

# HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 16 – 26 August 2018 | Issue 25

## KEY ISSUES:

- Humanitarian partners are preparing to respond to a possible third wave of cholera as the number of suspected cases increase across Yemen.
- Violence continues in Al Hudaydah and Hajjah governorates with dozens of civilians killed by airstrikes, shelling and clashes in several districts.
- At least 21 children (13 boys; 8 girls) were killed and 82 (51 boys; 31 girls) injured during the conflict in July. Four schools and one hospital were attacked.
- Approximately 1.1 million MT of food was available in Yemen in the first week of August, enough to cover national requirements for about two months.

## POSSIBLE THIRD WAVE OF CHOLERA

The number of suspected cholera cases has increased in Yemen, suggesting that the country might face a possible third wave of the epidemic. The current rains have increased the risk. WHO reports increased presentations at health facilities, including severe cases that require further observation, and some deaths. Twenty-two deaths in 16 districts are under investigation.

Since April 2017, more than 1.1 million suspected cholera cases and 2,310 associated deaths have been reported in Yemen. Twenty-one of the 22 governorates (305 out of 333 districts) have been affected. In the last three weeks, 209 districts have reported suspected cholera cases, including Shada District in Sa'ada Governorate which reported its first ever case. The outbreak is the most serious on record.

In the high-risk areas of Al Hudaydah and Ibb governorates, nearly 400,000 people were vaccinated in early August. Supported by UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank and The Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), the vaccination campaign achieved 68 per cent coverage. WHO suggests that more targeting activities need to be done. This includes augmenting water and sanitation activities, communications about risk, ensuring that the second vaccination dose is administered in time and adding more priority districts that need the first dose.

WASH Cluster partners have scaled up cholera prevention and response through rapid response

teams and various interventions in cholera risk areas. From January to June, the Cluster reached 7.1 million people through one or a combination of emergency water supply, sanitation, basic hygiene and awareness activities.



WHO delivering 27 cholera kits, enough for 2,700 patients to Yemen on 27 August 2018. Credit: WHO/Sadeq Al-Wesabi

UNICEF has prepositioned treatment supplies for over half million cases in three warehouses and in health offices. Stand-by partnership agreements and memoranda of understanding with health offices are being finalised.

## UPDATES FROM HUBS

### Aden Hub

The Danish Refugee Council has conducted a baseline assessment of IDP hosting sites in Lahj Governorate and found that in four sites supported by partners, access to water is restricted, shelters are in disrepair and employment opportunities are limited. The DRC recommends shifting from emergency to transitional shelters, establishing site management structures, addressing WASH deficiencies and improving the referral mechanism for critical health and protection cases.

Over 5,550 displaced households have been reported in areas covered by the Aden Hub, of which 4,540 (81 per cent) have been registered, and 3,832 have received

rapid response assistance. Distribution is ongoing for the remaining registered displaced families. Following the field mission to Al-Qabaytah District in Lahj Governorate, partners in Aden are trying to find a way to reach the IDPs that are close to the active front line.

### Al Hudaydah Hub

Local authorities have started paying salaries for June and July to public employees from six districts, namely Al Hali, Al Hawak, Al Mina, Hays, Al Khawkhah and Ad Durayhimi. Teachers and employees of the education ministry are the first to be paid, but the authorities have committed to pay the other local employees. More than a million employees in Yemen have not received regular salaries for over two years.

Ahead of the start of the new school year in mid-September, partners are discussing how to relocate displaced families that are staying in schools in Al Hudaydah Governorate. This includes paying a rental subsidy to affected families. An estimated 488 displaced families (2,576 people) currently live in 18 schools in six districts.

### Ibb Hub

Following several days of clashes, a relative calm has returned to parts of Taizz City. Clashes continued in the northeastern part of the city and in Maqbanah District. In Ibb Governorate, armed clashes are reported in the old city area of Al Mashanah District and increased criminal activity is reported in other areas.

Partners have registered over 7,300 displaced households from Al Hudaydah (4,516 households in Taizz and 2,784 households in Ibb governorates), of which 3,430 have received rapid response assistance. During the reporting period, WHO delivered 5,000 dialysis kits to Al Thawrah hospital in Ibb. The hospital has 47 dialysis machines and treats around 180 patients a day. In Taizz, UNICEF has rehabilitated latrines in eight schools in Saber and Al Qahera districts, which 6,949 children (4,493 boys and 2,456 girls) attend.

### Sana'a Hub

Fighting was reported in Fadha area of Nati District, Al Bayda Governorate. At least 238 families have reportedly been displaced from Nati, with most relocating to areas at the border between Al Bayda and Shabwah governorates. Heavy fighting was also reported in Nihm District, with further casualties. On 26

August, airstrikes were reported in Harf Sufyan District in Amran Governorate.

As of 23 August, humanitarian partners in the Sana'a Hub had distributed rapid response assistance to 16,241 households that have been displaced since 1 June to Sana'a City and Dhamar Governorate. Some 307 displaced households (1,674 individuals) who fled Al Hudaydah and are living in nine schools, have also received rapid response assistance. Meanwhile, authorities in Sana'a handed over 31 child soldiers, captured during the conflict, to a humanitarian organization.

### Sa'ada Hub

Airstrikes, shelling and armed clashes are reported in several districts in Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates, though there have been no reports of further population displacement. Casualties were reported but the exact numbers are unknown. Frontline districts in the two governorates have seen some of the most intense fighting in recent months. Two children were killed on 24 August when an unknown remnant of war detonated in Kitaf Al Boqe'e District. On 25 and 26 August, three people were reported killed in Haydan District.

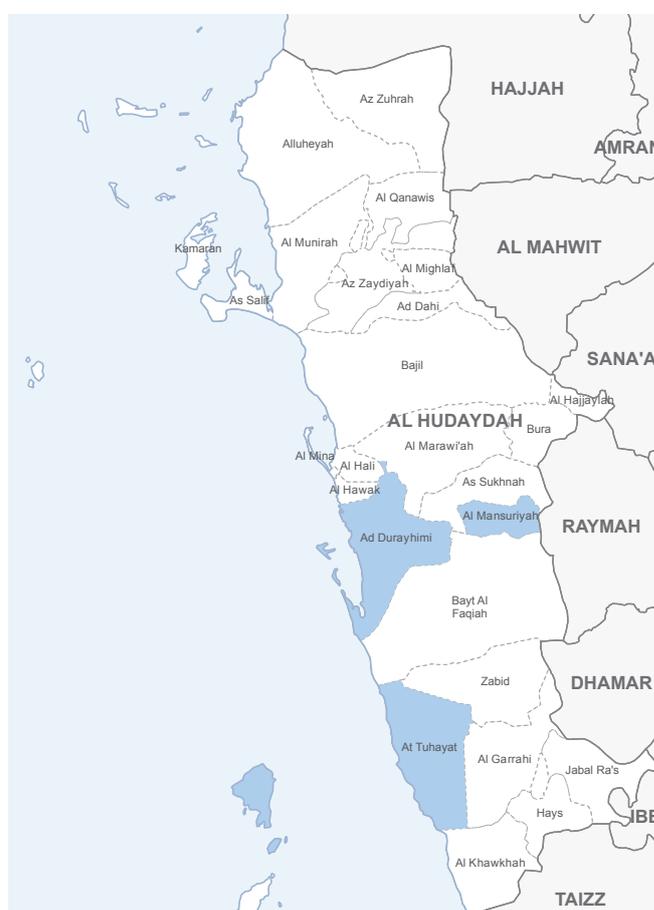
About 12,000 people in As Safra District are still without clean water following damage to the Nushur water facility during fighting in July. Partners estimate that repairs may take 6 to 12 months and cost more than US\$600,000. Local water authorities are assessing the exact damage. Since July, the affected communities have depended on water from shallow wells.

## SITUATION IN AL HUDAYDAH GOVERNORATE

During the reporting period, heavy clashes have been reported in Ad Durayhimi District, south of Al Hudaydah City, with families fleeing to nearby areas or to neighbouring Al Mansuriyah District. Clashes were also reported in parts of At Tuhayat District, in the south of Al Hudaydah Governorate. Some civilians are reportedly trapped in areas where fighting is ongoing because they do not have the funds to travel, others remain because they fear further hardship in areas of displacement.

Dozens of civilians have died in the fighting. On 19 August, 13 fishermen were killed by strikes on two fishing boats near Al Sawabie island. On 22 and 23 August, aerial strikes in Ad Durayhimi District claimed more than 30 lives, including 26 children and four women. The UN has called for an independent investigation into these incidents. It is imperative that parties to conflict protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, and respect the laws of war.

The only public health facility in Ad Durayhimi town is no longer functioning and medical staff have fled, leaving injured people without access to proper medical care. Fighting has also disrupted markets and the movement of traders, prompting some markets in Ad Durayhimi and At Tuhayat districts to close. Partners have identified more than 51,000 displaced households from Al Hudaydah Governorate, of which more than 44,700 households have received rapid response assistance.



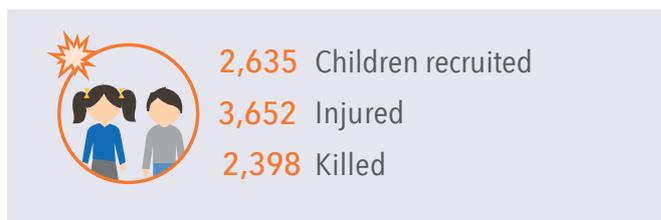
Map of Al Hudaydah showing districts with ongoing clashes.

## VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN

Children continue to bear the brunt of the conflict in Yemen. At least 21 children (13 boys; 8 girls) were killed and 82 (51 boys; 31 girls) injured in July. Four schools and one hospital were attacked. UNICEF reports that these cases were mainly in Taizz, Sa'ada, Al Hudaydah and Hajjah governorates. In Taizz, Sa'ada and Hajjah governorates, child casualties have increased by over 70 per cent when compared with June.

In the first half of this year, 573 conflict-related incidents affecting 986 children (767 boys; 216 girls; the rest of unknown gender) have been verified.

Between March 2015 and June 2018, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations of children's rights verified 2,398 children killed, 3,652



Source: MRM (March 2015 to June 2018).

injured, and over 2,635 children recruited by armed groups. As of June, 669 schools had been either partially or completely destroyed. An estimated two million children were out of school. Nearly three quarters of public school teachers have not been paid their salaries for two years.

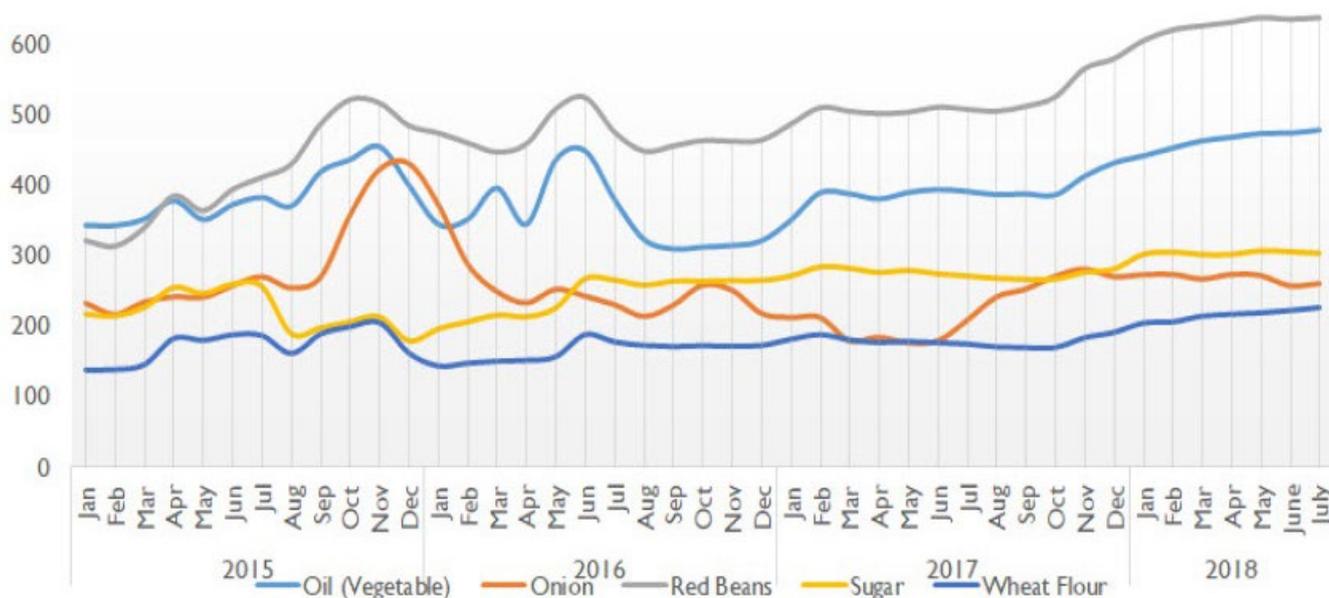
## IN-COUNTRY FOOD STOCKS AND IMPORTS

About 1.1 million MT of food commodities were available in Yemen in the first week of August, including 587,000MT of wheat (grain/flour) and 71,150MT of rice. The wheat is sufficient to cover the national requirements for about 70 days, while the rice is sufficient for two months. WFP reports that most essential food items were widely available in all governorates except Al Hudaydah; where fighting has disrupted business.

Despite the positive outlook in most governorates, retail prices generally rose slightly in June and July, compared to May.

FAO estimates that between January and June, 2,721,476 MT of various food items (wheat grains, wheat flour, sugar, rice, milk and cooking oil) were imported into Yemen through various seaports (Aden, Al Hudaydah, Saleef and Al Mukalla). However, the proportion of food imports through Hudaydah and Saleef seaports this year (1,575,061 MT) has declined by three per cent compared to the same period in 2017 (1,617,122 MT), mainly due to conflict-related obstacles. The two ports are open and operational.

YER Price Trend of Main Food Commodities (YER/Unit)



## FUEL AND COOKING GAS AVAILABILITY

As of the first week of August, approximately 285,000 MT of fuel was available across the country. The national fuel requirement is estimated at 533,000 MT, and the available fuel will cover just over half the national monthly requirements. In June and July, average prices of diesel and petrol increased by five per cent.

For six consecutive months, the official suppliers of cooking gas have failed to deliver to the local market. In Sana'a city, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb and Al Hudaydah, community leaders were coordinating the supply to markets at 3000 YER for a gas cylinder of 11 kg instead of 18-20 kg. Despite improved availability, huge shortages still exist in the cities.

## UNVIM UPDATE

Between 15-21 August, seven vessels discharged 99,440 MT of cargo at Yemeni ports.



66,532 MT



32,908 MT

Al Hudaydah 99,440

Saleef 0

Source: UNVIM

## YEMEN FACTS AND FIGURES



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%**

increase in food prices

**110%**

increase in fuel prices in last three years

Source: 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan

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