

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 7-21 March 2019 | Issue 5

KEY ISSUES:

- Suspected cholera and acute watery diarrhea cases increased; 108,889 suspected cases were reported between 1 January and 17 March.
- According to local authorities, more than 9,700 families were recently displaced to 18 districts in Hajjah Governorate; most live in open spaces and public buildings.
- Yemen's economic situation continues to disintegrate due to the ongoing conflict; GDP has contracted by an estimated 39 per cent since 2014.
- The Protection Cluster reports that more than 4,800 civilian deaths and injuries occurred during 2018, an average of 93 civilian casualties per week.
- UNICEF paid incentives to 97,000 out of a target of 136,000 teachers who had not received their salary in two years.

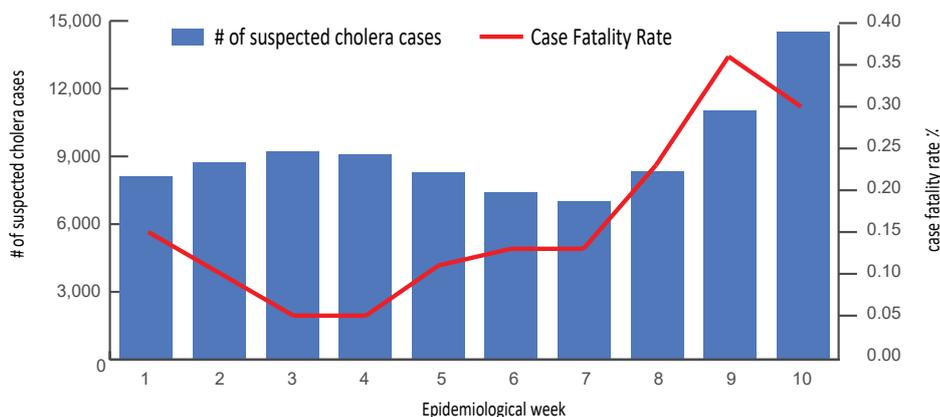
INCREASE IN SUSPECTED CHOLERA CASES

Two years after Yemen suffered its worst cholera outbreak, the number of reported suspected cases of cholera and acute watery diarrhoea spiked in recent weeks. Data collected by the Ministry of Public Health and Population with the support of WHO indicates that 108,889 suspected cases and 190 associated deaths were recorded between 1 January and 17 March. About one third of the cases are children under age 5.

Cholera is endemic in Yemen. The worst outbreak was in 2017 when more than a million suspected cases were reported between April and December. The current spike is concentrated in six governorates—

Amanat Al Asimah, Al Hudaydah, Sana'a, Ibb, Amran and Dhamar—which together account for nearly two thirds of reported cases.

The recent increase in suspected cholera cases is possibly linked to early rains, increased awareness among the population and therefore a willingness to seek testing and treatment, and enhanced disease surveillance. The situation is exacerbated by poor maintenance of sewage disposal systems in many of the affected districts, the use of contaminated water for irrigation, and population movements.



Epidemic curve 1 January-17 March 2019. Source: WHO

Humanitarian partners and the Government are jointly providing an integrated response to mitigate the further spread and transmission, focusing on 147 priority districts. Health and WASH cluster supplies are being stockpiled; partners are pre-positioning fuel for pumping water, and district rapid response teams are investigating cases and providing a quick response. Diarrhoea Treatment Centres (DTCs) and Oral Rehydration Centres (ORCs) have been established in all priority districts. Partners are seeking support to repair water and sanitation systems and to disinfect water.

In February, WHO, in partnership with the World Bank, delivered 30 mobile laboratory kits to monitor and test water quality in water networks, wells and water trucks. To further enhance laboratory capacity in Yemen, WHO trained 125 laboratory technicians on sample collection, transportation, laboratory diagnosis and proper reporting of cases, and is providing reagents to 5 central public health laboratories in Taizz, Ibb, Al Hudaydah, Aden and Sana'a. The agency is also supporting the provision of incentives to 2,257 health workers in 92 DTCs and ORCs in 13 governorates and providing technical and financial support to 333 rapid response teams in all districts.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE SCALED UP IN HAJJAH AS HOSTILITIES CONTINUE

Fighting, shelling and airstrikes continue to displace people in Hajjah Governorate. As of 18 March, local authorities estimated that over 9,700 families were recently displaced to 18 districts within Hajjah Governorate. Most of the displaced people live in open spaces and public buildings. Further displacement has spilled into Amran Governorate where up to 450 displaced families were reported and an additional 837 families were displaced to Amanat Al Asimah.

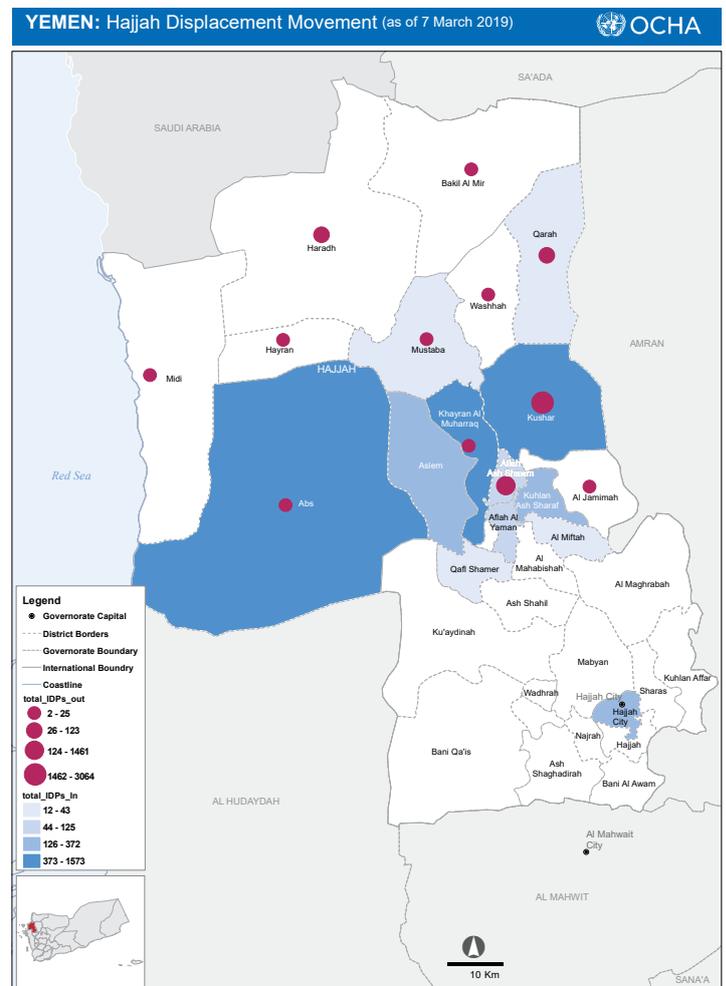
International NGOs operating in Yemen, in a statement issued on 14 March, said: "Hajjah has seen an increase in tensions and fighting in recent weeks; thousands of people have been displaced from their homes and are in need of humanitarian aid and many more are reportedly trapped by the fighting and cannot flee to safety or reach help. These horrific incidents show that innocent civilians including children continue to pay the price for a conflict in which they have no say."

Humanitarian partners estimate that the number of displaced people in Hajjah Governorate has doubled in the last 6 months from 203,000 to around 420,000 people. In response, partners have scaled up assistance and deployed more staff to Hajjah City.

As of 19 March, 3,522 families received rapid response kits; an additional 1,933 families received non-food items; and 676 families received emergency shelter kits in Hajjah Governorate. Distribution of transit kits is ongoing following the delivery of 10,500 transit kits to Hajjah City and Abs District. WFP is planning for a blanket food distribution in Kushar District; IOM is pre-positioning 9,000 emergency shelter kits (ESKs) and 9,000 non-food item (NFI) packages; UNHCR is to distribute 2,000 ESKs and 2,000 NFI packages to cover existing needs and is pre-positioning emergency stocks.

UNICEF is supporting 31 of 39 health facilities in four districts of Hajjah Governorate with operation costs and incentives for health workers. It is also supporting eight mobile teams to provide an integrated package of primary health and nutrition services for displaced people and host communities. Over 10,000 cartons of ready to use therapeutic food have been delivered to cover needs for more than four months.

During the reporting period, 19 civilians were killed by strikes over two days in 11 March, including 12 children. Up to 30 other people were injured, including 14 children aged between 1 and 18. "We condemn these deaths and injuries unequivocally," said Ms. Lise Grande, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen. "It is outrageous that innocent civilians continue to die needlessly in a conflict that should and can be solved."



WORLD BANK WARNS THAT YEMEN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FABRIC IS DISINTEGRATING

In its latest [Yemen Economic Monitoring Brief](#), the World Bank stated that Yemen's economic and social fabric continues to disintegrate. While official statistics remain unavailable, partial information and anecdotal evidence suggest that Yemen's GDP has contracted by 39 per cent since the end of 2014. The poverty rate is projected to have increased by 33 per cent since 2014, which means that 52 per cent of the population is likely to live in poverty 2019.

The World Bank Brief states that the ongoing conflict has caused widespread disruption to economic activities in Yemen, resulting in a substantial reduction in jobs, private sector operations and business opportunities. Government revenue has dramatically decreased, which has affected the delivery of public services. Imports have contracted sharply, and foreign reserves have dwindled. Exchange rate devaluations have further undermined household incomes. The situation has forced many people to join conflict-

related economic activities as the only gainful opportunity in a "war economy."

The Brief notes that conflict and the ensuing economic crisis are among the main drivers of increased food insecurity in Yemen, as reflected in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis of December 2018. Another report by the Global Hunger Index ranked Yemen in the top three most food insecure countries in the world in 2018.

The World Bank Brief indicates that in 2019, economic prospects will depend on rapid improvements in the political and security situation. An end to the conflict would provide a starting point for rebuilding the economy and social fabric. The GDP can gradually recover although three quarters of the population will remain in poverty by the standards of lower-middle income countries.

The report was released on 12 March, when the value of the Yemen rial (YER) had decreased from YER550/US\$ to about YER590/US\$ over the previous month. The same week, the Yemeni Oil Company raised the official price of gasoline from YER275 to YER290

per litre and diesel from YER300 to YER325 per litre. However, widespread shortages remain across the country. Many people are buying gasoline on the unofficial market at higher prices.

REPORT SHOWS NEARLY 100 CIVILIAN CASUALTIES OCCURRED EVERY WEEK IN 2018

More than 4,800 civilian deaths and injuries were reported over the course of 2018, according to the [2018 Civilian Impact Monitoring Project \(CIMP\) report](#), resulting in an average of 93 civilian casualties per week. CIMP, a Protection Cluster project, reports that civilian casualties were the result of more than 2,360 incidents of armed violence, an average of 45 per week,

More than 2,140 civilian casualties occurred in mass casualty incidents (incidents that resulted in over 10 civilian casualties). Airstrikes caused 2,504 civilian casualties (52 per cent of all incidents) while shelling caused 1,300 casualties. Half of all incidents were recorded in Al Hudaydah and almost a quarter in Sa'ada governorates.

Thirty per cent of civilians were reported to have been killed and injured in their homes. Other civilians were killed while travelling on the roads, while working on farms and at local businesses, and at markets. A fifth

of all civilian casualties recorded were children, with 410 killed and 542 injured. Some 46 incidents affected food, water and aid infrastructure, 25 affected health facilities and 38 affected educational sites.

Landmines were the deadliest type of armed violence affecting civilians. According to the report, more than 230 civilian casualties were reported in 74 incidents involving landmines, an average of 3 casualties per incident. More than half of these civilian casualties were in Al Hudaydah Governorate.

Destruction of houses displaced more than 4,840 families while 6,000 families lost their livelihood because farms and local businesses were damaged or destroyed. On average, 275 families were displaced every month during the first six months of 2018, mostly in Sa'ada Governorate. The figure almost doubled to over 530 displaced each month in the last six months of the year.

NEARLY 100,000 SCHOOL TEACHERS REACHED WITH MONTHLY INCENTIVES

On 28 February, UNICEF launched the Education Teachers' Incentives (ETI) payment scheme. By 9 March, the scheme had reached 97,710 beneficiaries (89 per cent of the target of 136,000 for the first payment cycle). The ETI aims to ensure the continued education of children by providing financial incentives (equal to US\$50/month) to teachers and school-based staff, including volunteers, who are not receiving salaries and who are regularly reporting for work.

Failure to pay salaries has kept many teachers away



The incentives scheme will benefit 3.7 million school children. ©UNICEF

from school as they struggle to find other livelihood opportunities to sustain their families. According to UNICEF, 2 million of 7 million school-aged children in Yemen are currently out of school.

Across Yemen, nearly three quarters of public schools in 11 governorates are affected by the non-payment of salaries for teachers, and 51 per cent of teachers have not received their salaries since October 2016. The governorates are Sana'a, Sa'ada, Amanat al Asimah, Amran, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Dhamar, Raymah, Ibb and Al Bayda.

Education Cluster data confirms that an estimated 2,000 schools are unfit for use due to the conflict. This includes 256 schools that were destroyed by airstrikes or shelling; 1,520 schools that were damaged; 167 schools that are sheltering displaced families, and 23 schools that are occupied by armed groups.

The incentives scheme will cover staff in over 10,300 schools and as a result will benefit an estimated 3.7 million children. UNICEF is also renovating schools, promoting hygiene and sanitation in schools and providing various supplies to schools across the country.

ADEN HUB

The security situation in Aden has calmed but remains volatile; movement by the UN and humanitarian partners in the city has resumed. In Al Mukalla, the new UN hub is gradually becoming functional and the first coordination meeting scheduled to take place on 20 March. OCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, and selected cluster representatives are due to attend, as are members of the local INGO and national NGO community.

An OCHA-led visit to internally displaced persons (IDP) sites in Garad (62 households) and Al Baytara (105 households) in Lahj Governorate found that a key concern was the lack of sanitation facilities. Water is being trucked by UNICEF, while WFP is providing regular food baskets, but other difficulties remain. Al Baytara has a UNICEF-supported clinic that provides health and nutrition services, while IDPs in Garad must go to hospitals that charge for services as there is no mobile clinic serving that site. A local partner has distributed food baskets to 386 households in the governorate. UNICEF has launched a mine awareness campaign in Lahj targeting around 54,000 people.

The INGO, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), started registering IDPs at collective sites in Al Khalkha, and these sites are to be included in regular global food distributions by a WFP partner. In the meantime, WFP is to expand their intervention food security programme in Hadramaut, targeting an additional 7 new districts in the governorate, increasing the total number of targeted districts to 15.

UNICEF launched a diphtheria vaccination campaign in 99 districts in south-eastern Yemen in addition to a mass community mobilisation campaign using a mobile cinema, awareness raising sessions and puppet theatre.

AL HUDAYDAH HUB

The Protection Cluster reported 39 civilian impact incidents in the Al Hudaydah Hub in the second week of March (7–13 March), resulting in 102 civilian casualties, including 38 fatalities. Twelve of these incidents were reported in Hajjah Governorate, the highest incident rate in the governorate since reporting began in January 2018. The incidents in Hajjah resulted in 83 civilian casualties—the highest rate since April 2018. Airstrikes caused all but two of the casualties in Hajjah.

As of 9 March, partners have registered 128,769 displaced families in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Raymah and Al Mahwit governorates. A total of 123,631 displaced families received Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assistance: 41,453 families received multipurpose cash transfers, 26,526 families received NFIs, and 12,385 families in Al Hudaydah and Hajjah governorates received emergency shelter kits (ESKs).

IOM provided medical consultations to 4,187 individuals in various locations in Al Hudaydah Governorate, 3,800 in 12 health centres in Hajjah, and 411 in 3 health centres in Raymah. IOM registered 131 displaced families at its reception centre in Al Hudaydah and referred 108 families to other partners for assistance according to their needs.

Delivery of humanitarian supplies was stopped for approximately two weeks from Sana'a but started moving from 18 March. However, there is still no access to Haradh, Midi and Hayran districts. This has slowed the response to the needs of affected people.

IBB HUB

Clashes continued in As Silw, Sabir Al Mawadim and Salh districts in Taizz Governorate. Clashes and airstrikes were also reported in southern areas of Maqbanah District, limiting civilian access to services and assistance. In Al Dhale'e Governorate, clashes continued in Al Husha and Damt districts, although with less intensity than recent weeks.

A WFP implementing partner was able to establish community committees in Maqbanah and Salh districts, after being denied clearance by authorities in Taizz to operate in these districts for the past two months, which affected food distributions to more than 63,000 households. WFP transferred the distribution of food in Maqbanah and Salh districts to the new partner in February 2019.

The Health Sub-National Cluster reported 760 suspected cholera cases in At Ta'iziyah District between 1 January and 28 February, compared to 114 cases reported during the same period last year. This increase is attributed to a deteriorating sanitation system and sabotage of sewage pipelines by farmers using untreated waste water for irrigation purposes. The sub-national cluster is scaling up preventative measures in collaboration with WASH partners. There are three Diarrhoea Treatment Centres (DTCs) in the district and UNICEF is planning to establish 2 more DTCs and 10 Oral Rehydration Centres (ORCs).

SA'ADA HUB

Clashes continued in Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates with shelling and airstrikes reported in districts along the border with Saudi Arabia, although with a lower intensity than in recent weeks. On 12 March, local sources reported that 15 airstrikes hit several areas in Kitaf wa Al Boqe'e District in Sa'ada. No civilian casualties were reported. Two civilians were reportedly killed, and three others injured when an airstrike hit a civilian vehicle in Ghafirah area of Al Dhafer District on 13 March. In Al Jawf, clashes, including artillery shelling and IED attacks, continued in Khabb wa ash Sha'af District, south-west of the governorate.

A UNHCR implementing partner provided 1,750 NFIs and 1,000 emergency shelter kits to 1,750 displaced families in Kharab Al Marashi and Bart Al Anan districts in Al Jawf Governorate. The families were mostly displaced from Khabb wa ash Sha'af and Al Maslub districts or internally displaced within Bart Al Anan District. The partner provided NFIs to 730 displaced families in Rajuzah District.

UNFPA provided RRM kits to 360 families in Monabbih, Sa'adah, As Safra and Kitaf Wa Al Boqe'e districts during the reporting period. A total of 4,470 families in 8 districts have received RRM assistance since 6 January.

In anticipation of an increase in cholera and acute watery diarrhoea cases during the approaching rainy season, WHO distributed 14 cholera medication kits—consisting of medication, intravenous fluids and oral rehydration salts—to 12 health facilities in Sa'adah, Haydan, Sahar, Razih, Baqim, Monabbih and Majz districts. WHO also provided four kits to health authorities in Sa'ada Governorate as emergency stock. Each kit serves 100 patients.

SANA'A HUB

Limited hostilities were reported in Nihm in the north-east of Sana'a Governorate. Four civilian impact incidents were reported including clashes in Nati' District, and in Qaniyah in Radman Al Awad District.

This is the highest number of incidents reported in Al Bayda in a single week since January 2018. Six other civilian casualties caused by landmines or IEDs were reported in Al Bayda during the reporting period. Of 23 civilian casualties caused by landmines in Sana'a Hub since January 2018, 19 (83 per cent) were reported in Al Bayda.

A total of 412 cholera cases were confirmed after rapid tests were performed on 1,015 suspected cholera cases across the hub. Sana'a Governorate was the most seriously affected, with 140 confirmed cases, followed by Amanat Al Asimah, with 110 cases. A total of 61 confirmed cases were reported in Amran, 60 in Dhamar, 40 in Al Bayda, and one in Marib. Partners are responding by activating DTCs and ORCs in areas with the most cases. YER/US\$.

UNVIM UPDATE

Al Hudaydah and As Saleef seaports are open and fully operational. Between 6-19 March 2019, nine vessels discharged a total of 118,078 MT of cargo at Al Hudaydah port (48,376 MT of food 69,702 MT of fuel).



48,376 MT



69,702 MT

Al Hudaydah 118,078 MT

Saleef 0 MT

Source: UNVIM

2019 FUNDING UPDATE

FUNDING STATUS

4.19 BN
REQUIREMENTS
(USD)

0.27 BN
FUNDED
(USD)

3.92 BN
STILL NEEDED
(USD)



(as of 24 March 2019)

DONORS CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN \$1M



SWEDEN



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



IRELAND



DENMARK



OCHA

DONORS CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN \$10M

Contributions (in US\$ million)



DONORS CONTRIBUTING LESS THAN \$10M

BELGIUM	CYPRUS	EDUCATION ABOVE ALL FOUNDATION
KUWAIT FUND	LITHUANIA	MALAYSIA
MONACO	SLOVENIA	SWITZERLAND

Source: FTS

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