

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Livelihoods destroyed
- 12 million targeted for assistance
- Yemen Pooled Fund expands engagement with national partners
- Over 1.3 million people in access restricted areas across Yemen

Total population	27 m
Total people in need of humanitarian assistance	18.8m
Total people in acute need of humanitarian assistance	10.3
# of people displaced (IDPs & returnees)	3.1 m
# of deaths (WHO)	7,469
# of injuries (WHO)	40,483

Source: 2017 HNO and WHO



Yemeni boy at food distribution point in Taizz Governorate  
Photo credit: IOM, 2016

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## “I have nothing left to sell, except my soul.”

### Airstrikes on Amran’s Cement Factory

What used to be a production site teeming with workers and the noise from cement machines is now almost abandoned. The state-run Amran Cement Plant used to produce 1.5 million tons of cement yearly and was the heart of the governorate’s economy and the pride of its inhabitants and its workers. It has been almost a year since a series of airstrikes hit the plant in 2016, badly damaging it and leaving its 1,529 employees out of work. Only a few of them have managed to find alternative employment.

Some 18 people were killed and 42 badly injured during the airstrikes. “The decision to stop the machines was not an easy one”, explains Yahya Ahmed Abuhalfah, chairman of the factory. The inability to rehabilitate the plant, cover losses, estimated at \$100 million, and guarantee the safety of the employees forced managers to close and workers to stay home. “The plant was my second home”, says Abdullah Saleh Naif, 40 years old, “I was spending more time in the plant than in my house”. Abdullah also lost his son and co-worker in the attacks. On top of this, he said, “My wife had gold, we sold it all. Today I have nothing left to sell, except my soul” he adds.

It is estimated that around 54,000 people, including employees, casual workers and residents were directly affected by the closure of the plant. This without counting the impact on the Al Barh Cement Factory in Taizz Governorate and the Bajil Cement Factory in Al Hudaydah Governorate, both heavily reliant on the Amran factory for raw materials and other inputs and now both shut down.

Abdullah Mohammed al-Haimi, in his late 50s, worked in the Amran plant all his life. For 35 years, he would wake up before sunset, pray, spend some time with his children and then go to work. “I can barely find food to put on the table for my family now”, he says.

The Amran factory used to also play a social and humanitarian role. “When the shortage of fuel started to occur in the country, the plant continued providing fuel to hospitals, private and public, and helped support water pumps”, says a former technical manager of the factory. Today, the administration can no longer afford any of their commitments to workers due to a great shortage of funds. In addition to their salaries, the employees are also no longer receiving their medical allocations, especially for chronic diseases such as diabetes or heart disease.

### Mass unemployment crisis

Conflict and insecurity resulting in an economic breakdown across Yemen has seen over 70 per cent of small and medium enterprises lay off half of their workforce since the conflict escalated in March 2015. Some 65 per cent of fishermen have lost their job. The fight for influence over the Central Bank of Yemen, despite assurances by warring parties that it would be allowed to function outside of the conflict has caused a liquidity problem. It is causing 1.5 million civil servants to receive salary payments sporadically, every

*The unemployment crisis in Yemen is a driver of humanitarian needs*

couple of months, and is affecting close to one third of the entire population across the country. Most have lost, not only, purchasing power for food, but also for other essential goods and services. The economy of Yemen, the poorest Arab country in the region, continues to collapse and the country remains in a mass and endemic unemployment crisis, with many of the middle class now being pushed below the poverty line.

## 12 million people to be assisted in 2017

### Saving lives through a principled, equitable, and accountable response

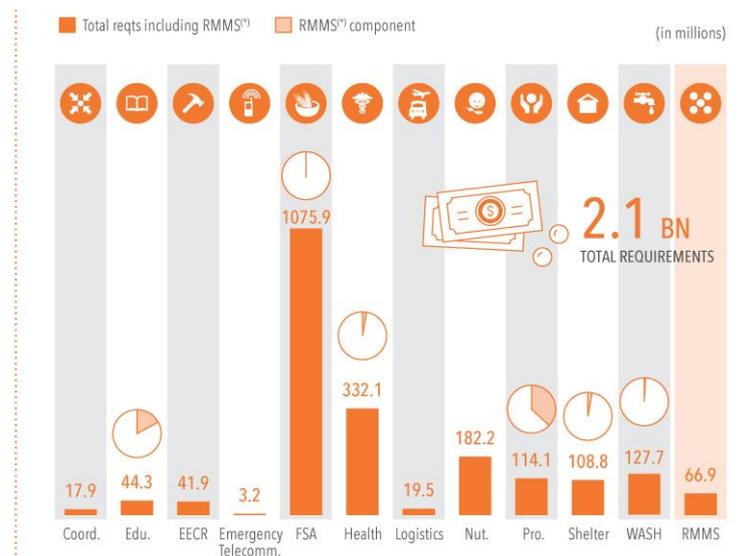
By December 2016, 120 humanitarian partners working in a coordinated manner out of five humanitarian hubs across the country reached at least 5.6 million people with some form of direct humanitarian or protection assistance across Yemen's 22 governorates. Building on that, the 2017 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP), seeks \$2.1 billion to assist 12 million people with direct life-saving support across the country. This year's plan is organized around four strategic objectives:

1. Save lives, prioritizing the most vulnerable
2. Integrate protection and gender concerns across the response
3. Support maintenance of basic services and institutions
4. Strengthen coordination, accountability and advocacy.

The 2017 focus rests on saving lives and the targets are driven by evidence of where the needs are most severe. Activities include emergency food assistance for 8 million people, medical support for nearly 6 million people; treatment of acute malnutrition for 2.6 million women and children; emergency shelter or essential items for 1.9 million people; and direct delivery of emergency water and sanitation to 1.4 million people. Partners have also committed to integrating protection and gender concerns across all activities – ensuring that assistance is delivered equitably and in a way that promotes beneficiaries' safety and dignity. This will include providing separate spaces for females to receive direct assistance where required, organizing distributions to take place in safe areas, including for minorities, and other practical steps to minimize risks and promote equal access for men, women, boys and girls.

*Better communication with affected communities in 2017 is a priority*

### Summary of targets and financial requirements by sector



<sup>1)</sup> Sector targets and requirements comprise the Refugee and Migrant Multi-Sector Response Plan (RMMS) figures. RMMS sectoral requirements are estimates, as RMMS assistance may be provided as part of a multi-sector package.

## More integrated response in 2017

While the sector-based response improved considerably in 2016, partners also recognize the need for a stronger integrated response on key issues this year. As a result, the 2017 response strategy identifies six key areas for greater priority and integration in 2017:

- Centrality of protection – integrating protection concerns across the response
- Gender – integrating gender analysis across the response
- Population movements – delivering a standard, predictable response to IDPs and returnees
- Cash-based assistance – analysing risks and supporting an evidence-based expansion of cash or voucher programmes
- Accountability – improving communication with affected people and incorporating their priorities into response planning and implementation
- Linking relief and recovery – delivering a life-saving response that promotes recovery and complements efforts to maintain basic services provided by public institutions.

## Stronger partnerships with national partners and Gulf-based organizations

Targets in the 2017 YHRP are ambitious and achievable. In order to support these achievements, as well as to ensure complementarity with activities outside the YHRP, humanitarian partners will strengthen partnerships with national NGOs (NNGOs). This will include capacity building programmes for up to 150 NNGOs and outreach to new partners to introduce and promote common standards. At the same time, partners will seek to coordinate more closely with Gulf-based organizations who are increasingly implementing aid activities directly or by supporting Yemeni partners. In 2016, Gulf Coordination Council (GCC) countries contributed approximately \$120 million to the coordinated humanitarian effort in Yemen. They also contributed over \$600 million outside the 2016 YHRP response.

*\$17.1 million directly supported national partners in 2016*

## National partners and cash assistance supported in 2016

### One of the largest pooled funds in the world

The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) was 60 per cent funded in 2016. Over \$104 million was received through the Yemen Pooled Fund (YPF), representing 11 per cent of the total and making it one of the largest humanitarian pooled funds in the world.

Some 73 projects were supported and implemented by 34 partners (27 Non-Governmental Organizations –NGOs- and 7 United Nations (UN) agencies). Some \$96.1 million were disbursed, of which 67 per cent (\$64.3m) to NGOs and 33 per cent (\$31.8m) to UN agencies.

Ten donors – including three new donors (Canada, Saudi Arabia and Spain) contributed to the fund in 2016, with UK, Germany, Netherland and Sweden as top donors.

Of the total allocated funds, \$17.1 million directly supported national NGOs (18 per cent of the total) and \$9.5 million supported 50 national organizations through sub granting. The YPF currently has 25 international and 19 national NGO partners eligible to receive funding - all of which were capacity assessed in 2015-16. Besides capacity building for



NFI kits distribution in Hayfan District, Taizz

national partners, cash programming was also promoted as a priority response mechanism with 17 out of the 73 projects using conditional or unconditional cash transfers as a response modality.

In 2017, the Fund has the goal of fundraising 20 per cent more than in 2016 and it also seeks to strengthen the partnerships with non-traditional donors. The Fund also aims to increase the number of eligible NNGOs to at least 30 in 2017. The Fund has begun the year by launching a First Reserve Allocation for the Cholera response worth \$2.7 million.

## Humanitarian Access

### Humanitarian access perceptions

Focus group discussions with humanitarian partners across the five humanitarian hubs in Yemen, Aden, Ibb, Al Hudaydah, Sa'ada, and Sana'a reveal that the factors affecting humanitarian access include conflict related insecurity; poor infrastructure; bureaucratic impediments, such as mission clearances; and local interference or attempted interference in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

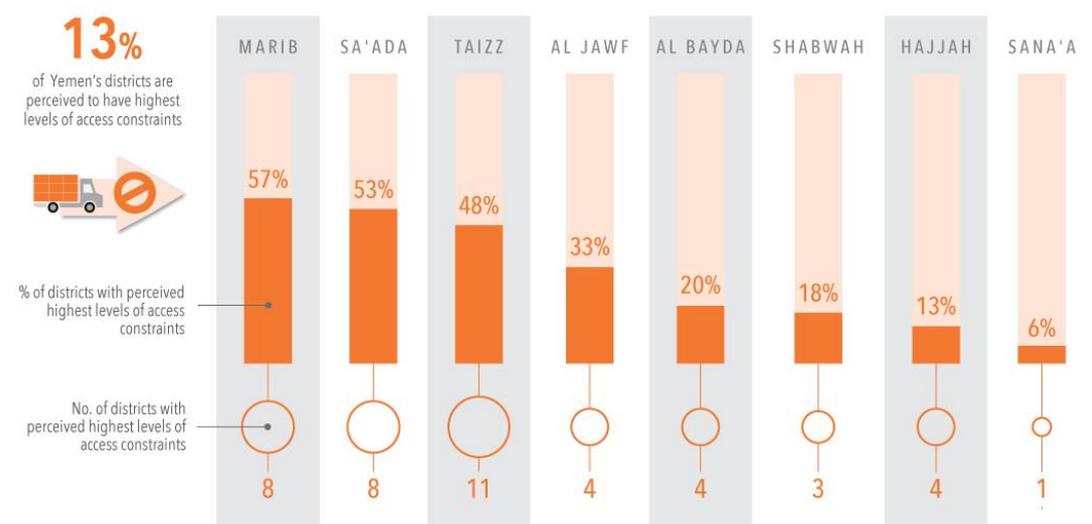
Findings also show that out of the 333 districts in Yemen's 22 governorates, most are perceived accessible to humanitarians. Roughly, 69 per cent of districts in the country are either fully accessible or have relatively low access constraints according to humanitarian organizations that have been working in Yemen over the past year. Approximately 18 per cent of districts are indicated to have "medium access constraints". Only 13 per cent of Yemen's districts (43 in total) are perceived to reach the two highest levels of access constraints. The role of national partners and their increased ability to reach populations in need across Yemen was well noted in the discussions and analysis.

*Some 43 districts in Yemen show high levels of access constraints*

### People in acute need in the most difficult to access districts

The 43 districts gauged to be the most difficult to access, have a population of approximately 2.1 million. More importantly, the population in these districts in acute need of humanitarian assistance as per Yemen's 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) has been assessed to be 1.3 million. This number also includes more than 289,000 IDPs (approx. 48,000 households) located in the conflict-affected governorates of Taizz, Sa'ada, Marib, and Al Bayda, as well as in Hajjah and Al Jawf.

### Governorates with the most districts perceived to have the highest levels of access constraints



Source: UN, INGOs and NNGOs (Dec 2016).

Although Taizz Governorate is perceived to have more districts at the two highest levels of access constraints, the governorates of Marib and Sa'ada both registered higher percentages of districts perceived in the "high access constraints" or "extremely difficult to access" categories. In other words, perceptions show that Marib and Sa'ada, as a whole, are more difficult to access by humanitarians.

In 2017, district level access constraints will be monitored more closely through a series of methodologies to help triangulate perceptions and available evidence as well as through enhanced access monitoring and reporting out of the five humanitarian hubs across the country. Also, humanitarian leadership is actively pursuing improved and less burdensome access procedures with all parties to the conflict, to enable more timely response and improved access across Yemen.

**For further information, please contact:**

**George Khoury**, Head of Office, OCHA Yemen, [khouryg@un.org](mailto:khouryg@un.org)

**Andrew Alspach**, Deputy Head of Office, Amman Hub, [alspach@un.org](mailto:alspach@un.org)

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at [www.unocha.org/yemen](http://www.unocha.org/yemen) | [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) | [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)