

Key messages

- Across all areas affected by Cyclones Chapala and Megh, 26 people have been killed and 78 injured. Many of the almost 6,000 displaced families have returned to their homes, however many continue to shelter in tents due to damage sustained to their homes.
- The continued provision of humanitarian assistance, the rehabilitation of homes and roads and the restoration of livelihoods are the main assistance priorities.
- The UN and other humanitarian partners continue to provide assistance to people affected by the cyclones, including food to over 14,500 people, non-food items to over 14,000, safe water to over 6,500 and enough medical supplies to benefit over 665,000. Gulf States have sent 43 relief planes to assist the affected people on Socotra Island.

Situation Overview

Cyclones Megh and Chapala are reported to have killed 26 people and injured 78 across all the affected areas. The Task Force on Population Movement issued a preliminary report on 12 November, estimating that 5,974 families (41,818 individuals) had been displaced by the impact of the cyclones across 13 districts in six governorates. The current number of displaced people is expected to be much lower, as those that fled coastal areas as a precautionary measure have started to return to their towns and villages.

On Socotora, many cyclone-affected people from more remote areas of the island remain vulnerable, with reports of people staying out in the open or in public buildings. Roads are still badly damaged and there is little electricity, fuel or cooking gas. Local authorities have highlighted a continuing need for non-food items (NFIs), tents, food and medical supplies. Many of the displaced are reportedly starting to return to their homes, and, in some cases, are setting up tents next to their damaged houses. The reconstruction of their homes is now a key priority, with a local NGO currently reporting more than 700 houses across the island have been damaged. Another priority is the rehabilitation of roads and the restoration of livelihoods, in particular the fisheries sector. The Yemen Red Crescent Society estimates that over 785 fishing boats and 1,130 fishing nets have been damaged on Socotra by the two cyclones. The main harbor sustained significant damages, with dhows and large boats unable to berth.



Food and NFI distribution in Hadramaut.

Credit: CSSW

In Hadramaut, an NGO alliance reports that many displaced families continue to shelter in public buildings, including schools, unable to return due to damage sustained to their homes, and a loss of assets and livelihoods. In Al Mukalla, domestic water distribution networks remain unrepaired after some main pipelines from Ghail Bawazer were damaged by Cyclone Chapala. Local water authorities, together with a number of local NGOs, have provided safe water to mosques for distribution, and have called for urgent support to rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure.

In Shabwah, assessments have confirmed that the villages of Jila'a, Bir Ali and Rodoum were the most affected by the two cyclones. Hundreds of houses were destroyed and many people lost their livestock, crops and other sources of livelihood.

Humanitarian Response

On Socotra, local authorities reported the arrival of 43 relief planes from Gulf States, in addition to a ship from the United Arab Emirates, which has as yet been unable to berth due to damage to the harbor. Local authorities and NGOs have distributed most of the humanitarian assistance that arrived, including food,

tents, blankets, mattresses and other household items. The King Salman Centre distributed 10,000 food parcels to 1,000 families, and 50 metric tons (MT) of NFIs, tents and dry food parcels to 6,000 families.

As a preventative measure against the spread of malaria and dengue fever, the Ministry of Public Health, with support from the UN and other health partners, will distribute 20,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets this week. Two airplanes will be sent from Nairobi to Socotra on 22 November with 48 MT of NFIs, with IOM sending an assessment and medical team in advance to support the delivery of the supplies and assess the situation. An airplane with 3.3 MT of WHO medical supplies will depart Djibouti for Socotra early next week.



Distribution of NFIs in Shabwah

Credit: SHS

On the mainland, access for humanitarian organizations providing assistance to affected areas has been delayed by non-functioning communications networks and flood damage to parts of the road network. Local NGOs, with support from the UN and international NGOs, have been repairing roads to facilitate access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Twenty-two UNHCR, IOM, and UNICEF trucks, transporting 95 MT of NFIs and hygiene kits from Aden, have arrived at various destinations in Shabwah and Al Mukalla. After more than a week of delay, the trucks were able to pass through roads damaged by the cyclones by transferring the goods to smaller vehicles able to access alternative routes to Shabwah and Al Mukalla. In addition, four UNHCR and two WHO trucks, carrying 168 MT of NFIs and 18 MT of medical supplies have arrived in Al Mukalla. One WHO truck carrying 9.6 MT of medical supplies is still waiting for security clearance from the local authorities to depart for Shabwah.

WFP and its implementing partners continue to distribute food to 25,000 people affected by the cyclones in Shabwah and Hadramaut. As of 16 November, 14,547 people had received high energy biscuits, including 3,259 people in Al Mukalla, 3,650 in Buroum, 5,552 in Rodum, 800 in Ghail Bawazer and 1,286 in Mayfa'a.

As of 18 November, UNHCR and its implementing partner, Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) have assisted 14,182 individuals, including 6,962 women and girls, in Shabwah, Hadramaut and Al Maharah. This includes assistance to some of the most affected districts, such as Rodum, Mayfa'a Hajir, Mayfa'a Buroum and the remote areas of Sayhoot and Al Maseelah in Al Maharah, which had not yet received assistance due to limited road access.

As the displaced people start to return to their homes, IOM has reduced the quantity of water provided each day by truck in Shabwah and Abyan. IOM is currently providing 45,000 litres per day to 857 families (6,000 individuals) in Mayfa'a and 4,000 litres per day to 79 families (553 individuals) in Zinjibar. Additional plans are in place to support water trucking in Al Mukalla.

WHO has provided 35 MT of medical supplies to the health facilities in Hadramaut, Shabwah and Al Mahara, including to six general hospitals, 18 district hospitals, and 34 health centres. The medical supplies are sufficient to support over 665,000 individuals across the three governorates. UNFPA has distributed enough health kits to provide emergency maternal and reproductive health services to over 6,500 women and girls.

The UN ship that departed Djibouti for Aden, carrying 18.3 MT of medical supplies for WHO, has arrived and been unloaded, with some of the supplies destined for the affected areas.

This is the last Flash Update for the Cyclone(s) response. Further information on the impact of and response to the cyclones will be included in other OCHA information products.

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