

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Despite the escalation of conflict in al-Hudaydah not yet engulfing the city, recent months in Yemen have nevertheless exacted a brutal toll on civilians, who continue to be threatened by indiscriminate attacks, whether near conflict frontlines or in their homes, at markets or while fleeing to places of safety. Ongoing conflict, cholera, risk of famine and the depreciating currency have increased the protection needs of an already vulnerable population. In this context, ensuring protection of civilians remains paramount, as does addressing the growing protection needs for the conflict-affected and displaced population of Yemen.



### ***Protection of Civilians***

Conflict in Yemen reached a peak in August 2018, with the highest number of civilian casualties reported in any month of the year. As documented by OHCHR, the governorates most affected by casualties in the first nine months of 2018 were Hudaydah (29%), Sa'ada (19%) and Taizz (12%), as well as Hajjah (9%) and Amanat al Asimah (7%). According to the Protection Cluster's Civilian Impact Monitoring Project, which expanded to nationwide coverage in August, there were more than 480 incidents of armed violence in August and September. Most incidents were airstrikes (41%) and shelling (41%), but landmines, IEDs and UXOs (7%), small arms fire (4%) and snipers (4%) were also significant. Women and children were estimated to comprise one-third of the civilian casualties monitored in August and September. While most incidents struck civilian homes and farms, 6% of incidents struck health, education, water, food and other protected sites, while more than 7% struck civilians while in their vehicles.

### ***Internal Displacement***

Conflict on the western coast continues to be the main driver of new internal displacement in Yemen. According to the latest report of the Task Force on Population Movement, as of June 2018 there were 2.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Yemen, along with some 1 million IDP returnees, with the largest populations in Taizz, Hajjah, Amanat al Asimah, followed by Ibb, Sana'a, Sa'ada, al-Hudaydah and Amran. Based on emergency tracking, more than 425,000 people are estimated to have been displaced from al Hudaydah since June, with the majority displaced within Hudaydah (33%) or to Amanat al Asimah (33%), with other significant locations of new displacement being Hajjah, Raymah and Taizz. Together with other humanitarian response partners and in coordination with the Rapid Response Mechanism, Protection

Cluster partners are working to identify vulnerable and persons with specific needs and follow-up with emergency protection assistance and services at humanitarian service and distribution points.

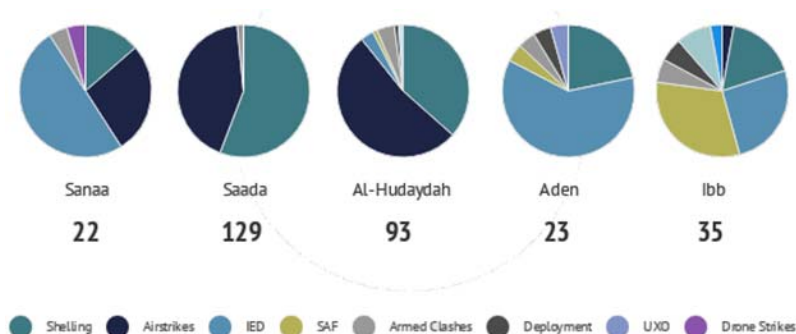
### **Vulnerability and Persons with Specific Needs**

Conflict, cholera, risk of famine and currency depreciation, continue to exacerbate the vulnerabilities of the population. In particular, women, children and persons with specific needs are at heightened risk from conflict and the consequent loss of heads of households, family separation and breakdown of community structures. A recent report of UNHCR-funded protection monitoring partners found that more than 71% households contained a member with a specific need or vulnerability, and 12% of households reported a member exhibiting signs of conflict-related psychological distress or trauma related to the conflict.

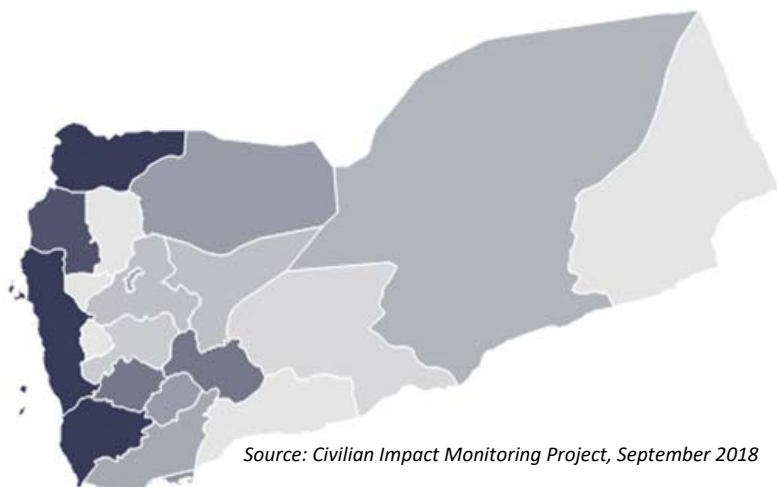
### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

Intense fighting continued in al-Hudaydah, particularly around the highway leading east to Sana'a, as well as the road junctions to the south and east of the city. Daily clashes also resulted in heavy impact on civilians living in the districts of ad-Durayhimi and al-Tuhat. Major incidents include the damage and civilian loss at al-Thawra Hospital and fish market in early August, two strikes hitting civilians in vehicles in August and October and damage to Bani Jaber IDP camp, all of which resulted in large numbers of civilian casualties. Risks remain for civilians caught up in areas near conflict lines, while safe routes for civilians to leave are not always available, due to airstrikes, armed clashes, landmines and unexploded ordnance. Al-Hudaydah also remains the most affected governorate in terms of damage to civilian infrastructure, upon which civilians are depending for survival, including hospitals, water, schools and religious sites. Meanwhile, children remain at heightened risk of injury during aerial bombardment, shelling, shooting and due to explosive remnants of war, and prevention of family separation is a priority along with women and girls, particularly female-headed households, who may be at risk of sexual harassment and violence.

**Distribution of Civilian Impact Incidents by Type of Armed Violence and Hub**



In terms of number of conflict incidents, Sa'ada witnessed more incidents than any other governorate in August and September, accounting for 41% of incidents monitored by the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project. Airstrikes and shelling represent the vast majority of incidents, while shelling incidents have recently become more frequent than airstrikes, signaling an increase in ground fighting. The most significant incident included an airstrike striking a school bus in early August, leading to numerous casualties of children and adults. Other areas with continued fighting include Hajjah as well as Taizz, where both increased displacement



Source: Civilian Impact Monitoring Project, September 2018

and sniper fire remain serious concerns. There have been at least 16 incidents of sniper fire impacting civilians since the beginning of August. Meanwhile in the South, an IDP site in Lahj was subjected to several security incidents in July and August, resulting in the death and injury of IDPs.

## PROTECTION RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Despite gaps in funding and constraints on humanitarian access, Protection Cluster partners continue to respond to the protection needs of the conflict-affected and displaced population. Recent highlights include:

- In October, the Protection Cluster held two days of strategic working meetings with more than 70 cluster participants to review the protection situation and cluster strategy and share directions and best practices regarding emerging priorities. The Protection Cluster also conducted support missions to Aden, Ibb, Hudaydah and Sa'ada during August and September.
- The Protection Cluster welcomed the arrival of the NGO National Protection Cluster Co-Coordinator supported by DRC, as well as NGO Sub-National Cluster Co-ordinators in Hudaydah, Sana'a, Ibb and Aden, supported by ADRA, Oxfam and INTERSOS, respectively. The NGO co-coordinators are expected to contribute to cluster coordination and leadership, particularly in supporting partners with technical guidance and strengthening hub-level coordination efforts.
- In Aden, the Sub-National Protection Cluster provided a two-day training for 28 participants on protection tools, including protection monitoring, data management and protection assessments. During the visit of the national Protection Cluster Coordinator, a mini-workshop was held on protection strategic planning and preparations for the Humanitarian Programme Cycle.
- The Child Protection Sub-Cluster provided orientation on community engagement for 60 cluster partners, focusing on community feedback mechanisms and localization, and a workshop on child protection minimum standards in Sa'ada for 20 participants. In support of the joint Protection-Health Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Working Group, a service mapping tool was launched to strengthen MHPSS referrals. The Child Protection Sub-Cluster is also utilizing a new Needs Identification and

## PROTECTION CLUSTER STRATEGY

**Monitor key protection issues** (including violations of IHL/IHRL, displacement, vulnerable populations, gender-based violence and child protection) in order to **identify persons in need of assistance**, inform the humanitarian response and advocate for the protection of civilians

Provide **life-saving protection assistance and services** to vulnerable, conflict-affected individuals, including children and gender-based violence survivors

Develop **community-based responses** in order to prevent, mitigate or address protection needs and risks, and enhance individual and community coping strategies and conflict resolution

**Strengthen the capacity** of partners, service providers, civil society and authorities on protection

**Mainstream and integrate protection** into all sector and cluster-specific humanitarian responses



Protection Cluster Strategic Working Meetings in Sana'a

Assessment Framework to strengthen child protection analysis.

- The GBV Sub-Cluster is expanding services with the selection and training of 38 new case management officers, and the establishment of three new community committees in Lahj, Al-Dhale'e and Shabwah as part of a strategy to increasingly engage men in prevention, response and advocacy.
- In Marib, Charitable Society for Social Welfare conducted protection monitoring, reaching 9,961 beneficiaries, and providing cash assistance, psychosocial support, legal assistance. CSSW also established eight safe spaces in four districts, where 3,581 have benefited from livelihoods activities.
- In Hajjah, Abs Development foundation for Women and Children are providing cash assistance for IDPs and host community members, as well as recreational activities and psychosocial support for children, and case management and legal services for GBV survivors.
- NRC, with the support of IOM, is supporting provision of legal Identity including civil documentation and awareness raising sessions, in addition to case referral in some districts of Aden, Lahj and Taiz governorates.
- CARE conducted life skills training for 400 GBV survivors in Amran, Abyan, Sana'a and Aden, including on leadership and communication, market feasibility and project support
- INTERSOS, with the support of UNHCR, has been expanding its intervention areas in Taizz and Hadramaut, engaging in partnership with four local community-based organizations. INTERSOS also conducted several assessments in Aden, Lahj and South of Taiz for IDPs from Al-Hudaydah, identifying issues such as lack of documentation, access to safety, psychological distress, among others. South In Ibb and North Taiz, INTERSOS, with the support of OFDA, is running a one stop assistance centre in Al-Qaeda City providing case management for child protection, GBV and persons with specific needs. INTERSOS is also running eight community centers at collective shelters providing psychosocial support for IDP and host community children, and in partnership with community-based organizations, women community centers, where a package of integrated services are being provided, including nutrition screening and counseling for mother and child, livelihoods trainings for women and girls, and individual case management services. Complementary to this and with the support of the Yemen Humanitarian Fund, INTERSOS provided legal services (counseling, mediation and representation) and cash for protection for conflict-affected persons.
- In July, DRC started a new project in Taizz and al-Hudaydah to provide protection monitoring, multi-purpose and provided emergency cash and legal awareness.
- In Taizz, Deem for Development Foundation distributed more than 400 transit kits, and established two spaces for mothers and children, providing psychosocial support, psychotherapy and case management.
- In Sana'a and Aden, two centers were established by Family Counseling and Development Foundation to provide specialized psychological and psychosocial support. The centers also provide specialized psychosocial support via a toll-free helpline.
- In Aden, Lahi and Taiz, Field Medical foundation has established and provided capacity building for 440 members of community-based protection networks. They provide service mapping in 8 districts of (Taiz, Aden & Lahj) to facilitate referral system for beneficiaries and vulnerable cases and identify urgent protection cases including GBV for quick response.

## KEY FIGURES

PEOPLE IN NEED	12.9 M
PEOPLE IN ACUTE NEED	6.5 M
IDPs	2.0 M
IDP RETURNEES	1.0 M
PERSONS TARGETED	5.0M
FUNDING REQUESTED	104.1 M
FUNDING MET*	56.1 M
UNMET NEEDS	48.0 M



**53.9%**  
**FUNDED**

\*Figures based on FTS as of 30 Sep 2018

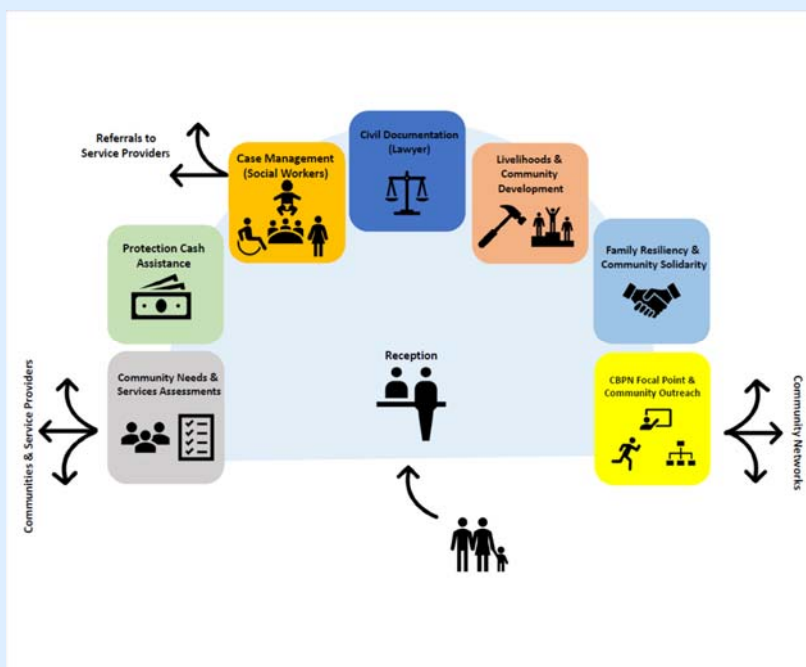
- In Al-Dhale'e and Hadramaut, For All Foundation has a project to provide psychosocial support and legal support through legal awareness services and coordinating with legal service providers.
- In Amran, Yemen Red Crescent, with the support of UNHCR, is conducting protection monitoring and providing non-food items and shelter assistance through the IDP community center, reaching more than 2500 with protection cash assistance, in addition to legal services, psychosocial and psychological support and awareness raising through community-based protection networks.
- In Ibb and Taizz, Yemen Women Union (YWU), with the support of UNHCR, has established community centers providing psychosocial support, legal support, and multi-purpose cash assistance. Community-based protection networks have been established to strengthen referrals for vulnerable cases. More than 4,000 vulnerable households have been reached with multi- purpose cash assistance, and more than 2,200 provided legal assistance, and more than 3,500 benefiting from psychosocial counseling.
- YWU also conducted 40 Interactive theatre plays in 12 targeted governorates and districts to raise awareness of GBV issues and its negative impact society. Community dialogues were conducted to identify root causes of GBV and encourage dialogue on sensitive topics such as girls' education, child marriage and the most prevalent forms of GBV for prevention and support.
- In September, the Sub-National Protection Cluster Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator in Aden facilitated meetings with the Civil Registration Authority to discuss the current challenges of vulnerable populations, in particular IDPs lacking identification papers and possible solutions to support the Civil Registration Authority in issuing documentation for IDPs and conflict-affected populations.

## IN FOCUS: SCALING UP COMMUNITY CENTERS ACROSS YEMEN

Community centers are an integral part of the Protection Cluster's community-based strategy to empower conflict-affected and displaced communities and ensure that they remain at the center of service provision and community activity, including for women, girls, boys and men.

As part of its first-line response, the Protection Cluster identified the need to scale up and establish community centers in the most severe districts to provide essential protection services and community-based protection and outreach. Leveraging the "one stop shop" model across protection, child protection and women's protection, with an emphasis on service provision, community centers ensure individual case management and referrals (for women, children and persons with specific needs), protection cash assistance, civil documentation and support with family resiliency, community solidarity and livelihoods for protection outcomes. More guidance is available at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/yemen/document/protection-cluster-guidance-community-centers-july-2018>

With the support of the Yemen Humanitarian Fund, the Protection Cluster is expecting an increase in community centers to as many as 32 of the most severe districts in Yemen.



### PROTECTION CLUSTER | CONTACTS

Samuel Cheung ([cheung@unhcr.org](mailto:cheung@unhcr.org))  
Senior Protection Cluster Coordinator

Muna Abo Alrejal ([aboalrei@unhcr.org](mailto:aboalrei@unhcr.org))  
Protection Associate, Protection Cluster