

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 29 May – 4 June 2018 | Issue 18

KEY ISSUES:

- The inter-cluster assessment team completes its mission to Nowgd area in Socotra
- The humanitarian community prepares for a possible increase in displacement along the western coast
- The number of vessels that discharged cargo at Red Sea Ports has increased by 55 per cent in May compared to previous month

THE RESPONSE TO CYCLONE “MEKUNU” CONTINUES IN SOCOTRA

Three flights carrying humanitarian assistance, including food, medicine and blankets have arrived in Socotra as of 31 May. The WFP consignment included 10 MT of Immediate Response Ration (IRR) kits- a specialized kits of ready to eat food for one week and 4.5 MT of High Energy Biscuits. WHO shipped 30 MT of medical supplies which were handed over to local health authorities.

The inter-cluster assessment team that visited Qalansya District confirmed the critical need for WASH, food, non-food items and health interventions. Needs, however, stem from pre-existing vulnerabilities as no major impact resulted from the cyclone, except for limited damage to infrastructure.

On 1 June, the inter-cluster assessment team visited Nowgd area (115 Kms South of Hadibo). Astero, Bادهولا and Zahiқ (located in the southern part of the island) are the most affected locations that the team was able to visit. It is estimated that in these areas 90 per cent of the population are in need for food and WASH assistance and some 1,500 families require shelter and non-food items.

According to the Governor’s office, Socotra might be at risk of hunger unless immediate resources are mobilized to cover the food stock gap created as result of the cyclone. Seven ships carrying food stock for the period of monsoon reportedly sank with the food consignment onboard. In few weeks, sailing across sea will not be possible due to the strong winds and the island will be only accessible via the airport.

Currently, there is no stock of wheat flour and sugar and only low quantities of rice and other critical commodities. As of 4 June, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has brought in 70 MT of food ration, 500 tents, 3,000 blankets and 1,000 carpets. Kuwait relief agencies including the Kuwait Red Crescent have so far brought in 20 MT of food ration and on-food items.

The situation in Al Mahara Governorate, which was also hit by Cyclone “Mekunu” appears to have stabilised although some areas are still flooded. Agricultural equipment and warehouses were damaged in Al Ghaydah. ICRC reports 20 persons injured and four dead (two in Hawf and two in Al Ghaydah). The roads in and between Hadramaut and Al Maharah Governorates are reportedly partly damaged or blocked by floods, rocks or quicksand.



Relief flight in Socotra. Photo: UNOCHA

INTENSIVE FIGHTING APPROACHES AL HUDAYDAH CITY AMID FEARS OF INCREASED HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

Heavy fighting continued along Yemen’s western coast during the reporting period, localised displacement is being reported with communities moving to nearby areas during clashes and returning home after the violence has subsided. Humanitarian partners are concerned that as the fighting draws closer to more populated areas, including Al Hudaydah City, the humanitarian impact of the conflict will increase, particularly in terms of displacement.

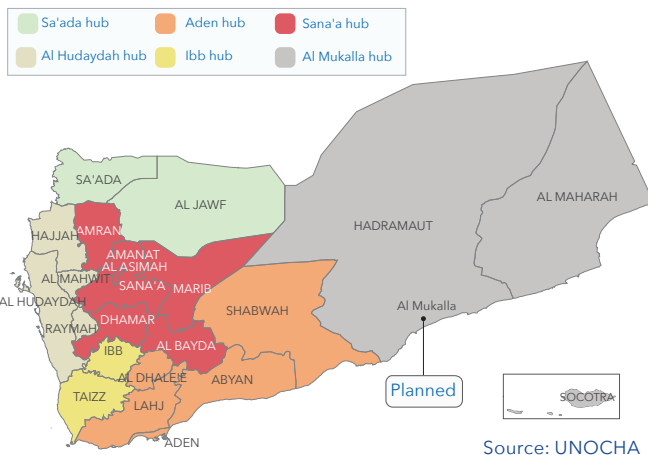
There are reports of mines being laid in areas of conflict, which would have a long-term impact on local communities. Preparedness measures such as prepositioning of relief supplies in key locations is underway to ensure timely assistance to the populations who may be affected by the fighting.

UPDATES FROM THE HUBS

Sa'ada: Nutrition cluster partners are looking into ways to scale up the response to Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and other nutrition related activities in eight priority districts in Sa'ada Governorate and 12 priority districts in Al Jawf Governorate. In the latter, the Nutrition Cluster will activate MAM and SAM treatment in 12 health facilities and seven mobile clinics.

Following heavy rains on 2 June, floods in the districts of Al Maton, Al Hazm, Az Zahir, Al Matammah and Al Humaydat in Al Jawf Governorate have reportedly damaged houses, farms, water wells, and roads. A total of 326 households have reportedly been affected by the floods among them 66 displaced families in Al Maton District. A local partner of WFP and UNICEF is conducting a rapid assessment of needs in the affected districts. With more rains and floods reported, the number of affected population is expected to increase.

Governorates covered by the humanitarian hubs



Aden: As of 27 May, the total number of families displaced to areas accessible by the Aden hub has reached 18,142 households (HHs). According to a Displacement Tracking Monitoring report, the displacement increased by 2,150 HHs (925 HHs from conflict areas and 1,225 due to the natural disasters). The majority of the IDPs assisted are from Socotra

(1,000 HHs 47 per cent of whom due to the tropical storm Mekunu), Al Hudaydah (919 HHs, 43 per cent), Hadramaut (217 HHs) and Shabwah (6 HHs). The number of IDPs reported in Al Tuhayat District, Al Hudaydah Governorate, is still under validation. The health department in Jeshan District reports a total of 10 measles cases since the beginning of May, including four- one of them fatal - in the last ten days. A vaccination campaign in the district was conducted in May.

Yemen's oil company in Aden has approved a new pricing for fuel, which raises the price of a litre of gasoline from YER 185 to YER 325, an increase of 75 per cent. No change in prices have been reported in Hadramaut and Shabwah Governorates.

Ibb: Local health authorities have reported 195 suspected measles cases in different districts of Ibb Governorate, with two suspected associated deaths in Ar Radmah District. Two INGOs have started a rapid response, and coordination is ongoing with all partners for a broader response. A total of 20 suspected cholera cases were reported in Khawdan village in Yareem District with two associated deaths. The Health Cluster is following up.

The security situation inside Taizz city remains volatile, on 2 June, the representative of the Ministry of Planning in the city reportedly survived an assassination attempt. Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation remains critical all over Taizz Governorate, and especially within Taizz City, where food distribution remains suspended due to disagreements over beneficiaries list.

Al Hudaydah: Recent statistics by UNVIM show a 55 per cent increase in the number of vessels discharged at Al Hudaydah sea ports during the month of May (31 vessels) comparing to previous month (20 vessels). Also, during the month of May, food discharged in sea ports increased by 123 per cent with almost 400,000 MT.WHO delivered a total of 200,600 litres of fuel supplies to hospitals in Al Hudaydah (147,000 litres), Al-Mahweet (17,000 litres), Hajjah (26,100 litres) and Raymah (10,500 litres) during the reporting period.

CIVILIAN IMPACT MONITORING

The latest Civilian Impact Monitoring report issued by the Protection Cluster for the period 24-30 May indicates that the number of incidents with a civilian impact in the governorates covered by the Sa'ada hub increased from 9 to 19, mostly airstrikes, with civilian casualties increasing from 3 to 39. These were mainly the result of two mass-civilian casualty airstrikes: an airstrike on Bedouin tents in Majz District on 24 May which killed six civilians and injured 4, and an airstrike on the main road in Sa'adah City on 26 May that killed four civilians, including three children, and injured 18.

In the governorates covered by the Sana'a hub, two airstrike-caused incidents were reported, but all the 20 casualties (5 fatalities and 15 injuries) were reported

in one single incident, an airstrike on a fuel station in Sana'a City on 26 May.

In the governorates covered by the Al Hudaydah hub, the number of civilian impact incidents increased from 7 to 12. Four incidents were reported in Ad Durayhimi District, 3 in Zabid, and 1 in Al-Tuhayat. Two-thirds of the incidents were caused by airstrikes (8 of 12), three by landmines, all of which were in Ad Durayhimi, and one by shelling, in Hays district. Civilian casualties also rose from 19 to 23. Landmines were the primary cause, resulting in 11 fatalities, all in Ad Durayhimi District.

Besides, airstrikes on Al-Hudaydah port, which caused damage to the dockside, has a potential impact on all

455,571 households in the governorate, though the port remains operational.

The number of civilian impact incidents in the governorates covered by the Sana'a hub was fairly consistent with the previous week, with two incidents recorded in the reporting period, a slight decrease from the three incidents in the previous week. The two incidents were in Sana'a governorate and Sana'a capital and were caused by airstrikes. The number of

civilian casualties also decreased, falling from 23 to 20. Of these, five were fatalities and 15 were injuries. They were all the result of single incident, two airstrikes that hit a fuel run by the state-owned Yemen Petroleum Company (YPC) in Al-Wahdah district on 26 May. Among those killed were a woman and a child, and at least two children were among the injured civilians. In Marib Governorate, a low level of clashes was reported in Sirwah District but no civilian impact incidents were recorded.

WORLD BANK REPORT ON CHALLENGES TO FOOD IMPORTS IN YEMEN

The biggest challenge to food security in Yemen is weakened demand, according to a new World Bank report (<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/125815-WP-PUBLIC-YemenReportFinalAprilcompressed.pdf>) on the financial and logistical constraints the private sector is facing to importing basic food commodities into Yemen. Food importers, wholesalers and retailers have identified the drop in purchasing power as a key challenge to their businesses. According to the report, access to foreign exchange has also emerged as a key constraint faced by food importers, with limited availability and rising costs being the most pressing challenges.

Additionally, difficulties withdrawing and transferring bank funds have eroded trust in the banking system and contributed to the rise of money exchanges as

Total quantity of wheat and rice imports to Yemen from the world during 2014 to Sep 2017 (Metric Tons)

Commodity (MT)	2014	2015	2016 ¹	2017 (Jan-Sep) ²	(in millions)
Wheat	3.17	2.94	2.87	2.67	
Flour	0.04	0.26	0.20	Combined with wheat	
Rice	0.44	0.44	0.37	0.37	

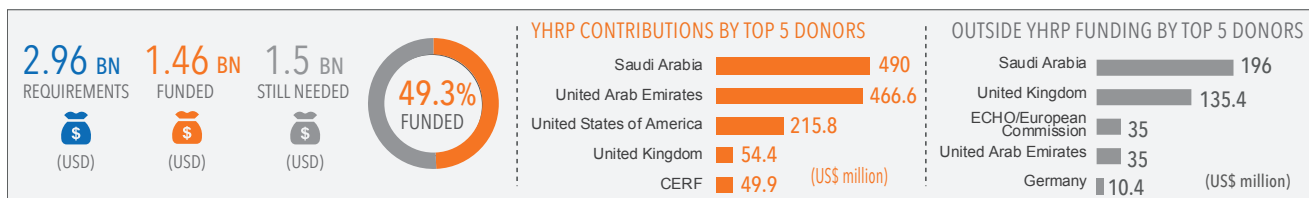
Source: (1) Yemen Customs Authority (2) SIEG Calculation

the major provider of finance - which comes with greater costs and risks. Finally, the report notes that food importers are facing logistical challenges that include the disruption of access to key ports such as Al Hudaydah, Aden, and Saleef and rising costs due to delays in obtaining clearances for incoming ship.

FUNDING UPDATE:

As of 28 May 2018, the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) is 49.3 per cent funded with US\$1.46 billion received against the overall requirements of \$2.96 billion. An additional \$422 million has been mobilized outside the framework of the YHRP.

Top donors to humanitarian programmes within and outside the framework of the YHRP include, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, United States of America and the United Kingdom.



Source: FTS/Yemen

OPERATIONAL PRESENCE UPDATE

Some 156 international and national partners in January through April were actively coordinating to assist people with the acutest needs in priority districts across Yemen's 22 governorates. Together they have supported over 7.4 million people monthly with some form of humanitarian assistance.

For a breakdown of the needs and response by sector, read our Yemen Humanitarian Dashboard available on the following link: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_yemen_humanitarian_dashboard_jan_to_apr_2018.pdf

UNVIM UPDATE

During the period from 23-29 May 2018, nine vessels discharged 120,257 MT of cargo at Yemen's Red Sea ports of Al Hudaydah and Saleef.



85,753 MT



30,620 MT



13,884 MT

Source: UNVIM

For further information, please contact:

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