Yemen: Escalating Conflict  
Situation Report No. 8 (as of 22 May 2015)

This report is produced by OCHA Yemen in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA. It covers the period from 18 to 20 May 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 28 May.

Highlights

- Violence has resumed in many areas of Yemen after the five-day humanitarian pause that concluded on 17 May. Delivery of assistance has stopped in some areas due to increased insecurity and limited humanitarian access.
- Reports from health facilities indicate that at least 1,849 people were killed and 7,394 injured between 19 March and 15 May, the latest date for which figures are available. The total fatality figures are likely to be much higher.
- At least 545,000 people were displaced between 26 March and 7 May. Another 28,712 people have left Yemen, arriving in the Horn of Africa and Gulf countries.
- In several areas, fuel prices have increased by more than 500% and the price of wheat flour has increased by 80% since 26 March, with a devastating impact on people and communities struggling to cope with the conflict.

15.9m
Requiring humanitarian assistance

9,243
Conflict-related casualties (deaths and injuries) recorded in health centres

545,719
Internally displaced since March

12m
Food-insecure people

8.4m
Lacking access to primary health care

850,000
Acutely malnourished children

Situation Overview

The recent humanitarian pause enabled partners to deliver more assistance to Yemen, but the needs remain massive and the aid system woefully inadequate to meet them. The parties must comply with their obligations to allow rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access and to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Since the conclusion of the humanitarian pause, assistance for affected Yemenis has again been limited. The resumption of airstrikes and ground fighting has displaced or trapped thousands more people, severely limiting access to assistance. Humanitarian actors are not able to move easily to offices, warehouses or distribution points. The continued restrictions on the arrival of goods via air and sea ports, and insecurity on roads, have restricted the delivery of essential supplies to people in desperate need. Other stocks remain in warehouses where they were pre-positioned during the pause and cannot be delivered or distributed. Whilst some ongoing humanitarian activities have continued, mostly relating to water supply and education, many response activities are virtually paralysed due to insecurity. On 18 May UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on all parties to conflict to ensure the safety and security of airports, seaports and transportation infrastructure. The Secretary-General strongly encouraged ending interruptions of the import of fuel, food and medicines, noting that Yemenis have faced tragic levels of suffering and violence in recent months.

Humanitarian partners report that they cannot access an estimated 70,000 households in Sa’ada, most of whom have severely limited access to medical services, clean water, food and telecommunications. On 19 May in Sa’adah City, As Safra, Sahar and Majz districts, partners were unable to distribute hygiene kits, non-food items (NFIs) or water filters. In Amran, partners were unable to deliver food assistance to 190 displaced families. In Sana’a, security concerns due to airstrikes prevented delivery of food assistance. In Aden Governorate, some partners were prevented from entering Aden City, while others were unable to access warehouses and were prevented from carrying out planned distributions. On 20 May, airstrikes hit the capital, Sana’a, prompting residents to flee their homes.

In Abs town, Hajjah, on 21 May, hundreds of families reportedly fled their homes to neighbouring districts including Hayran following two days of violence. In Al Jawf Governorate, clashes were reported between armed tribesmen

For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report
and militants in Khab wa Al Sha’af area. In Marib Governorate, violent armed clashes were reported on 21 May in Sirwah District between tribesmen and militants, with casualties reported on both sides.

On 21 May, five Ethiopian migrants were killed and two others injured in an airstrike that hit open space 500 metres from an IOM-managed Migrant Response Centre. Many destitute migrants live in the surroundings of the Centre and receive assistance from IOM, which has condemned the attack and reminded all parties to comply with their obligations under International Humanitarian Law.

In spite of the violence, some humanitarian activities are continuing. At Yemen’s sea ports, reports indicate that during and following the humanitarian pause a higher volume of traffic was able to arrive, although it remained far below pre-conflict levels. Several countries in the region sent humanitarian assistance including diesel, medical aid, food aid and other items to be distributed by humanitarian partners.

Humanitarian Response

Food Security and Agriculture

Needs:

- Availability of food commodities has deteriorated further in crisis-affected areas. Wheat flour is only available on the black market in many monitored markets. Where available, food prices remain well above the pre-crisis average.
- Ongoing conflict and naval blockade are restricting imports of food and fuel, driving up prices at a time that household income sources have been affected, including salaries, agricultural wages, petty trade, livestock sales and disruptions to remittance flows. With continued conflict and import restrictions, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are likely in the coming months.
- Basic commodities have increased by between 28 and 98 percent, with wheat prices increasing by 45 to 80 per cent. In six governorates, reports from partners show that basic food items are no longer available (Aden, Abyan, Al Dhale’e, Al Bayda, Lahj, Sa’ada). In other governorates, most food items are only sporadically available. The conflict has also pushed prices of fuel up an average of 344 per cent (petrol, diesel and cooking gas).
- In Taizz, Yemen’s third-largest city, residents are finding it difficult to obtain many basic commodities, which are no longer sold in markets. Aden has no basic food commodities available in local markets.

Response:

- Since 6 May, partners confirm that 143,125 MT of wheat flour has been delivered by sea to Yemen.
- Emergency food assistance continues to be provided after the humanitarian pause with 109,000 people receiving food in Hajjah, Sana’a, and Sa’ada between 18 - 21 May. In total, 1,492,000 people have received emergency food assistance since 15 April in nine governorates (Aden, Al Mahwit, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Lahj, Sana’a, and Sa’ada).
- Partners distributed food baskets to 63,700 people in eight governorates (Amanat Al Asimah, Sana’a, Dhamar, Marib, Lahj, Aden, Taizz, and Amran). In Marib, they also distributed food to around 3,500 people in Sirwah District. In Hajjah, emergency food distribution continues in five districts, with food assistance delivered to 50,638 people.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Food assistance was dispatched to more than 400,000 people during the five day humanitarian pause, and managed to reach previously inaccessible areas. However this was only half the 738,000 people targeted, due to restricted access and insecurity.
- During the pause, transporters were reluctant to send their trucks to places where fighting and shelling continued. Immediately after the pause, there were renewed constraints in reaching those in need. A transporter in the south was detained at a checkpoint, prompting all other transporters who were to deliver food to Aden to refuse movement. As a result, no dispatches took place on 19 May in the south.
- In Amran, humanitarian organizations have not faced significant changes after the pause, but the unpredictability of where airstrikes might fall hinders access and distribution. One partner postponed the delivery of food cards to 190 households (1,330 people) in Dhaifan area because of security fears.
- 95 per cent of local supermarkets are reportedly closed, meaning that urban Yemenis in particular will find it difficult to procure basic foodstuffs.
Health

Needs:
- At least 153 health facilities have closed across Yemen since March. As a result:
  - 2,600,000 women of reproductive age, and 2,080,000 men have been unable to access basic reproductive health services.
  - 257,400 pregnant women have been unable to access safe delivery.
  - 483 women may have died from complications during delivery due to having been deprived of comprehensive emergency obstetric care services.
  - 4,290 women with complications may have been deprived of basic emergency obstetric care.
  - 52,000 women who experienced sexual violence may have been deprived of required medical attention and treatment.
  - 10,400 people may have been exposed to HIV and other transmissible diseases due to being deprived of safe blood transfusions.

Response:
- In Sa’ada, hygiene kits were provided to 150 households (1,050 people) as well medical supplies to Razih Hospital, thus covering 12 districts of Sa’ada. Partners are still working in Sa’ada in Al Gomhori hospital, and two other teams are working in the hospitals of Haydan and Razih.
- Partners distributed hygiene kits for 250 households (1,750 people) in Sirwah, Madghil Al Jedaan and Majzar districts in Marib.
- In Al Dhale’e an immunization campaign commenced on 19 May and 96 women were immunized against tetanus, as well as 233 children receiving vaccination against measles, polio and screening for malnutrition. Vaccinators have reached some IDPs and host communities to immunize children against polio, measles and rubella, as well as provide vitamin A supplementation in Sana’a City, Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Shabwah, Abyan, Lahj and Aden (total number of children vaccinated has not been obtained due to telecommunications difficulties with mobile teams).

Gaps & Constraints:
- In Taizz, continuing fighting has limited access, with one partner unable to release supplies from one of its warehouses and patients unable to receive treatment at Al Thawrah hospital due to it being damaged in the hostilities.
- Insecurity continues to hinder the delivery of assistance in the south. Trucks carrying medical supplies to Aden were stopped at Saber checkpoint in Lahj and not allowed to enter Aden.
- In Sa’ada, partners reported they could not continue distribution of hygiene kits, water filters and NFIs in the districts of As Safra, Sahar and Majz due to security concerns. After the pause ended, most partners left the area, since all of Sa’ada was declared a military target prior to the pause. As a result, partners cannot access an estimated 490,000 people in the governorate, most of who have limited or almost no access to medical services, clean water or food.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:
- There is an urgent need for electricity and fuel to provide ongoing support to local water corporations, rural water schemes, sewage treatment plants and solid waste collection operations. During the humanitarian pause, 1.2 million people were provided with access to clean water in urban areas while WASH supplies were pre-positioned for roughly 85,000 people in seven governorates (Aden, Abyan, Hajjah Sa’ada, Amran, Marib and Al Dhale’e). These people are at risk of losing access to water if fuel cannot be transferred to local water corporations within a month.
- Health facilities desperately need reliable access to safe water.
- Lack of solid waste collection and disposal in major urban centers is presenting a real risk of outbreak of communicable disease.

Response:
- On 18 May, partners distributed 112 hygiene kits to IDP families living in schools in Al Buraiqeh District, Aden.
- Five radio stations broadcast health and hygiene promotion messages in Al Hudaydah, Aden, Lahj and Sana’a, reaching an estimated total of 1.8 million listeners.
In Hajjah, 5,467 IDPs continued to receive water through piped water supply systems.
- Hygiene promotion sessions were implemented for IDPs in Hajjah and their host communities in Al Hudaydah, benefitting 22,229 people.
- Ceramic water filters were distributed to 459 families (3,213 people) in Amran.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Whilst the local water and sanitation company in Abyan received 20,000 litres of diesel, it was stopped at three checkpoints en route. Long negotiations were required to release the tanker. In Al Buraiqeh District, Aden, the transfer of 750 litres of petrol to the Aden Water Corporation was also blocked.
- While in Lahj, 12,000 litres of fuel for the Lahj Water Corporation was transferred to Megras Naji water field in Tuban District, 750 litres could not be transferred.
- The total number of beneficiaries reached during the pause fell short of the 2.4 million people targeted due to severe limitations in the availability of fuel and access.
- Fuel shortage is resulting in less water available in the market (water trucks) and at a much higher cost.
- Fuel delivered during the humanitarian pause is providing temporary support to the highest priority life-saving activities, however this is only a temporary measure and fuel must be made available to the market.

Nutrition

Needs:
- Partners are projecting that the number of acutely malnourished children may double from 850,000, including 160,000 suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

Response:
- About 715 were reached with nutrition activities during the pause while only 81 children were reached since the pause.
- IDPs in Khemra Amran settlement in the open and in schools (around 500 households) were attended by a mobile clinic which provided Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (ICMI), reproductive health and Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) interventions, following the rapid assessment that was conducted during the pause. In addition, four mobile teams continued to provide health and nutrition services in Amran and Al Baydah.
- Three mobile clinics provided nutrition services for IDPs in Mawya and Hayfan districts.
- Eleven health and nutrition mobile teams operated in Hajjah (Haradh, Hayran, Abs, Kuidnh, Njrah, Mabyan, Hajjah rural, Aslam and Kuful Shamr). 70 children under 5 were enrolled in a CMAM programme and received therapeutic feeding during the last three days, bringing to 493 the total enrolment for the week (142 SAM and 351 MAM children).
- Fuel needed for generators to maintain the vaccine cold chain was delivered to health facilities.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Pre-positioned nutrition supplies need to be delivered to partners and health facilities.
- Nutrition response activities face significant challenges due to ongoing conflict and fuel shortages, with a total of 153 health facilities that were providing nutrition services and serving 455,652 children under 5 in their catchment areas now closed, and with many mobile teams unable to operate, mainly in Amran, Al Baydah, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf and Sa'ada governorates.
- The security situation has hindered service delivery especially in Taizz, Abyan, Aden, Al Dhale'e, Shabwah and Lahj.

Protection

Needs:
- Almost 13,000 people have arrived in Djibouti from Yemen since March, primarily through Obock Port and the capital, Djibouti City. Of these, 13 per cent are Djibouti nationals, 42 per cent Yemenis, and 45 per cent third country nationals (TCN).
- As of 21 May, 8,214 arrivals from Yemen had been registered in Somalia. Of these, 5,233 have been received in Puntland, 2,886 in Somaliland and 95 in Mogadishu. Of
these arrivals, 6675 are Somalis, 545 are Yemeni nationals and 58 are third country nationals from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Syria and USA.

- A vessel arrived in Puntland, Somalia on 19 May carrying 234 people (147 women, 87 men). All have been registered. A boat carrying 936 passengers (894 Somalis, 29 Yemenis and 3 Ethiopians) docked in Berbera on 21 May.
- 12,989 people have arrived in Djibouti by plane and boat since March 26, of which 45 per cent are transiting TCNs, 42 per cent are Yemenis and 13 per cent Djiboutians.

**Response:**

- On 19 May, the Government of Somalia facilitated the self-repatriation of 900 Somali refugees in Yemen by boat from Aden Governorate (Buraiqeh District) to Berbera, Somalia. An additional 600 left on 20 May.
- Partners conducted visits to IDP locations in Raydah and Khamir districts in Amran Governorate to identify families displaced from Sa’ada Governorate needing assistance. Similar visits have been conducted to IDPs locations in Aslem and Kushar districts in Hajjah Governorate.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Accommodation at the Migration Response Center and in Djibouti City is a challenge. The transit accommodation capacity at the Center in Obock is overstretched and all the hotels are full.
- The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism aimed to verify 50 pending grave child rights violations during the pause, however lack of fuel and ongoing fighting in a number of governorates hampered them from carrying out verification activities.

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### Shelter, NFIs, and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

**Needs:**

- 29 families (200 individuals) in 22nd of May School and 24 families (71 individuals) in Amena Bent Wahb School in Sana’a need NFI and emergency shelter assistance.

**Response:**

- 90 families (659 individuals) in Amran City received NFIs and emergency shelter.
- 13 families (91 individuals) accommodated in the Olympic Hall, Sana’a City, received NFIs and emergency shelter.
- 463 families (2,796 individuals) in Ash Shaikh Outhman, Dar Sad, and Al Mansura districts, Aden, received NFIs and emergency shelter.
- In Aden, partners delivered supplies to warehouses for the first time since the escalation of hostilities on 18 May, and planned to deliver NFIs to 1,645 households in Ash Shaikh Outhman, Al Mansura and Dar Sad districts.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Access to warehouses in Aden continues to present a challenge. This has limited partners’ capacity to deliver assistance to the people in need in a timely manner.
- For the second week, Shelter Cluster partners did not have full access to IDP locations within Sana’a town to conduct assessments, identify needs and provide assistance as partners are hindered from conducting assessments.
- Transportation of shelter and NFI supplies to Aden, and from Aden to other southern governorates, remains a challenge due to the many checkpoints on main roads.
- Shortage of fuel supplies and general insecurity has caused delays in conducting needs assessments and preparing beneficiary lists.
- In the Amanat Al Asimah area of Sana’a, displaced people staying with host families are crowded, without adequate sanitation or clean or adequate water supply. Fuel shortages make it difficult to pump water, even where wells exist.

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### Education

**Needs:**

- 3,584 schools remain closed due to insecurity affecting around 1.83 million children. Reports from cluster partners indicate that 332 schools have been directly affected by the conflict. Out of these, 86 were reported damaged due to airstrikes or armed confrontations and 246 are reportedly hosting IDPs or have been occupied by armed
groups (186 and 60 respectively). These figures are yet to be verified.

- Around 212,300 students in grades 9 and 12 in affected areas are to take their exams starting on 15 August as per the Ministry of Education (MOE) announcement on May 20. These children have missed two months of schooling.

**Response:**

- 20,644 children affected by conflict were able to continue studies in a safe learning environment and with essential learning materials.
- In line with the advocacy and technical support from cluster partners, the MoE has resolved the issue of final exams for children in areas where schools are closed.
- There is continued monitoring and integration of IDP students into schools. Around 18,435 displaced students were integrated into schools in Hajjah, Raymah, Mahwit, Al Hudaydah and Taizz, the majority being in Taizz. All of them either have taken or are taking their final exam.
- Partners reached more than 225,000 pupils in 764 schools with food assistance in Al Hudaydah and Hajjah.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Schools continue to be used as distribution points and IDP settlements, preventing them from being used as learning centres.
- Insecurity and continued armed confrontations in various areas prevented education partners from providing any remedial education for those children who missed two months of their schooling.

**Logistics**

**Response:**

- Two commercial vessels carrying 30,000 MT of wheat grain and 30,000 MT of petrol arrived on 19 May at Al Hudaydah Port. A total of 90,635 MT of commercial fuel reached Al Hudaydah port between 9 and 18 May.

**General Coordination**

The Humanitarian Coordination Team met in Sana’a and Amman on 21 May to review the activities that were conducted during the humanitarian pause and plan for the activation and scaling-up of the humanitarian response after the pause. The Humanitarian Coordinator remains in Sana’a with a small team of international and national colleagues to coordinate the response.

The newly appointed Regional Humanitarian Coordinator arrived in Amman from Djibouti on 19 May and met with humanitarian partners for two days ahead of further visits in the region.
Source: Task Force on Population Movements
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.