

### Key messages

- An area of tropical low pressure, making its way to the Arabian Sea, does not seem to be forming into a tropical storm for the moment.
- The number of people killed in Socotra has risen to 18, bringing the total number of people reported killed by the two cyclones to 26 in all affected areas of Yemen.
- The UN and its partners continue to deliver much needed supplies to the affected areas and are continuing to distribute food, tents, non-food items and safe water in Abyan, Shabwah and Hadramaut governorates.

### Situation Overview

Tropical Cyclone Megh dissipated over mainland Yemen on 10 November, causing no significant rain or wind. The area of tropical low pressure, making its way to the Arabian Sea, does not seem to be forming into a tropical storm for the moment.

Additional reports from Socotra Island, suggest 18 people have been killed, bringing the total number of people reported killed by the two cyclones to 26 in all affected areas of Yemen. Local authorities are still reporting six people missing in Socotra and over 500 houses completely destroyed, with estimates that up to 3,000 houses may have been partially



Flooding on Socotra Island

Credit: Fahmi Moh. Saeed Salman

damaged. The number of displaced on Socotra is still estimated at 3,000 families (18,000 individuals), with part of the population of Abdo Al Kori, a small island off Socotra, evacuated to Hadramaut. Several food warehouses have been damaged by flooding, most roads are still closed and there are fuel shortages and no electricity. Despite improvements in the weather, many fishermen are unable to go out to sea due to extensive damage to boats. Local authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have indicated that there are significant needs in the south of the island, and have highlighted fuel, non-food items (NFIs), tents and medical supplies as overall priorities.

A lack of communication – the telephone network is mostly down - and access to all the affected areas, including Abyan, Shabwa, Hadramaut, Al Mahara and Socotra, have made it difficult for the humanitarian community to determine the total number of people in need as a result of the two cyclones. In Shabwah, WFP estimates that the number of people affected by the cyclone could reach 18,000. This is in addition to those already in need of some form of humanitarian assistance from the ongoing crisis. This includes over 440,000 people in Shabwah and almost one million people in Hadramaut. There are also reports from a few local NGOs that some families are starting return to their homes, with a reduction in the number of displaced sheltering in public buildings. As communication networks in the affected areas improve and assessments by implementing partners are finalized, it will be possible to obtain a more complete picture in terms of humanitarian needs and damage to houses and infrastructure.

## Humanitarian Response

Local authorities in Socotra Island have reported that 20 planes with aid supplies have arrived from Gulf States since Cyclone Chapala made landfall on the island, with some food items damaged by the flooding of warehouses. Damage to the port has led to efforts to offload 700 metric tons (MT) of relief supplies from a United Arab Emirates ship, with residents currently trying to build a pathway to reach the ship. Local NGOs are continuing to distribute relief items, although the damage to infrastructure has slowed the response. The Kuwait Higher Relief Committee, a coalition of Kuwaiti NGOs, have announced that they will distribute 25,000 food parcels to 500 families (3,500 individuals), which builds on a similar distribution carried out by the committee last week. The UN and its partners are making arrangements to send two airplanes, one from Djibouti and another from Nairobi, carrying 6.6 MT of medical supplies and 48 MT of NFIs.

Seventeen UNHCR, IOM, and UNICEF trucks transporting assistance from Aden to Al Mukalla are still being held up due to poor road conditions. Efforts are underway to make repairs to the roads to make them passable, and to possibly transfer the supplies to smaller vehicles which can pass through the damaged areas. Eight UNHCR and WHO trucks destined for Al Mukalla remain in Sana'a awaiting security clearance from local authorities to allow them to depart.

WFP and its implementing partners have been distributing 30 MT of high energy biscuits, targeting some 25,000 people affected by the cyclone. As of 8 November, over 6,700 people had received the high energy biscuits in Hadramaut, including 3,259 people in Al Mukalla, 1,500 in Buroum, 1,150 in Rodum and 800 in Ghail Bawazir. A general food distribution, targeting 30,000 people affected by the cyclones in Shabwah and Hadramaut, is also being planned by WFP, pending the results of an assessment.



NFI distribution in Shabwa governorate.

Credit: SHS

On 10 November, UNHCR and its implementing partner distributed 585 NFI kits and 112 tents in Mayfaa Hajir and Broum in Shabwah, reaching 2,712 people, some of whom are sheltering in collective centres or are staying out in the open. In addition, 708 NFI kits were distributed to 2,466 people in Hadramaut, mostly in Azzan, Jilaa, Al Sabaeen and Al Hafa. Altogether, more than 1,550 households affected by the cyclones have received NFIs

IOM continues to provide daily water trucking in Shabwa and Abyan, although the number of people reached was reduced to 1,257 families (8,800 individuals) in Mayfaa (Shabwah governorate) and 32 families (224 individuals) in Zinjibar (Abyan governorate) due to a lack of fuel and difficulties in reaching some of the affected villages.

The UN and other health partners are carrying out disease surveillance, carefully monitoring potential outbreaks. UNICEF will also provide hygiene kits in Hadramaut and Shabwah in the coming days.

*The next Flash Update will be issued on Thursday, 12 November 2015.*

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