

KEY ISSUES:

- The humanitarian community is responding to needs following an escalation in fighting on the west coast.
- Humanitarian responses to the impact of Cyclone 'Mekunu' have been scaled up on Socotra Island.
- Deconfliction notifications submitted by OCHA on behalf of UN agencies to the Evacuation and Humanitarian Operations Committee (EHOC) have reached 10,000 since 2015.
- The first containerized cargo vessel to be granted access to Al Hudaydah port since November 2017 arrived on 26 May.

FIGHTING ESCALATES ON THE WEST COAST

Armed clashes are continuing along the Al Hudaydah coastline with significant advancement by forces supported by the Saudi-led Coalition (SLC) towards Al Hudaydah City. As of 28 May, fierce clashes were continuing between armed elements in Ad Durayhimi District. Intensive airstrikes were reported in areas where clashes are ongoing as well as in At Tuhayat District.

No major displacement has been observed during the reporting period. Since 12 May, an estimated 750 households have fled military operations mostly from Al Haymah and the outskirts of Al Tuhayat District to Bayt Al Faqiah, Zabid and Al Garrahi Districts. As frontlines shift quickly in areas where fighting is taking place, people living in these areas are understood to be mainly relocating within the same districts before returning to their villages once the violence has subsided.

140,000 more people are at risk of displacement

Humanitarian partners estimate that some 140,000 more people are at risk of being displaced from the three southern Al Hudaydah districts - Zabid, Al Garrahi and At Tuhayat. If the conflict reaches Al Hudaydah City, projections are that an additional 200,000 people are likely to be displaced, mostly within Al Hudaydah Governorate.

Humanitarian partners in Aden and Al Hudaydah hubs have ramped up the delivery of assistance to accessible areas and are refining contingency plans in anticipation that humanitarian needs will increase as the conflict expands across the west coast. In Al Khawkhah and Hays Districts, needs have become increasingly stabilized by the growing engagement of Aden-based responders. During the reporting period, food, NFI, WASH, and cash assistance has been delivered to displaced families sheltering in Jabal Ra's, Zabid and Bait Al Faqiah districts, as well as in Al Hudaydah City. Despite shifting frontlines and intensified airstrikes, more resources and capacity are being mobilized to sustain the ongoing humanitarian response. Negotiations to access people in need, regardless of where they are, are continuing from all concerned hubs. This includes facilitating and negotiating humanitarian access to populations caught behind frontlines or trapped by crossfire.

Escalating clashes reported in Taizz Governorate

As far as the situation in Taizz Governorate is concerned, armed clashes have reportedly intensified in the eastern parts of Taizz City and in the western front in Maqbanah and Al-Ma'afir Districts. The Ibb Health Sub-Cluster is supporting three frontline hospitals (Al-Barh and Hajdah Hospitals in Maqbanah District and Aoon Hospital in Sharaab Al-Salam District) with medical supplies to prepare for the possible casualties from areas affected by violence. The shift in frontlines in western Taizz has, however, opened humanitarian access to Al Wazi'iah and Mawza Districts from the cities of Al Turba and Aden.

Al Hudaydah governorate



AFTERMATH OF CYCLONE MEKUNU

In order to respond to the needs created by the impact of cyclone “Mekunu” humanitarian partners are dispatching a consignment of emergency supplies to Hadibo including 10.5 Mt of food supplies, emergency medical supplies, 1,000 shelter/NFI kits, 4,000 hygiene kits, 35 water bladders and supplies of chlorine to purify water. A UN team is scheduled to fly to Socotra on 29 May to work with the local authorities in further assessing needs and coordinating response efforts. OCHA Flash Update on cyclone “Mekunu” can be found here: <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-cyclone-mekunu-flash-update-2-27-may-2018>



Flooding in Socotra during Cyclone Mekunu. Photo: AlJanob

UPDATES FROM THE HUBS

Aden: Humanitarian partners in the Aden Hub have conducted several assessments and are scaling up their response to needs in the southern governorates. A recent humanitarian mission to Mukalla found that new IDPs, of whom women and children are the most-affected, urgently need health care, food, education for children, safe portable water and shelter support and dignity kits for women. In Abyan and Lahj governorates, a response to the recent rapid needs assessment conducted by an INGO is ongoing. Sub-national clusters have provided hygiene kits, water supplies, food rations, psychosocial support, cash assistance, health support, and nutrition assistance through mobile teams. Given the fact that the hub is coordinating the response to needs in Socotra Island caused by cyclone “Mekunu” – and some of the supplies might be diverted to the Hudaydah response - the team is reviewing the status of the relief stock.

Ibb: Reports from Al Mafeer District in Taizz Governorate indicate that heavy rains affected an IDPs hosting site, with around 580 tents completely or partially destroyed, resulting in a need for shelter and non-food items. In Mawza District, a local partner assessed 300 IDP households and found that food is urgently needed, health facilities are not functional, and access to water a concern. In Al Turbah City, a field hospital is being established with support of an INGO and is expected to be operational next week. It will have a capacity of about 50 beds, an Intensive Care Unit, two operations rooms and a laboratory. The hospital will ease the pressure on the public and private hospitals in Al-Shamaytain District, which is hosting a significant number of IDPs from other conflict-affected districts in Taizz Governorate.

Sa’ada: UNICEF reported that it has distributed medical supplies to 60 health facilities in Sa’ada and

20 in Al Jawf Governorates. The distribution, which commenced in March and is funded by World Bank, provided mother and child health, basic medical and first-aid kits to cover the needs of each health facility for one year. A six-day training was also conducted for 120 medical staff from 60 health facilities in 15 districts in Sa’ada Governorate, focusing on nutrition protocols and best practices. In Sa’adah City, UNFPA has provided Al Jumhori Hospital with three reproductive health kits, including drugs used for the caesarean section in the hospital. These drugs will cover reproductive health needs for six months.

Sana’a: Four civilians were reportedly killed and nine others injured by airstrikes that struck the Yemen Petroleum Company’s main petrol station in Sana’a City, on 26 May. Women and children are understood to have been among the casualties. In Marib governorate, the health office confirmed that five civilians were killed and 22 others sustained injuries in an explosion at a local market in the densely populated Al Mujama’a area in Marib City on 22 May. Meanwhile, two WHO-chartered planes carrying over 21 MT of essential medicines arrived in Sana’a airport during the reporting period. The supplies include trauma kits for 3,200 patients requiring surgical care, medicines to treat some non-communicable diseases and cholera. A UNICEF plane delivered life-saving vaccines for over six million children.



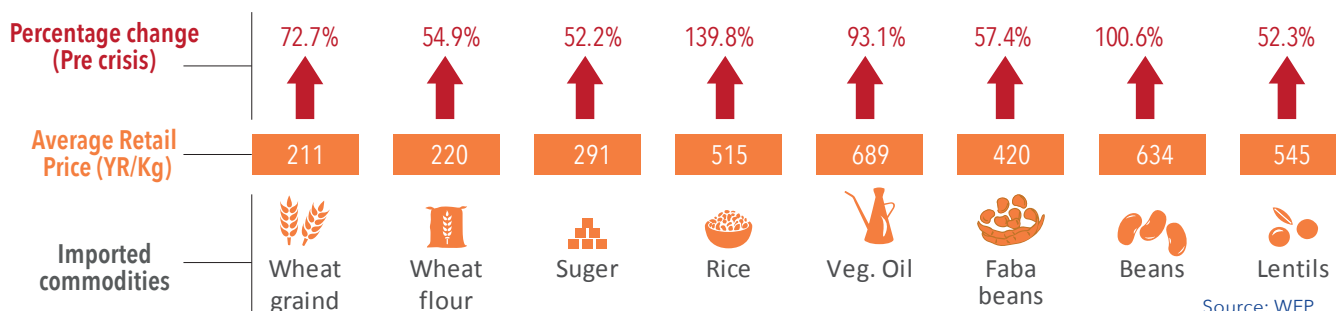
WHO supplies. Credit WHO Yemen

CHANGES IN PRICES OF IMPORTED FOOD COMMODITIES

The average monthly retail prices of various imported basic food commodities increased in April 2018 compared to the previous month, according to the April 2018 Market Monitoring Bulletin which is jointly produced by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) and FAO, with support from the EU. The price of wheat grains showed the highest increase of 2.7 per cent followed by vegetable cooking oil at 2.5 per cent. Prices remained stable in Al Hudaydah and Dhamar Governorates, but a sharp increase was recorded in Shabwah, Al Bayda, Ibb and Aden. Rice prices were unchanged in Ibb, Al Bayda, Shabwah and Al Dhale’e, but increased in Al Hudaydah, Dhamar and Hadramaut Governorates.

From January to March 2018, more than one million MT of various food items (wheat grain and flour, sugar, rice, milk and cooking oil) were imported into Yemen through Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Saleef and Al Mukalla. However, according to the Market Monitoring Bulletin, the proportion of food imports through Hudaydah and Saleef ports has declined compared to period January to October 2017. The reduction is partly due to the fact that no containerized cargo has reached Al Hudaydah port since November 2017.

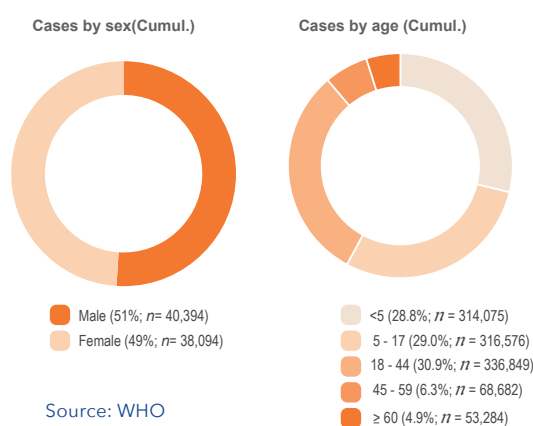
Average Retail Price (YR/Kg) of Imported commodities and per cent change with pre-crisis



CHOLERA RESURGENCE IN SOME DISTRICTS

WHO reports that 10 out of the 100 high priority districts in the cholera response have reported an increase in the number of cases in the past four weeks. The increase, which has come despite ongoing interventions, is mainly attributed to poor WASH facilities and the arrival of the rainy season. Health and WASH Cluster partners recently finalised a preparedness and response plan that builds on lessons learnt from the 2016/17 cholera epidemic, in anticipation that current rains could trigger another epidemic.

According to WHO, from 27 April 2017 to 20 May 2018, a cumulative total of 1,100,720 suspected cholera cases have been reported with 2,291 associated deaths.



UN DECONFLICTION NOTIFICATIONS REACH 10,000

On 27 May, deconfliction notifications submitted by OCHA on behalf of UN agencies since April 2015 to the Saudi-led Coalition's (SLC) Evacuation and Humanitarian Operations Committee (EHOC), reached 10,000. These notifications range from land, air, sea movement requests to UNHAS flight schedules for UN agencies that operate in Yemen. A separate numbering system is used for INGOs; whose total requests since 17 April have reached more than 1,000.

The deconfliction mechanism informs the SLC of humanitarian movements and locations in Yemen to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian premises, personnel, equipment and activities in areas of active military operations. It was established in April 2015 upon the request of the Humanitarian Country Team in Sana'a. In April 2018, some 1,146 deconfliction requests were submitted, reflecting an increase of 27 per cent compared to March. Of these, 1,067 were acknowledged and nine returned due to reasons ranging from incorrect information to rescheduling.

UNVIM UPDATE

During the period from 16 to 22 May 2018, three vessels discharged 59,480 MT of cargo at Yemen's Red Sea port of Al Hudaydah. WFP reports that the first containerized cargo vessel to be granted permission to access Al Hudaydah port since November 2017 arrived at the port on 26 May, carrying 581 containers of vegetable oil to be distributed in the month of June.



Source: UNVIM