

HIGHLIGHTS

- Some 48,000 people displaced by conflict on western coast since January
- Three million people displaced in the last two years
- 120,000 people recently assisted in Taizz and Al Hudaydah
- Seven million people face the threat of famine

FIGURES

Total population 27.4 m

Total people in need of humanitarian assistance 18.8 m

Total people in acute need of humanitarian assistance 10.3 m

of people displaced (IDPs & returnees) 3.0 m

of deaths (WHO) 7,854

of injuries (WHO) 43,416

Source: 2017 HNO and WHO (as of 15 March 2017).

FUNDING

\$2.1 billion requested

\$297.6 million funding against HRP

14.4 per cent funded
(13 April 2017)

Source: FTS, April 2017



A displaced child outside the shelter she shares with her parents in Yemen. Photo credit: OCHA

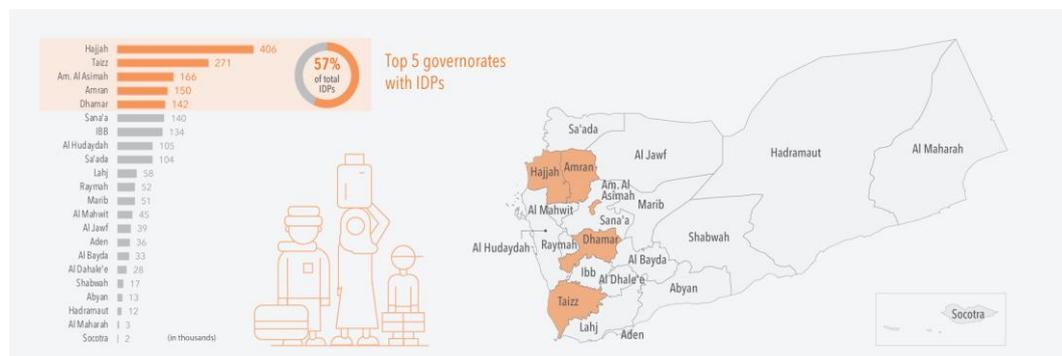
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On-going conflict increases suffering

Two thirds of Yemen's population are now vulnerable and need support

Two years after conflict escalated in Yemen, the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the country has reached a milestone with millions of lives devastated. The country is facing one of the largest food and protection emergencies in the world and there is broad agreement among humanitarian partners that this man-made disaster could reach a point of no-return in 2017. Continued hostilities in the country have been brutal on ordinary people who have borne the brunt of sustained airstrikes and localized fighting. The ongoing military campaign has destroyed the economy and moved an already weak and impoverished country towards social, economic, and institutional collapse.



Numbers of displaced people in Yemen per Governorate (in thousands). Source: TFPM 13 report (Feb 2017).

In the last two years, an estimated three million people have been displaced from their homes. One million of those displaced have provisionally returned home, although often to precarious living conditions. As the conflict drags on, the length of displacement has become prolonged and intensified fighting has resulted in new waves of displacement, especially in western coastal areas. Half of Yemen's population lacks clean water, sanitation and hygiene services, thereby increasing the risk of infectious diseases. Medicines for diabetes, hypertension, cancer and other chronic diseases are in short supply and there are acute shortages of critical medical equipment. For more than six months, health facilities in Yemen like all public sector services, have received irregular financial support to cover operational costs and staff salaries.

The conflict continues to claim children's lives and their futures. Data shows that the number of children killed in conflict increased by 70 per cent, and nearly twice as many children were injured and recruited into the fighting since March 2016 compared to the same period the previous year.

US\$2.1 BN needed to assist 12 MN people

A high level UN pledging event for Yemen will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 25 April

Warring parties need to resolve their differences to end the suffering

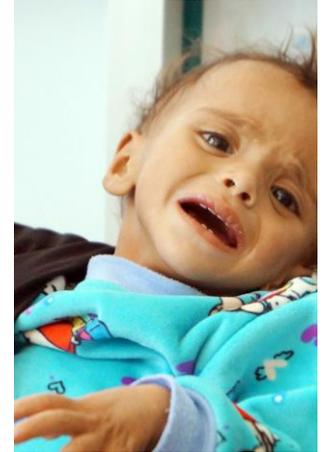
An alarming 18.8 million people - almost two thirds of the Yemeni population - need some kind of humanitarian or protection support. "Words and numbers can't fully describe the scale of suffering, the injustice and pain endured by millions in Yemen", Mr. McGoldrick told reporters in Sana'a recently, adding that a continuation of this conflict increases suffering across Yemen. "The people of Yemen have suffered long enough and no humanitarian response can meet the increasing needs that the war is causing", he said, calling on the warring parties to resolve their differences to end the fighting.

"The international community also needs to step up and provide the much needed US\$2.1 billion to provide life-saving assistance to 12 million Yemenis in 2017", he added.

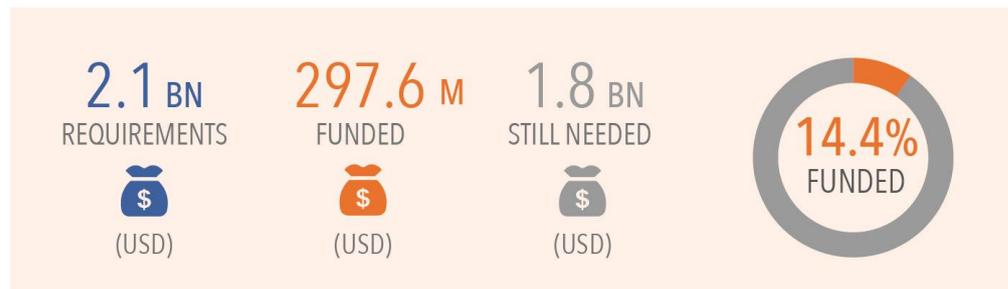
UN High Level Pledging Event on Yemen

On 25 April 2017, the United Nations will hold a [High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen](#). Co-hosted by the Governments of Switzerland and Sweden, the conference will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

As of 13 April, the 2017 Yemen Response Plan was only 14.4 per cent funded.



The number of children killed in conflict has increased sharply in the last year. Photo Credit: OCHA



Current funding status for the 2017 Yemen humanitarian appeal. Source: FTS (April 2017).

Intensified conflict in the western coastal areas

Thousands need assistance and towns are empty or damaged

More fighting in western coastal areas of Taizz Governorate could displace hundreds of thousands of people if it spreads across Al Hudaydah, and hinders operations at Al Hudaydah Port, according to humanitarian partners. The port is a major lifeline for Yemen, which historically has imported 80 to 90 per cent of its food, medicines and fuel. Since the escalation of conflict in March 2015, close to 80 per cent of the reduced level of imports coming into the country have entered Yemen through this port, although its operational capacity has been reduced by airstrikes and the level of imports is much reduced. Official statistics point to only 30 per cent of medicines coming into the country today.

The clashes along the western coastal areas escalated in January 2017 and have continued over the last few months. As of 10 March, more than 48,000 people had been displaced, mainly from Al Mukha and Dhubab districts. Nearly all the IDPs are sheltering in more secure areas of Taizz or Al Hudaydah Governorate. Humanitarian partners are concerned that 200,000 to 500,000 people could be displaced if fighting reaches Al Hudaydah where many districts already host considerable numbers of IDPs who could suffer secondary displacement to neighbouring governorates.

There are concerns that 200,000 to 500,000 people could be displaced if fighting spreads from Taizz to Al Hudaydah governorates

The recent fighting in Taizz City has worsened the livelihoods of displaced people many of whom were already living on the edge

A recent interagency mission found that most of the residents of Dhubab town have been displaced, many along the coast towards Bab Al Mandeb. They have difficulty accessing safe water, adequate shelter, income and health services. Dhubab town, which used to have a population of 8,000 people, is largely empty due to wide-spread destruction of infrastructure and houses as well as UXOs and land mine contamination. Local residents in Al Mukha town said an estimated 40 per cent of houses and infrastructure had been damaged although a large number of people have reportedly returned.

So far, humanitarian partners have assisted nearly 120,000 people, including IDPs, host communities and residents in affected areas. Partners are also providing critical assistance to local water networks and health facilities, as well as offering protection assistance. However, access to the most affected areas of Taizz remains difficult due to ongoing clashes and movement restrictions imposed by parties to the conflict. There is space for more humanitarian and early recovery activities in the town of Al Mukha, where some reconstruction of houses has begun. There is also a need to scale up the response to IDPs and host communities along the southern coastal road to Al Mukha, which is accessible from Aden.

The fighting in Taizz governorate has worsened the suffering of displaced people. Goma'a Hassan who fled her home village with seven children and 16 grandchildren, now lives with her whole family in one house provided by the local community in Al Khawkhah district. Thirty-one other families live in the same village. Goma'a sold her jewellery to pay for transport via the coastal road and is dependent on her neighbours for food.

Displaced and living in destitution

Najood, a 37 year-old widow with seven children, lost her husband in conflict-related fighting. Najood and her family were displaced from Sana'a to Amran two years ago because of an airstrike that hit a nearby target and severely damaged her home.



Najood and her family. Photo Credit: OCHA

Najood's brother had become the main breadwinner after her husband's death before he was injured. She also used to help in neighbouring farms in exchange of some of the crops. However, Najood says that her assistance is not required any more in the farms as the agriculture sector in the area has been affected greatly by the conflict and is no longer active due to a lack of inputs. Najood's two oldest sons have joined the fighting to help provide for the family.

Surviving by begging in the market

Suad Mohammed, who is 40 years old and her five children, fled the war in Sa'ada to Amran where her family now survives by begging. "We go to the market in the morning to beg. We don't usually get much, maximum of 1000 YER (\$3) which we use to buy a kilo of wheat or rice to eat for the day. This is how we get by every day" she said. Suad suffers from eye problems while her daughter suffers from kidney problems. Treatment costs up to YER 8000 (US \$24), but according to Suad: "Treatment isn't a priority for us now. We spend all the money we get on food to feed the kids."



Suad cannot afford the cost of treatment. Photo Credit: OCHA

Child marriage across Yemen is increasing

The conflict has taken a heavy toll on women and girls across Yemen

1.1 million pregnant women malnourished because they lack enough food

Women and girls are among the people who have paid the highest price of conflict in Yemen. Rising food shortages have left an estimated 1.1 million pregnant women malnourished. UNFPA estimates that this threatens the lives of 52,280 women who are likely to develop complications during childbirth and could harm the health of an

estimated 2.2 million women and girls of childbearing age. Only 35 per cent of maternal and newborn health services are currently functioning.

Child marriage does not only deprive girls of a formal education, but is often a marriage to a man with limited education

In 2015, the UN estimated the maternal death rate for Yemen at 385 deaths per 100,000 live births, one of the highest in the Arab region, with over 45 per cent of births taking place at home, without the assistance of a skilled birth attendant, according to the 2013 Demographic Health Survey. This is believed to have risen in the past two years, although official figures are not available. “As the fighting intensified in Sa’ada, my husband and I sought safer ground,” said 20 year old Warda. “I was three months pregnant at this time. I began to bleed heavily. When we reached Amran, my husband rushed me to a mobile clinic. It was too late. I had lost the baby. I went straight into a depression.”

Rising vulnerabilities for women and girls, including child marriages

Women in Yemen were already disadvantaged before the conflict, but now they have lost their protection mechanisms and become increasingly vulnerable to violence and abuse. Incidents of gender-based violence have increased by more than 63 per cent since the conflict escalated, with 2.6 million women at risk, according to UNFPA estimates from January 2017. More than 10,800 incidents of gender-based violence were reported in 2016. Most were cases of psychological and emotional abuse, followed by denial of resources, physical violence, child marriage, rape and sexual assaults. However, the true extent is likely far greater given social norms that discourage reporting.

Child marriage is increasingly reported as families seek dowry to offset economic hardships of conflict. A 2016 thematic assessment by UNFPA and INTERSOS on child marriage found that a trend previously in decline is now soaring. The situation is worsened by the low level or lack of education. Not only are girls who are married off deprived of access to education but are often married off to a man with very limited education. Among displaced families, child marriages have increasingly become a coping strategy as the girl child is taken care of by another family. Interviews with survivors of child marriage showed that the average age of marriage among girls was 15 years, the assessment noted.

“My family forced me to get married and took me out of school,” said 13 year old Aiysha. “I was expected to become pregnant soon after the wedding. I had a really difficult pregnancy and complications during labour. I was rushed to hospital. My baby is fine now, but I am still angry with my family for making me leave school.”

The break down in judicial and social institutions during the crisis has aggravated the threats to girl’s security and wellbeing. The crisis has also left many women and girls to care for their families alone. The [2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) shows that 10.3 per cent of displaced households are headed by females, of which 2.6 per cent are headed by female minors.

The WFP call centre has received 1,700 calls in three months, including 296 from women and girls

Strengthened communications with beneficiaries

Listening to affected communities improves humanitarian programmes

Listening to and understanding the needs of those affected by the crisis is essential for humanitarian organizations to improve response in Yemen. Humanitarians are sparing no effort to assist vulnerable people in Yemen through activities aimed at fighting hunger and treating malnutrition. Part of this effort includes, strengthening communication with affected people to better understand their evolving needs and to ensure they influence humanitarian decision-making. Therefore, a hotline to better understand communities and



The hotline provides critical feedback from affected communities. Photo Credit: OCHA

improve the relationship with affected people has been established.

Calls from affected community members are prioritized by the urgency of the response. For example, a complaint involving a protection concern or sexual harassment requires a response by the relevant personnel unit within three days; while, cases of corruption or selling food assistance, for example, require a response within 10 days.

Nearly three months after it was activated, the hotline has received calls from 1,700 people, including 296 women and girls. Most beneficiaries call requesting inclusion in the distribution lists, to complain about the delay in the distribution of assistance, or to complain about receiving incomplete food baskets. There is a notable difference between complaints coming from male and female beneficiaries.

Listening to affected communities is already resulting in improvements to programmes. The call center's work, managed by WFP, is complemented by daily phone interviews with food distribution focal points and increased presence in the field, using third-party monitors.

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