

# HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 18 April – 6 May 2019 | Issue 7

## KEY ISSUES:

- Increased displacement and civilian casualties amid escalating violence; heaviest fighting reported in Al Dhale'e Governorate.
- Humanitarian response to displacement continues; 10,000 Rapid Response Mechanism kits are pre-positioned in Hajjah and 3,000 in Al Hudaydah governorates.
- WFP technical team accesses the Red Sea Mills in Al Hudaydah Governorate after eight months to try to salvage 51,000 metric tons of wheat flour.
- Up to 5,000 migrants and refugees detained in in Aden, Lahj and Abyan governorates.
- Allocation from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund Standard Allocation will benefit some 3.7 million people across the country.
- Fuel shortages have abated but cooking gas remains in short supply mainly in Sa'ada.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE SCALED UP AS NEEDS SPIKE DUE TO ESCALATED VIOLENCE

Fighting sporadically escalated in different parts of Yemen in recent weeks leading to spikes in displacement and civilian casualties. Hotspots included areas in Al Dhale'e and Taizz governorates in the south, and Hajjah in the northwest. Fighting continued to cause civilian casualties in At-Tuhayta and Ad Durayhimi City in Al Hudaydah Governorate. Airstrikes and shelling were reported in the border areas of Sa'ada, and there was an increase in violence in and around Sana'a Governorate where airstrikes, explosions and artillery shelling damaged homes and farms.

In the last week of April, the heaviest fighting was in Al Dhale'e Governorate with reports of 700 displaced families arriving in Qa'atabah and Al Dhale'e districts. OHCHR confirmed that on 27 April, an airstrike hit a car in the Al Awod area in Qa'atabah District killing eight passengers. Partners worked to respond to the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and to scale up particularly in Qa'atabah District where WFP began distributing food to 3,300 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and local families. Rapid Response

Mechanism (RRM) kits are being replenished and food assistance and Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) for a month is planned. A local partner started distributing RRM kits in Qa'atabah but is running out of stock; the MPCA and a one-month food ration will bridge the shortfall until more kits are received. UNHCR, working through a local partner has provided 1,970 displaced families with NFIs in Qa'atabah, Al Hussein and Ad Dhale'e.

In Taizz Governorate, fighting between rival factions was reported from 19 April, and intensified around the old city from 24 April onwards. Exact casualty figures are not available but an international medical NGO indicated that by 25 April, 31 injured civilians were admitted to hospitals it supports. On the same day, OHCHR confirmed that one girl was killed, and two other children were injured by shrapnel as they were leaving their school in Wadi Al-Qadhi, in Al Mudhaffar District. There were no confirmed reports of population displacement in Taizz.

## RRM KITS PRE-POSITIONED IN HAJJAH AND AL HUDAYDAH GOVERNORATES

At the end of April, in Hajjah Governorate, hostilities centred around Harad District and there was increased fighting in areas between Wadi Habl and Abs districts. Displacement within the governorate now stands at 28,000 families and the focus is on responding to their needs. The Displacement Tracking Mechanism reports that as of 5 May a total of 36,506 families have been displaced across Yemen since the beginning of the year. UNFPA is pre-positioning 10,000 RRM kits in Abs District in Hajjah and 3,000 RRM kits in Az Zuhrah District in Al Hudaydah for displaced families from Abs. The Food Security and Agriculture Sub-Cluster (FSAC) is providing a one-off food/cash assistance to families from Bani Hassan sub-district in Abs and Khayran Almuharraq districts in Hajjah and Az Zuhrah District in Al Hudaydah. Norwegian Refugee Council, working through a partner, installed 58 temporary learning classes to increase capacity in local schools in areas hosting IDPs in Hajjah City, Abs District, and Al Qanawis District.

In Sa'ada, fighting reportedly escalated in the third week of April in Kitaf town and suburbs. Reportedly, the local market was shelled and airstrikes hit the Al Ashash area. No civilian casualties were reported but initial reports indicated that IDPs hosted near the Al Ashash area left for more secured areas within Kitaf District. Four humanitarian teams deployed to Kitaf continued to register IDPs and provide families with RRM kits, though the process was hindered by insecurity.

OHCHR stated that across the country, 214 civilian casualties were confirmed in April - 68 fatalities, including 32 children and 6 women, and 148 injured, including 71 children and 14 women. This is an increase from 147 confirmed casualties in March. Actual numbers are likely to be higher but cannot be confirmed.

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## UN-LED TECHNICAL TEAM ACCESSES RED SEA MILLS IN AL HUDAYDAH

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On 5 May, a technical team led by WFP regained access to the Red Sea Mills on the eastern outskirts of Al Hudaydah. The facility, which has been inaccessible for eight months due to fighting and insecurity, contains 51,000 metric tons of wheat flour which is

at risk of rotting. Technicians are expected to stay at the Mills for a month to treat and mill the grain. In a statement the Humanitarian Coordinator indicated, "It's now a race against time to salvage supplies that can feed 3.7 million people for a month".

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## UP TO 5,000 MIGRANTS DETAINED IN ADEN, LAHJ AND ABYAN

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In late April, the authorities in Aden began rounding-up migrants, predominantly Ethiopian nationals and detaining them at the Al Mansoura Football Stadium. By 25 April, approximately 2,000 migrants, including more than 400 children, were detained at the stadium, in deplorable conditions and without access to sanitation.

On 25 April, after residents released migrants from the Al Mansoura Stadium, the authorities re-arrested those who escaped and detained them at a different stadium, the 22nd of May Stadium and Sports Complex. As of 1 May, more than 2,400 men and boys and over 75 women were held at this Complex. Another 1,400 were detained at an operational military camp in Lahj Governorate 500 were held at

a stadium in Abyan. The authorities have reported at least 200 acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) cases at the military camp in Lahj. Khaldoon Hospital, close to the Lahj military camp reported 8 deaths from AWD complications.

On 3 May 1,400 male migrants were released from the Lahj site and 50 women were released on 5 May. The current whereabouts of most of those released are unknown, though some have arrived at IOM's Migrant Response Point in Aden. IOM is trying to confirm the locations and wellbeing of all the migrants released. The 500 migrants held at the Abyan site were also released

Migrants queue for snacks and water at Al Mansoura Football Stadium. ©Headon/IOM



IOM, the lead organisation of the Mixed Migration Working Group, is working with partners to provide an integrated response to the evident risk of cholera. IOM installed emergency latrines and rehabilitated toilets at the 22nd May Sports Complex and is providing food and water. It has a health team on site 24 hours a day and conducted 1,805 medical consultations between 26 and 5 May and has treated over 100 people at the diarrhoea treatment centre it has set up at Ibn Khaldoon Hospital. The authorities in Aden indicated that they will construct a purpose-built migrant detention centre in Ras Al-Ara, in Lahj Governorate

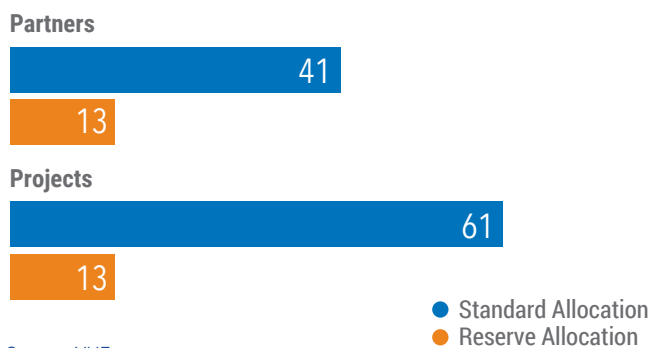
with a view to returning the migrants to their countries of origin. IOM and partners are taking up key concerns with the authorities including: the arbitrary nature of detention and detention of children as young as 10; the detention of refugees; living conditions at the detention locations; humanitarian access; and that any return of migrants to their countries of origin should be voluntary, safe and dignified.

## AVERAGE COST OF MINIMUM FOOD BASKET IS 102 PER CENT HIGHER THAN PRE-CRISIS

Some 3.7 million people will benefit from life-saving interventions funded under the 1st Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) Standard Allocation of 2019. The objective of the Allocation was to cover key gaps in the humanitarian operation and support the immediate scale-up of activities in highly vulnerable communities. The allocation focused on three operational priorities: 1) expanding high impact programmes in districts classified as IPC Phase 4 and above, meaning those facing emergency food insecurity conditions; 2) scaling up assistance in priority IDP hosting sites; and 3) scaling-up first line assistance in areas of new displacement. Overall, 61 projects amounting to almost US\$83 million will be implemented by 41 partners in 18 governorates.

Exchange rate for the Yemeni rial January 2015 - January 2019

Number of partners and projects per allocation



Source: YHF

In parallel, the YHF completed a Reserve Allocation to mitigate the impact of the recent cholera outbreak. Over 710,000 people will benefit from increased access to Diarrhea Treatment Centres and Oral Rehydration Corners; WASH assistance, including safe water supply in 38 priority districts, to control and stem the spread of cholera, and the deployment of Health/ WASH rapid response teams to investigate and respond to alerts. Overall, 13 projects totalling \$26 million will be implemented by 13 partners in 8 governorates.

## CHOLERA UPDATE

WHO reported that between 8 and 14 April, WHO reports that 27,840 suspected cases and 48 associated deaths were reported. Severe cases constituted 18 per cent of the total. The cumulative number of suspected cholera cases between 1 January 2018 and 14 April 2019 stands at 224,444 with 470 associated deaths. Children under age 5 represent 22.5 per cent of total suspected cases.

This outbreak has affected 21 of 23 governorates and 286 of 333 districts in Yemen since the beginning of the year. In the first half of April, the trend of weekly reported suspected cholera cases was stable at the country level. The districts reporting the highest number of suspected cases of cholera during the week to 14 April were Bani al Harith (869), Shu'ub (855), As Sabain (808), Ma'ain (737), and Hamdan (636). There is a total of 230 Diarrhoea Treatment Centers (DTCs) and 1,053 Oral Rehydration Corners (RCs) across Yemen to respond to the cholera outbreak.

On 24 April, WHO and UNICEF, working with local authorities and the World Bank, launched a six-day oral cholera vaccination campaign in As Sabain, Al Wahdah and Shu'ub districts in Amanat Al Asimah Governorate. Mobile teams led the campaign which went door to door to reach as many women and children as possible. The campaign was extended by three days and between 24 April and 2 May, 1,088,010 people were vaccinated. The remaining vaccine was distributed to health facilities for use across the three districts.



Vaccination teams had reached over 931,000 people by 1 May. ©WHO.

## FUEL SHORTAGES ABATE BUT COOKING GAS STILL IN SHORT SUPPLY MAINLY IN SA'ADA

From 26 April, the acute fuel shortages experienced for the previous 10 days in northern governorates appeared to subside. The long queues of vehicles at gas stations disappeared and fuel prices returned to the official rate. However, in Sa'ada, long queues at gas stations had formed by 28 April with fuel available on the black market at the inflated price of between YER10,000 and 10,500 for a 20 litre jerrycan instead of the official price of YER7,300. The queues disappeared by 29 April, but chronic shortages of cooking gas continued mainly in Sa'ada with black market prices of

up to YER8,000 per 20-litre cylinder compared to the official price of YER2,200. Cooking gas shortages are also reported in Hajjah and Sana'a.

Clusters have reported how the recent shortage affected operations, including the availability of safe water where supplies rely on fuel, WASH Rapid Response Teams being unable to reach all reported cholera cases and teachers having difficulty reporting for work.

## RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM) UPDATE

Partners continue to respond to the needs of new IDP families across the Al Hudaydah Hub by providing RRM kits. The total number of families provided with

RRM kits (food rations, hygiene supplies and other basic necessities) by 2 May 2019 was 250,843, up from 213, 589 families at the end of March 2019.

### Yemen RRM Response Summary June 2018 - 2 May 2019

PERIOD OF DISPLACEMENT	REGISTERED IDP FAMILIES	ASSISTED WITH RRM	HUB
JUNE 2018 - 02 MAY 2019	155,457	153,780	AL HUDAYDAH
	34,284	33,200	ADEN
	10,827	10,827	IBB
	44,500	-43,244	SANA'A
	10,100	9,792	SA'ADA
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255,168</b>	<b>250,843</b>	

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### ADEN HUB

A joint mission, comprising OCHA, WFP, UNDP and WHO, conducted an access mission to Hays City on 6 May, the first from Aden since the conflict started which confirmed support needed at the local hospital, the need for an enhanced assessment of IDP needs and to improve food security. Oxfam started unconditional cash transfers to 1,717 vulnerable families in the Dar Saad District of Aden; a WFP partner started a food basket distribution in four IDPs sites in Al Khawkah targeting 1,300 families; a local NGO completed the distribution of food baskets to 2,501 IDP and host community families living in the coastal villages of Al-Tuhayta District, and a national partner completed the distribution of food baskets to 2,674 families in Mawza District. In Taizz, Mercy Corps has started deploying mobile clinics to provide health and nutrition services at 11 collective sites at Ash Shamayatin and Al Maafer districts. Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre, working with the UAE, have removed the vast majority of unexploded ordinances, approximately 6,000 items, from Ras Mirbat in the centre of Aden.

The Central Bank of Yemen announced in the third week of April that it would provide cash liquidity to commercial banks and importers, whether in local or foreign currency, at competitive prices. It also announced a new exchange rate of YER506/US\$, as opposed to the previous rate of YER495/US\$, to encourage importers and banks to deal with the Central Bank and the official banking system.

### AL HUDAYDAH HUB

On 17 of April, a UN inter-agency mission visited some of the new spontaneous settlements in Az Zuhrah and Al Qanawis districts in Al Hudaydah Governorate where, according to the authorities, an estimated 3,744 displaced families from Bani Hassan in Hajjah currently reside. The mission visited four settlement sites where an estimated 1,700 displaced families are staying. Partners are working to respond to urgent needs at the sites for shelter and non-food items (NFIs), WASH, food and health assistance. The response will include UNHCR providing NFI packages to 1,823 newly displaced families in Az Zuhrah district and IOM providing emergency shelter kits (ESKs) and NFI packages to 858 newly displaced families in Al Qanawis District.

IOM launched a new IDP reception centre in Al Qanawis District in Al Hudaydah, which will register and provide referral services for IDPs in seven districts in Al Hudaydah Governorate. ICRC provided Al Hudaydah Central Prison with 15,000 litres of fuel, enough to operate the prison generators for a month. A partner will be rehabilitating prison facilities and supporting the medical unit. A WFP implementing partner provided 2,600 double food rations to cover April and May to vulnerable families living in de-facto authority-controlled areas of Ad Durayhimi District.

## IBB HUB

On 21 April, OCHA, UNHCR, and the Shelter Sub-Cluster conducted a field visit to eight IDP settlements (five spontaneous and three collective sites) in Al Mashannah District in Ibb City. In all but one of the eight sites, families were living in dire conditions with no access to latrines or clean drinking water, thereby increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. Partners in the hub are seeking to address the issue.

On 30 April, OCHA led an inter-agency assessment mission to Juban District in Al Dhale'e Governorate to conduct a security and needs assessment after the district recently became accessible from Ibb. The UN team, comprising WFP, UNHCR, UN Department of Safety and Security and OCHA visited the 22nd May Hospital, two IDP sites and observed that sanitation in the District is particularly poor. The Hospital reported a high number of suspected cholera cases and cases of severe acute malnutrition. The IDP sites lacked most services, but were in particular need of WASH, health and education services. The mission concluded that more in-depth needs assessment is needed and a mapping of humanitarian actors operating in the area.

## SA'ADA HUB

On 1 May, OCHA coordinated an inter-agency mission to Monabbih District to assess the needs of IDPs and the host community and monitor the humanitarian response in the district. The team visited Monabbih Rural Hospital and Al Khamis Health Centre that both have DTCs and Al Butain water project, and met with representatives from NAMCHA, and the IDP and host communities. The District has a population of 81,000 plus 700 IDP families. Situated on the border with Saudi Arabia, the district is not easy to access, with multiple bridges destroyed. OCHA is following up on responses to key needs.

During the reporting period, 1,500 NFI packages and 500 ESKs were distributed to IDPs and the host community in Haydan District. UNHCR reported distributing cash for rent subsidies to 1,039 families in Al Jawf Governorate and 441 families in Sa'ada Governorate; provided NFIs to 1,000 families in Majz District; and 100 emergency NFIs and 30 ESKs in Sa'adah District.

On 15 April, UNICEF working through Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre, launched a 40-day awareness campaign in Al Jawf District aimed at raising the awareness of 44,988 people about the risk of mines, cluster bombs and unexploded ordinance.

## SA'ADA HUB

The Protection Cluster reported a number of incidents resulting in civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure on 27 April in the Sana'a hub area: houses were reportedly damaged by airstrikes in Qaa Al Haql in Dawran Aness in Dhamar; airstrikes hit a farm in Bani Shadid in Bani Sad District and nine civilians were reportedly killed when an explosive belt was detonated inside a shop in Dhi Kaleb in Al Qurayshiyah in Al Bayda; houses were damaged when five airstrikes hit Al Haymah Al Kharijiyah in Sana'a and when two airstrikes hit Bani Matar in Sana'a.

On 28 April, two civilians were killed and three injured when artillery shells hit a house in Az Zahir and a civilian was injured when a landmine exploded in the same area of Al Bayda. On 1 May, several airstrikes reportedly struck a base adjoining Sana'a airport, homes were damaged in the area but there were no reports of civilian casualties.

## UNVIM UPDATE

Al Hudaydah and Saleef ports remain open. Between 17 and 30 April, 12 vessels discharged a total of 198,759 metric tons (MT) of cargo, 145,188 at Al Hudaydah port and 53,571 at Saleef port. Eleven vessels discharged at Al Hudaydah port and one at Saleef.

As of 30 April, 14 vessels had been cleared and were waiting to enter anchorage area in Al Hudaydah port.



145,889 MT



52,331 MT

Al Hudaydah 145,188 MT

Saleef 53,571 MT

Source: UNVIM