

# HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 12 June – 9 July 2018 | Issue 20

## KEY ISSUES:

- Eleven people were killed by an airstrike in Sa'ada, including nine children, as violence continues in several governorates.
- The UN verified 842 cases of the recruitment and use of boys as young as 11 years old in 2017. Also verified was the killing and maiming of 1,316 children.
- Commodity imports improved in May, leading to better supply and availability in most local markets but prices remained high.
- The Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) has completed a reserve allocation for US\$90m.

## AIRSTRIKES AND ARMED CLASHES CONTINUE IN SEVERAL GOVERNORATES

Fighting in Al Hudaydah has overshadowed ongoing clashes in other governorates of Yemen. During the reporting period, an airstrike hit a wedding party in Al Dhaher District, Sa'ada Governorate, reportedly killing 11 civilians, including nine children and two women. Other airstrikes and clashes with casualties were reported in Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates. In addition, two schools were damaged in Amran Governorate. Under international humanitarian law, parties to the conflict are obliged to do everything possible to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.

A new front was reported in Hayfan District, Taizz Governorate which could impact movement on the Taizz-Aden road. Armed clashes continued in Maqbanah district. Inside Taizz City, two civilians were reportedly killed by shelling in a residential area in Al Camp neighbourhood. An attack on a military compound in Buraiqah, outside Aden city, raised tensions among various parties after weeks of relative calm.



Sa'ada Governorate continues to experience widespread violence.  
Photo: OCHA

## IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON CIVILIANS' REPORT

During the reporting period, the Protection Cluster published its latest report on the impact of the conflict on civilians, showing that from December 2017 to May 2018, 844 incidents of armed violence with civilian impact were recorded in Al Hudaydah, Sa'ada, Sana'a and Marib governorates. The recorded incidents resulted in 1,828 civilian casualties, of which 26 per cent were women and children.

More than half a million households experienced restricted access to basic services including health and education, and more than 50,000 experienced restricted access to food and water as infrastructure was targeted by violence. Sa'ada Governorate experienced the greatest civilian impact, with more incidents than all other governorates combined.

## CHILD RECRUITS AND CASUALTIES OF WAR

The latest [report](#) of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict was published, showing that from January to December 2017, the UN verified 842 cases of the recruitment and use of boys as young as 11 years old by various parties to the conflict in Yemen. The children were mainly used to guard checkpoints and government buildings, for patrolling, fetching water and bringing food and equipment to military positions. However, 76 children were used as combatants.

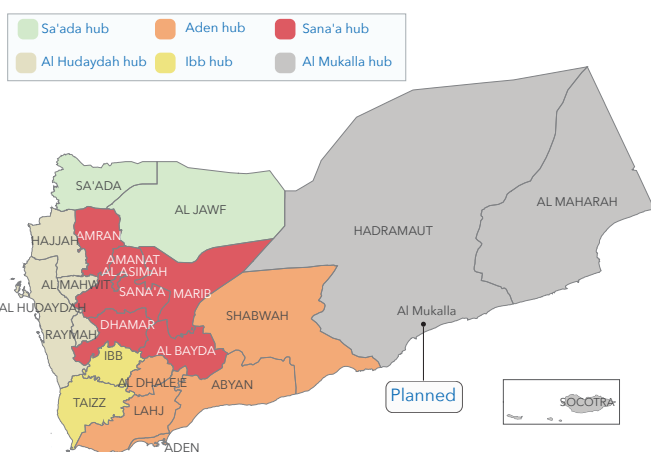
Also verified was the killing and maiming of 1,316 children (552 killed: 398 boys, 154 girls; 764 maimed: 549 boys, 215 girls), during ongoing conflict. Of these casualties, 51 per cent were caused by air strikes. The highest numbers of child casualties were documented in Taizz and Sa'ada governorates. The report noted a marked decrease in verified attacks on schools and hospitals compared to 2016, when 48 schools and 23 hospitals were partially or completely destroyed. Some 20 attacks on schools and 11 on hospitals were verified. Eight incidents of use of schools by the military were noted.

## UPDATES FROM THE HUBS

**Al Hudaydah Hub:** The Health Cluster reports that an increasing number of health facilities in Al Hudaydah are temporarily closing down due to ongoing fighting in the governorate. Seven facilities (one health centre in Al Mina, three health units in Bayt Al Faqiah, one health centre and two health units in At Tuhayat) have temporarily closed or suspended operations. Some activities at a health centre in Jabal Ra's are also temporarily suspended and the nursery unit of Al Salkhana Hospital (Al Hali District) temporarily closed due to staff displacement. According to the cluster, 243 trauma-related injuries and 25 deaths were reported between 13-29 June in five hospitals. Overall casualty figures are likely to be higher.

The Education Cluster reports that a significant number of IDP children in Al Hudaydah and Sana'a have not been able to sit their Grade 9 and 12 examinations. Despite some schools opening in Al Hudaydah City

### Governorates covered by the humanitarian hubs



Source: UNOCHA

to allow the examinations to take place, only 50 per cent of children sat the tests. The low turn-out is attributed to fear among parents to send their children to the examination centres during ongoing hostilities. In Hajjah Governorate, armed confrontations are continuing around coastal areas of Midi district and towards neighbouring Hayran District as well as parts of Haradh District.

**Sa'ada:** During the reporting period, humanitarian partners provided a wide range of assistance to people in need in Sa'ada Governorate. UNHCR completed the distribution of rental subsidies to 1,900 households in the old city in Sa'adah and 800 in Razih, each receiving YR 100,000. UNICEF distributed 200 water tanks and 280 hygiene kits to vulnerable families in the old city, and reported that 50 per cent of school rehabilitation works have been completed in Sahar, Saqayn and Kitaf districts; to benefit 3,500 children. WFP has concluded the June general food distribution for 103,379 households (620,274 individuals) in Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates.

Two water projects in Sahar district were handed over by UNICEF to the General Authority of Rural Water and Sanitation Projects (GARWASP); one in Rabee' area to benefit 3,000 individuals and another in Bani Owair Thu Henaish area to benefit 3,900 individuals. On 28 June, UNICEF started distributing 200 water tanks to vulnerable residents of the old city in Sa'ada. There are also plans to implement seven water projects in Al Jawf Governorate to benefit 7,000 individuals and rehabilitate WASH facilities in 23 health facilities.

**Ibb Hub:** In response to the fighting in Al Hudaydah, partners in the hub have prepositioned stocks to cater for a possible influx of up to 1,000 displaced households. Hundreds of displaced families have been verified and assistance has been delivered to them. Forty families that were aboard 10 minibuses from Al Hudaydah heading to Aden, got stranded in Al Qaidah City in Taizz, but have either found their way to Aden or are sheltering within Taizz. ACTED has assisted at least 603 displaced households.

Distribution of food vouchers resumed in Taizz City (Al-Mudhaffar and Al Qahirah districts) after it was halted in February 2018 following lack of clarity on beneficiary numbers. This is a single distribution as an assessment is being conducted to inform future food distribution. Food distribution is also ongoing in Salah District inside Taizz City through local partners.

**Aden Hub:** The total number of families displaced from conflict areas to places within the Aden Hub reached 19,055 households as of 4 July, an increase of almost 2,800 households or 13 per cent since 24 June. The increased displacement is mainly driven by the situation in Al Hudaydah. During the reporting period, humanitarian partners in the Aden Hub delivered assistance to newly displaced people including shelter and NFIs to about 500 families recently displaced to Al Khawkha and Hays districts in Al Hudaydah, and prepositioned and additional 1,000 kits to cater for any additional IDPs caseload.

Following a request by the Government to provide food assistance to the Island of Socotra after the loss of the stocks caused by tropical cyclone "Mekunu", WFP has provided 5,000 MT of wheat flour which is currently under delivery and distribution in Socotra. Meanwhile, the Turkish Health Ministry has set up two field hospitals in Aden and Taizz. The hospitals will provide emergency intervention, surgery, intensive care, laboratory and x-ray services.

**Sana'a Hub:** The Protection Cluster released its civilian impact monitoring report for the Sana'a region, highlighting four incidents involving airstrikes in three governorates. Two incidents were recorded in Sirwah in western Marib, the others took place in Sana'a governorate's Nihm and Bilad Al-Rus districts. No casualties were reported but residential houses were damaged.

## AVAILABILITY AND PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES

The levels of commodity imports improved in May, leading to better supply and availability in local markets across most of the governorates but prices remained high and slightly increased from April. According to WFP's Market Watch Report, about 733,000 MT of food commodities were imported into Yemen – 60 per cent through Al Hudaydah and Al Saleef ports and 40 per cent through Aden port, bringing the total amount of imported food commodities from January to May to 2.3 million MT. These food commodities, together with in-country available stocks, are expected to cover the national food requirement for about three to four months starting from June.

The average cost of the monthly minimum food basket in May slightly rose by about one per cent from April 2018, and was 65 per cent higher than in pre-crisis period. The persistent high prices of food commodities was largely due to factors that include higher demand

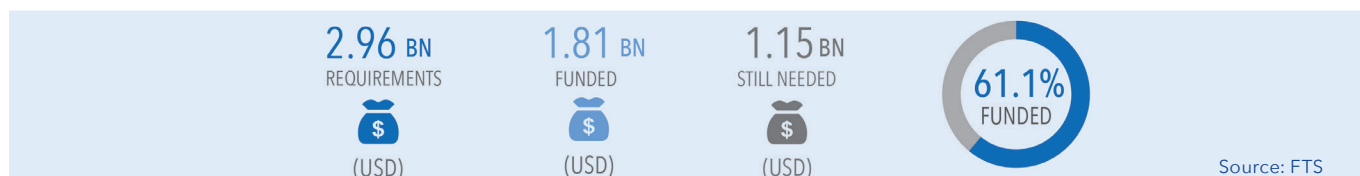
during the month of Ramadan; increased transportation costs due to high prices of fuel; movement restrictions and insecurity associated with the ongoing conflict and airstrikes that affected the functioning of markets; lack of credits for traders and the rapid depreciation of the Yemeni Rial.

Around 285,000 MT of fuel commodities were imported in May, leading to better availability in most of the country. Over the previous five months, about 1.4 million MT of fuel commodities have been imported into Yemen. With the monthly national fuel requirement estimated at 533,000 MT, the current monthly average quantity of imported fuel covers approximately 54 per cent of the needs. Although most of the governorates continued to experience scarcity of fuel, the situation in others has improved. Overall prices of fuel commodities have stabilized across most governorates.

## FUNDING UPDATE:

As of 6 July 2018, the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) is 61.1 per cent funded with US\$1.81 billion received against the overall requirements of \$2.96 billion. An additional \$644 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, the United Kingdom and Kuwait.

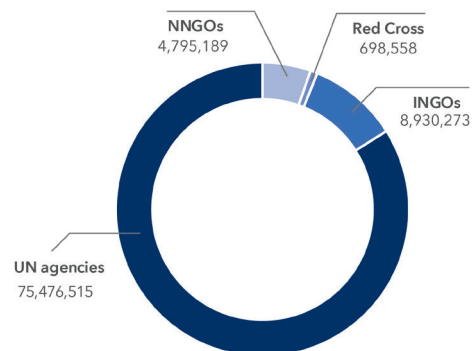


## Yemen Humanitarian Fund Reserve Allocation

The Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) has completed a reserve allocation for US\$90m to cover clusters' preparedness gaps, the scaling-up of nutrition services for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) country-wide, and increased health preparedness and response in Al-Hudaydah Governorate to address the ongoing emergency. The preparedness programmes include capacity-building of partners and procurement and pre-positioning of essential supplies to meet growing humanitarian needs. This allocation will support 27 projects implemented by seven UN agencies, 12 NGOs and one Red Crescent organisation. Overall, almost five million people in need are expected to benefit from these programmes.

OCHA Yemen manages the YHF that allows governments and private donors alike to pool their contributions to support the emergency response. The fund operates in alignment with the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP), with the objective of expanding the delivery of humanitarian assistance by focusing on critical priorities and needs. Since January 2018, the Fund has received the generous contributions from 22 donors, amounting to \$122 million.

## Reserved allocation breakdown per partner



## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

The Yemeni Rials (YER) continued to depreciate in May 2018 against foreign currencies, according to WFP's Market Watch Report for May 2018.

The national monthly average exchange rate in May 2018 stood at 486 YER/USD, and generally remained unchanged since April, but lost about 126% of its pre-crisis purchasing power. The governorate level patterns indicate that exchange rates in May ranged from 482YER/USD in Hadramaut to 493YER/USD in Abyan.

## CHOLERA AND DIPHTHERIA UPDATE

WHO reports that the cumulative total suspected cholera cases reported from 27 April 2017 to 1 July 2018 stands at 1,115,378 with 2,310 associated deaths across the country. Since January 2018, 92,623 cases, and 72 deaths have been reported.

The trend of reported cholera cases decreased or was stable in all governorates, except Amran Sana'a, Dhamar, Al Bayda, Amanat Al Asimah, and Ibb. A total of 62 districts have been reporting suspected cholera cases over the last three weeks. The escalation of fighting in Al Hudaydah resulted in additional damage to the infrastructure and displacement of people, further increasing the risk of a cholera resurgence in the area. A request for 822,000 doses of vaccines was approved by the Global Taskforce on Cholera Control for six districts in Al-Hudaydah (Al Hawak, Bura, Al-Sukhnah, Al-Mina, Al-Hali, Al-Durayhimi). The campaign will target 822,522 people above 1 year of age initially,

with a first dose of cholera vaccine in July. UNICEF and WASH Cluster partners are already working in all six districts to provide essential WASH services as part of a comprehensive cholera response and prevention package. The WASH activities will continue and will be intensified during the oral cholera vaccine campaign.

As of 6 July 2018, local health authorities have reported a cumulative total of 1,918 suspected diphtheria cases including 101 associated deaths. On 6 July, 10 new suspected diphtheria cases were reported in Ibb (seven), Sana'a Governorate (one), Amran (one), Al Bayda (one) and one associated death from Ibb. The diphtheria outbreak has affected 209 districts from 20 governorates. Ibb and Sana'a are the most affected governorates. The most affected age group are children from 5 -15 years old, representing 44 per cent of the cases.

## UNVIM UPDATE

During the period from 13 June to 3 July 2018, 18 vessels discharged 408,003 MT of cargo at Yemen's Red Sea ports of Al Hudaydah and Saleef. 68.3 per cent of the cargo was imported through Al Hudaydah port and 31.7 per cent through Saleef port.



255,349 MT



152,654 MT



0 MT

Source: UNVIM

## FACTS ABOUT THE YEMEN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



22M people  
**75%**

of the population, need humanitarian assistance and protection



**2.9M**

children and women are acutely malnourished



**8.4M**

people do not know how they will obtain their next meal



**48%**

of women are illiterate; **25%** of children are out of school



Less than  
**50%**

of health facilities are functioning; 18% of districts have no doctors



**2M**

people are displaced; **1M** people have returned to their home areas



16M people  
**55%**

of the population, lack regular access to safe water and basic hygiene



**98%**  
**110%**

increase in food prices  
increase in fuel prices in last three years

For further information, please contact:

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