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Yemen: Escalating Conflict
Situation Report No. 6 (06 May 2015)

This report is produced by OCHA Yemen in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Yemen. It covers the period from 24 April to 6 May. The next report will be issued on or around 9 May. Between situation reports, daily flash updates are issued.

Highlights

- As of 06 May, partners have fuel to support humanitarian operations for one week.
- Health partners report that 11 health care facilities have been destroyed, partially destroyed or are inaccessible, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without access to essential health services.
- There were 2,554 newly displaced families reported in the past ten days.

Overview

Conflict and insecurity continue to be the major obstacle to delivering assistance throughout the country. Humanitarian partners report that stocks available in country could benefit 1.4 million people requiring urgent food aid and 3.5 million people could be vaccinated if safe access for aid workers was guaranteed. Likewise, more than 30,000 people could benefit from emergency shelter and essential non-food items such as cooking sets and sleeping mats.

Food security continued to deteriorate in Yemen during the reporting period as prices continued to increase. Food became less available and most essential food and non-food commodities have disappeared in several parts of the country. The national price of wheat in the last week of April was twice that of pre-crisis levels and has risen by 90 per cent in in heavily conflict affected areas such as Aden and Sa’ada. Banks and post offices have remained closed in many areas since the start of the conflict leaving many people with no access to cash, thereby limiting their ability to purchase the scarce food commodities available in the local markets. Shortages of fuel and water have limited the ability of some conflict-affected households to prepare food.

Fuel remains extremely scarce, with prices five times that of February. Lack of fuel continues to constrain delivery of essential services and humanitarian assistance. As of 6 May, partners estimate that without further supplies of fuel, they will have to cease humanitarian operations within one week. Some partners already report that in many areas they cannot carry out programs or have already had to cease operations due to lack of fuel. As of 3 May, distribution of food was suspended in Haradh District (Hajjah Governorate) and Al Hudaydah Governorate due to...
lack of fuel. Some partners report that they have had to cease operations in several areas to which they cannot transport fuel.

The breakdown in basic service provision has worsened in many areas. Health care facilities face increasing shortages of essential medicines and supplies, frequent disruptions in power supply and lack of fuel for generators. Health providers fear hospitals and blood banks will soon be unable to perform emergency functions if fuel and supplies are not received.

Violence and insecurity also continue to cause staff shortages and limit access to health services. Some facilities, such as the Al Jumhouria Hospital in Aden Governorate, have been directly attacked, while others have been damaged during the hostilities. As of 28 April, 11 health facilities had been destroyed or partially destroyed due to the conflict (in Sa’adah, Taizz, Marib, Aden, Hajjah and Sana’a). In addition, 102 nutrition outpatient therapeutic programs (OTP) have closed. There has been a significant impact on health coverage, with consultations declining 26 per cent in the last week of April as compared to the previous week, and 40 per cent as compared to pre-conflict figures. This has compounded the impact of decreased water and sanitation services, with non-communicable diseases emerging as a significant source of casualties. Over the past four weeks, reported cases of bloody diarrhoea in children below the age of five years has doubled, while cases of measles and suspected malaria have also increased.

Partners report lack of fuel has severely limited the ability of local water and sanitation services to function at full capacity and has created an exceptional demand on humanitarian providers to replace basic services. Many public water systems are non-functional or are operating at reduced capacity. In many districts sufficient fuel is not available to power pumps used to operate public water systems and water trucking is being used instead. Al-Hawta (Lahj Governorate) has been without electricity or a functioning water network since 26 March 2015 when the conflict began. A pipe for supplying public water was damaged due to conflict in Haradh District (Hajjah Governorate) and three pipes were damaged in Aden. On 30 April, Aden’s local water authority reported that it was unable to operate due to heavy shelling in Al Barzakh and Al Karae.

Many people are without electricity for much of the day. In Aden Governorate, the districts of Al Mualla, Craiter and Khormaksar, Al Tawahi have been without electricity for over 15 days. According to residents most of Sa’adah Governorate now has electricity for only three to four hours per day.

Airstrikes continued throughout the reporting period. On 28 April, a strike damaged the runway of Sana’a airport, which is a lifeline for Yemen and key delivery point for humanitarian supplies. The runway of Al Hudaydah airport was also damaged, as was the main road connecting Sana’a with Ibb Governorate.

Displacement

Over 300,000 people are displaced as a result of the conflict in Yemen, with reports supporting higher estimates. Displacement remains fluid, with protection partners identifying 2,554 newly displaced households during the period. Humanitarian partners estimate that at least 150,000 people were displaced as of 17 April but the figure more than doubled by 28 April. Unverified data provided by partners as of 28 April shows that the number of people displaced due to conflict in the 19 governorates has increased significantly.

In Sa’ada, 1,740 households have reportedly been displaced from Sa’ada City and Sahar, As Safra and Saqayn Districts. In Kitaf District (Sa’ada) an additional 570 families have reported been newly displaced. In Aden Governorate, local authorities report that 98 per cent of Khormaksar’s 62,869 residents had left the district. The majority of the residents in Al Mualla are also reported to be leaving. Families in the aforementioned districts have fled to Al Mansura, Ash Shaikh Outhman, and Dar Sad districts, which are reportedly experiencing significant overcrowding and strained resources. These figures have not been verified as conflict and insecurity continue to hinder access.

Over 10,200 Yemenis and third country nationals have also fled to neighbouring countries. Somalia received 3,410 people as of 30 April 2015. In Djibouti, over 8,900 migrants have been registered. Most arrivals in Djibouti (4,700) are third country nationals.

The evacuation of third country nationals out of Yemen has been put on hold following the damage to the airport runway in Sana’a on 28 April. Over 500 third country nationals from over 20 countries have been assisted to leave Yemen on three flights since the conflict escalated.
Casualties

At least 1,278 people were killed between 19 March and 29 April, according to figures compiled from health facilities. Another 5,210 people have been injured, mostly civilians. These, however, are likely to be underestimates. There are also reports of widespread damage to civilian infrastructure across the country, including transportation infrastructure, hospitals, schools and homes. According to international humanitarian law, all parties to conflict are legally obligated to do everything in their power to avoid civilian casualties.

Airstrikes hit residential areas in Sana’a, killing 13 people including 10 women and two children. Fifty people were wounded. Local sources in Aden report random attacks on houses in Al Mansoura. Airstrikes continued in Aden as heavy clashes were reported in Al Dhale’e City and in Lawder District in Abyan. Local authorities reported 10 casualties in Hajjah following hostilities there. Officials in Sa’ada reported three fatalities and 12 injuries on 3 May following airstrikes and armed hostilities.

Priority humanitarian needs

Partners have fuel to support humanitarian operations for only one week. The most urgent need now is for humanitarian and commercial imports of fuel and other basic commodities to resume, especially given the crippling effects of nationwide fuel shortages. Partners report they have capacity to implement programming but are unable due to lack of fuel and insecurity. Sufficient humanitarian access to reach people in need and to deliver essential supplies is crucial in order to meet the rising needs in the food, health, WASH, shelter and nutrition sectors.

Humanitarian access and basic supplies

While partners have continued to deliver much needed assistance during the reporting period, they were limited in their ability to carry out or scale up activities. To continue or scale up the provision of assistance, partners continue to call for humanitarian pauses to allow for aid workers and supplies to be urgently delivered into and moved within Yemen.

Funding

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fully funded the Flash Appeal with a single contribution of US$274 million through the Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund (YHPF). Through the reserve window, the YHPF has also allocated US$10 million to support the response efforts to address additional needs to those of the Flash Appeal. On 1 May, the Humanitarian Coordinator used the US$284 million to fund 26 organizations participating in seven clusters. A snapshot on the allocation was published on 5 May.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service (FTS - http://fts.unocha.org) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org
- Health facilities require WASH support, particularly clean water supply.

Response:
- 16 hygiene kits were distributed to internally displaced people (IDP) families in Taizz
- Hygiene and nutrition awareness are continuing in Hajjah Governorate, 10 sessions were conducted, attended by 83 women, 112 men and 34 children.
- 179 basic hygiene kits and 40 ceramic water filter were distributed to displaced families in Hajjah.
- Partners continued construction of temporary latrines. Twenty latrines were completed in Haiyan District for 180 displaced families and constructing 40 more.
- Water trucking benefited 11,350 IDPs and conflict-affected people in Lahj.
- Twenty one water points were installed (2,000- and 1,000 litre water storage tanks) and connected to existing water schemes in villages where IDPs have moved in Harad and Hayran (Hajjah Governorate), benefitting 623 displaced families; four water tanks (1000 liters each) to two Aden schools hosting IDPs; 500 IDP households and the host community in Al Dhale’e; 10 water tanks were installed in Al Dhale’e District (On 27 April, water trucking began in those 10 locations including the main hospital of Al Dhale’e (Al-Nasr Hospital).
- Partners supported 34,000 litres of water to three hospitals in Taizz City.
- Partners continue to provide safe water to the new IDPs in Al Hudaydah and Hajjah governorates and have reached more than 22,081 individuals in 26 IDP locations. A total 166 cubic meters of safe water is being delivered on daily basis providing each person with at least 8 litres per person per day. Water trucking and hygiene promotion activities continued in 16 schools now housing IDPs, reaching a total of 670 households (3,993 individuals).
- Cluster partner continues to support the operation of the water network in Aden with spare parts and operation and maintenance costs with capacity to reach up to 1 million people.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Partners are reporting that some activities cannot be implemented due to lack of fuel.
- Violence and insecurity has limited access to some areas and caused the suspension of some activities.
- Lack of energy (electricity and fuel) is creating exceptional demand on WASH cluster to replace basic service provision which is not sustainable.
- More water distribution points have been set up in Sana’a, eight in total, to supply 10-20 litres per person per day for 80,000 people. However, local authorities have asked that this distribution be stopped to prevent causing panic about water shortages.

Food Security

Response:
- About 1,095,000 people have received emergency food assistance in eight governorates between 15 April and 4 6 May (Aden, Sana’a, Al Mahwit, Dhamar, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Lahj and Amran).

Gaps & Constraints:
- Food partners report that without additional fuel for humanitarian operations, they will not be able to provide any food assistance at scale. Already, partners have stopped distributions due to lack of fuel in one location and will be forced to stop in further locations if fuel is not received in the next few days.
- Partners report major challenges distributing food assistance given the insecurity and ongoing conflict.

Protection (no updates)

For more details on protection needs, response and gaps, contact Ms Charlotte Ridung (ridung@unhcr.org).
Nutrition

For more details on nutrition needs, response and gaps, contact Dr Saja Abdullah (sabdullah@unicef.org).

Needs:
- Therapeutic nutrition supplies (all locations)
- In-country logistical support, including fuel to ensure maintenance of services (all locations)
- Mobile therapeutic nutrition services where facility-based services have been interrupted.
- Health facilities offering nutrition treatment continue to close in heavily conflict-affected areas. Nutrition partners estimate that at least 102 nutrition outpatient therapeutic programs (OTP) have closed, with 65 of those in Aden and Abyan.

Response:
- During the reporting period, partners deployed 37 mobile teams that reached 1,678 malnourished children under five in conflict-affected areas of Hajjah (Haradh area), Lahj, Taizz, Sana’a, Abyan, Al Dhale’e and Al Bayda Governorates.
- Partners screened 10,632 children under five for malnutrition with 498 diagnosed with and treated for severe acute malnutrition.
- 1,075 children under five received treatment for malnutrition in the reporting period (314 severely malnourished children and 761 moderately malnourished children).
- Partners conducted 1,995 awareness raising sessions, reaching 2,170 households, on reproductive health and child health in Hajjah.
- Partners carried out a nutrition coverage survey (SQUEAC) in Ku’aydinah District of Hajjah.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Partners report that fuel shortages constrain the deployment of mobile teams to some of areas where IDPs are concentrated.
- Access to some IDPs because of security limitations is a concern, particularly in the south.
- As of 1 May, an estimated 102 nutrition outpatient therapeutic programs (OTP) were not functioning.

Shelter, Non-Food Items (NFIs) and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Needs:
- Partners have identified 53 newly displaced families in Sana’a Governorate living in the open and in city tunnels. Families are assessed as been in urgent need of NFIs and emergency shelter assistance.

Response:
- Partners assisted 35 families in Aden with NFIs and emergency shelter materials.
- Partners conducted six needs assessments in Abyan, Al Dhale’e, Taizz, Sana’a and Hajjah governorates.
- Partners have identified 2,519 newly displaced families in need of shelters and NFI in Hajjah and Taizz governorates.

Education

For more details on Education needs, response and gaps, contact Mr Kenji Ohira (kohira@unicef.org).

Needs:
- Education partners highlight the need to provide a safe learning environment for children who have lost access to education due to the conflict. Needs include
provision of learning spaces and materials, and training of teachers in psychosocial support for pupils.

- As many as 1.84 million children still lack access to education.
- Education partners report extensive school closures. Enabling students to finish their end of year exams is a priority to ensure continuity of education.
- 79 schools have been reported damaged and more than 3,650 schools are reported closed due to insecurity. These represent more than 70% of all schools in the affected governorates. In addition, 13 schools were reported damaged in the reporting period.
- Education partners report that 146 schools are occupied by IDPs and 56 schools occupied by armed groups.
- Education sector partners report that IDP children (mostly living with host families) need assistance to join schools in host communities.

Response:

- Education partners are working to identify affected schools and pupils and have worked with District Education Offices (DEOs) to identify and integrate IDP pupils. In the reporting period, a further 2,060 pupils integrated into schools in Taizz and Al Hudaydah.
- Partners have reached at least 270,000 pupils for food assistance in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Al Mahwit, Amran, Dhamar and Sana’a governorates.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Continued insecurity and expansion of conflict in various areas constitute threats to school children’s safety and has caused children to stop attending school and school closures.
- Insecurity, closure of airports, airstrikes, shelling and blocking of roads, and shortage of supplies have made it difficult for partners to obtain and distribute basic school supplies that were due to arrive during the first two weeks of April.

General Coordination

Humanitarian partners planned for a possible humanitarian pause, to allow safe humanitarian access. In Yemen, the Area Humanitarian Coordination Team in Al Hudaydah continues to meet on weekly. Teams in Sa’adah and Aden and Amman are currently coordinating remotely due to the prevailing security situation. The Area Humanitarian Coordination Teams conducted inter-agency assessments and the team based in Sa’adah also developed an Inter-Agency Response Plan for its hub.

For questions on the coordination structure, contact Ms AnnMarie Ask (aska@un.org).

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