across Al Hudaydah Hub (20 facilities in Hudaydah, 5 in Hajjah, 5 in Mahwit and 2 in Raymah governorates). In addition, WHO provided the central blood bank in Al Hudaydah City with 2,000 blood bags and medical supplies, and 16 health facilities in Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Raymah and Mahwit governorates with medical supplies for non-communicable diseases. UNOPS installed a solar power system for Al Salakhanah Hospital in Al Hudaydah City.

## UPDATES FROM HUBS

### SA'ADA HUB

Armed clashes and airstrikes were reported in several districts of Sa'ada Governorate including Kitaf wa Al Boq'ele Baqim, Razih, Adh Dhaher and As Safra. In Al Jawf Governorate, armed clashes reportedly continued in Al Maslub, Khabb wa ash Sha'af, Al Maton, Barat Al Anan and Al Ghayl districts. A water project used by about 250 households in Sahar District was damaged along with houses and farms. Casualties were reported but numbers are unknown.

During the reporting period, authorities in Sa'ada lifted movement restrictions for humanitarian missions within the governorate, a move that should significantly improve the humanitarian operating environment. Already various agencies are actively engaged in delivering assistance; UNHCR, through an implementing partner, distributed NFIs and emergency shelter kits to 131 displaced families (overall target 602) in the Nasareen area of Sahar District; and also distributed NFIs for 1,000 households in Al Maton District, Al Jawf Governorate. A total of 49 households in Sa'ada and 150 households in Al Jawf received rental subsidies valued at Yemeni Rials 100,000 per family (approximately \$192).

WFP reported that general food distribution was ongoing in districts in Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates. The distribution of food rations for December continued into January due to logistical delays. In Sa'ada Governorate, WFP is targeting 112,759 households (676,554 individuals), while the target in Al Jawf is 19,413 households (116,478 individuals). UNFPA, through a partner, is targeting 2,500 displaced families, (1,000 in Sa'adah and 500 each in Safra, Ghamr and Haydan districts).

### ADEN HUB

The security situation in Aden and neighboring governorates remains relatively calm with no major incidents reported. On 4 January, in Shabwah Governorate, clashes erupted in the Markha Al Souflah area in Al Hajar District. Casualties were reported but no details are available.

As of 9 January, 36,246 displaced households were registered in the Aden Hub area, including 19,200 households displaced from Al Hudaydah Governorate since June 2018.

The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) distributed food baskets to 2,400 IDPs in Tur Al Bahah District in Lahj Governorate as part of a project that will distribute 102,170 food baskets in

9 governorates. In Aden, KSrelief provided medical supplies to the health ministry including 189 MT of supplies for dialysis centres in Aden, Al Hudaydah, Taizz and Shabwah. In Taizz Governorate, KSrelief provided medical supplies to Al Thawrah General Hospital.

With support from WFP, a local partner distributed food baskets (one month's food ration) for 5,922 IDP and host community households in Shabwah and 7,417 households in Al Dhale'e. A UNPFA-supported partner distributed 1,076 delivery kits for pregnant women in Al Dhale'e, Shabwah, Aden and Hadramaut governorates. The Qatar Red Crescent Society announced a \$2 million contribution for health care in Taizz and Al Dhale'e governorates. The funds will support five hospitals in Taizz and six health centres in Al Dhale'e; benefitting about 204,500 people over the course of a year.

### SANA'A HUB

The Protection Cluster reported a decrease in hostilities in Sana'a Governorate. There was comparative calm in Nihm District until early January, when fighting erupted again. In Al Bayda, there was an increase in hostilities in Radman Al Awad District.

Sporadic skirmishes and airstrikes continued in the western district of Sirwah in Marib Governorate. In Amran Governorate, a civilian was killed and two others injured by airstrikes that hit Al Uqlah bridge in Al Qaflah District. The bridge serves an estimated 6,307 households.

Authorities in Sana'a report that 81,209 families, who fled from different conflict-affected governorates are staying in Amanat Al Asimah while 10,101 families are staying in Al Bayda Governorate. On 8 January, IOM delivered 32 MT of medicine, medical supplies and hygiene kits to health facilities in several districts of Dhamar Governorate.

### IBB HUB

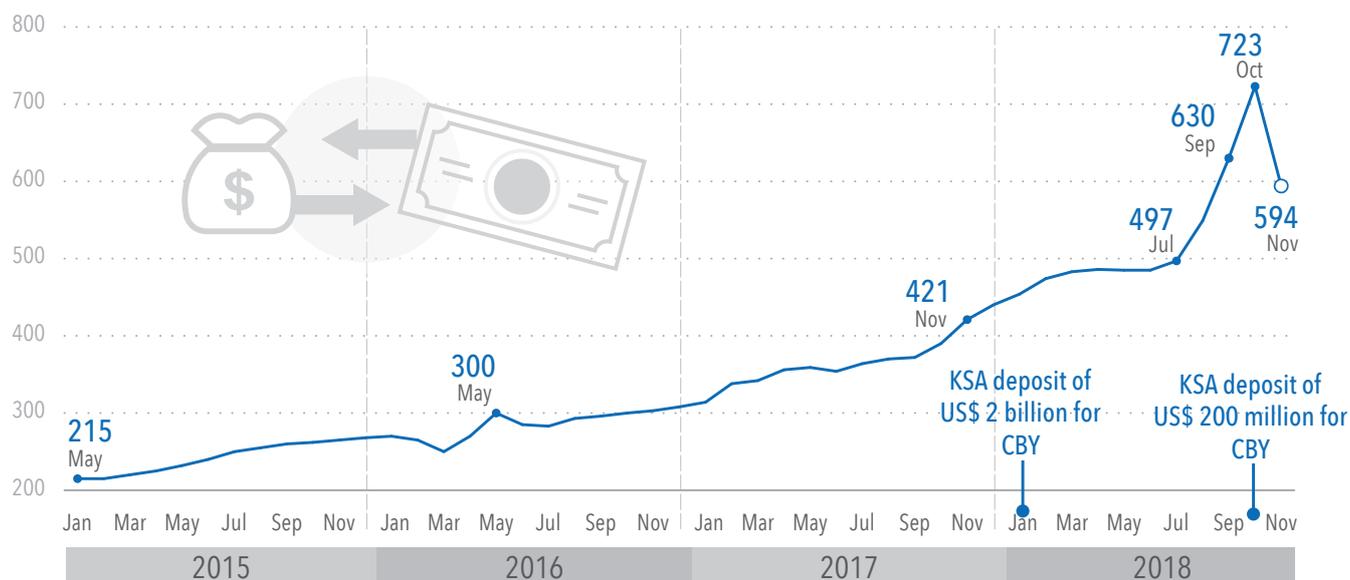
Armed clashes intensified in Taizz Governorate during the first week of January, with shelling reported in Maqbanah and Mawyah districts. Partners reported the arrival of dozens of families displaced by conflict from Al Dhale'e Governorate to Ar Radmah (150 families), Yareem (25 families) and Al Saddah (15 families) districts in Ibb Governorate.

## THE YEMENI RIAL (YER) GAINED VALUE BUT THE ECONOMY REMAINS IN THE DOLDRUMS

The YER appreciated after Saudi Arabia deposited \$200m in the Central Bank of Yemen in October 2018 to stabilise the currency. However, as foreign currency reserves dwindle the rial has slightly depreciated again, exchanging at an average of YER520/US\$. The intervention was intended to lower the high cost of basic commodities including food, diesel and petrol but prices have remained relatively high.

In some parts of the country including Ibb and Taizz, gasoline sells at YER7,900 for 20 litres, compared with the official price of YER5,500. In other parts of the country, shortages of cooking gas are reported. Analysts estimate that the exchange rate needs to reach YER440/US\$ before there is an impact on the affordability of food and other essential goods.

### CHANGES IN VALUE OF THE YEMENI RIAL FROM 2015 TO 2018



Source: FSAC, November 2018

In the last four years, the Yemeni economy contracted by nearly 50 per cent, with about 600,000 jobs lost. The conflict also is taking a heavy toll on local businesses. Preliminary findings of a World Bank survey in October 2018, show that about 35 per cent of businesses across the country have closed, and over half of the surviving firms have experienced shrinkage in size and a scaling down of operations. About 73 per cent of firms that closed cited security and financial constraints as the main reason for closure.

## PRICES AND AVAILABILITY OF FOOD

According to WFP, the retail price of food commodities decreased by between 3 and 9 per cent in November 2018, compared with the previous month but were 66-162 per cent higher than the pre-crisis period, before March 2015. The national average price of petrol and diesel decreased by between 5 and 8 per cent between October and November 2018 but were still between 202 and 232 per cent higher than the price before the crisis. The price of cooking gas increased by 13 per cent between October and November 2018 but remained 168 per cent higher

than in the pre-crisis period.

WFP estimates that as of the second week of December 2018, there were 908,000 MT of food stocks in-country. Available wheat stocks would cover the national requirements for nearly three months, while rice would last for one and a half months. Fuel commodities (petrol and diesel) remain scarce. Al Hudaydah was most affected by commodity-scarcity as a result of recent fighting.

## MANY DISTRICTS CONTINUE TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHOLERA CASES

According to WHO, 225 districts reported suspected cholera cases in the first three weeks of December, but the overall trend remained stable. Children continue to make up 32 per cent of the total number of suspected cases. The highest number of suspected cases were reported in Monabbih District in Sa'ada Governorate, Maghirib Ans District in Dhamar Governorate and As Sabain districts in Amanat Al Asimah Governorate and Bani Al Harith District in Sana'a Governorate.

From 1 January to 23 December 2018, the cumulative number of suspected cholera cases recorded across the country reached 359,425 with 488 associated deaths. Cholera was reported in 22 of Yemen's 23 governorates, and 306 out of the country's 333 districts.



Patients at a cholera treatment ward in Al Jamhuri Hospital in Sana'a City. ©Giles Clarke/OCHA.

WHO, working closely with the Ministry of Health and WASH cluster partners, established 72 diarrhoea treatment centres (DTCs) and 25 oral rehydration centres (ORCs) for the treatment of cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases in 2018. In total, 91 DTCs and 216 ORCs were operational in 144 high-risk districts as of November 2018. Efforts are underway to expand treatment facilities to 48 other high-risk districts.

## THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND ALLOCATES US\$32 MILLION TO SCALE UP HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

On 11 January, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock and the Executive Director of WFP, David Beasley, announced a \$32 million contribution from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support critical services to enable the scale-up of the life-saving humanitarian response in Yemen.

The allocation will allow WFP to ramp up humanitarian logistical operations, including increasing humanitarian air cargo and transport, and allowing for more of humanitarian workers, and accommodation space in Al Hudaydah. An additional aircraft acquired

as part of the UNHAS fleet will increase the flexibility of humanitarian organisations to deploy staff. The CERF will also allow for the expansion of emergency telecommunications.

In 2018, \$50 million of CERF funding went to the Yemen humanitarian response. In 2019, the UN-coordinated Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan is expected to require roughly \$4 billion to provide assistance and protection to more than 24 million people. The Secretary-General will convene a high-level pledging conference on Yemen in Geneva on 26 February, co-hosted by the governments of Sweden and Switzerland.

## LOGISTICS CLUSTER OPERATIONS

On 12 January, UNHAS brought an aircraft (A320) with a 50-passenger capacity into operation on the Amman-Sana'a-Amman route. The aircraft does not require refueling at Sana'a airport and will increase the number of seats allocated to each agency from two to six on each leg of the route. There will continue to be three flights per week (Amman-Sana'a-Amman). UNHAS also plans to operate one flight per week on the Amman-Aden-Amman route.



The A320 operating the Amman-Sana'a-Amman route: ©UNHAS

In December, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the air transport of 47 MT/185.4 m3 on behalf of Médecins du Monde, MSF, Partnership for Supply Chain Management, the Office of the Special Envoy, UNFPA and UNICEF. Another 46 MT/227.6 m3 was transported by sea from Djibouti to Aden for MSF and WHO. The Logistics Cluster facilitated the overland transport of 840 MT/4,598 m3 of relief items on behalf of several INGOs and UN agencies.

The Cluster continues to maintain the services of two vessels, one in Al Hudaydah to ensure the safety and security of staff and another serving the Djibouti-

Aden-Aden route. Urgent sea cargo transportation for Al Hudaydah can be arranged by the Cluster using dhows from Djibouti.

To meet the fuel requirements, four fuel trucks with a total capacity of 80,000 litres are positioned in Al Hudaydah City. In Aden, additional tanks will be purchased to increase the capacity of the Aden fuel station by 200,000 litres, and to set up a fuel station with a 100,000 litre capacity in Ibb (50,000 litres of petrol and 50,000 litres of diesel).

## UNVIM UPDATE

Commercial food imports in December 2018 were the lowest ever since the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) started in July 2016. UNVIM facilitates the unimpeded flow of commercial items on vessels sailing to Yemen ports. The decrease in food imports led to a 2 per cent drop in the average monthly percentage of food requirements met. Fuel imports reached their highest levels since August 2017.

Al Hudaydah and Saleef seaports are operational, although there has only been one containerized shipment to Al Hudaydah since December 2017. Between 2 and 8 January 2019, five vessels discharged 132,744 MT of cargo at the two ports.



103,154MT



29,620 MT

Al Hudaydah 95,480 MT

Saleef 37,294 MT

Source: UNVIM

The number of WFP containers cleared through Aden port increased, with 265 containers cleared in the third week of December compared to 94 the previous week. Aden port remains severely congested with 500 WFP containers stuck at the port. WFP has now

started to offload some shipments through Al Mukalla port in an effort to speed up the release of containers. In some cases, cargo has been re-routed via Salah in Oman and then transported overland to Yemen at considerably greater cost and risk.

## FUNDING OF THE 2018 YHRP

As of 15 January, the 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) was 83 per cent funded; \$2.44 billion of \$2.96 billion requested had been received.

(\$540 million), United Arab Emirates (\$466 million), USA (\$422 million), Kuwait (\$222 million), European Commission (\$140 million), United Kingdom (\$126 million), and Germany (\$123 million).

Top YHRP donors were: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### FUNDING UPDATE (AS OF 15 JANUARY 2019)

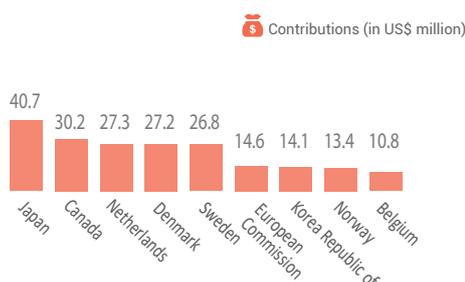
#### FUNDING STATUS



#### DONORS CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN \$50M



#### DONORS CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN \$10M



#### DONORS CONTRIBUTING LESS THAN \$10M

AUSTRALIA	CZECH REPUBLIC	SLOVAKIA
FRANCE	IRELAND	SPAIN
LUXEMBOURG	PEACE BUILDING FUND	QATAR
ICELAND	FINLAND	LITHUANIA
PORTUGAL	KUWAIT FUND	SWITZERLAND
KAZAKHASTAN	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	MEXICO
MALTA	CYPRUS	ESTONIA
ANDORRA	MONTENEGRO	PHILIPPINES
EDUCATION ABOVE ALL FOUNDATION		

Source: FTS

For further information, please contact:

**Sebastien Trives**, Head of Office, UN-OCHA Yemen | Tel: +967 712 222 800 | E-mail: [trives@un.org](mailto:trives@un.org)  
**Federica D'Andreagiovanni**, Head of Communication, UN-OCHA Yemen | Tel: +962 79 687 6082 | E-mail: [dandreagiovannif@un.org](mailto:dandreagiovannif@un.org)  
 OCHA information products are available at: [www.unocha.org/yemen](http://www.unocha.org/yemen) | [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) | [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)