

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 30 July – 9 August 2018 | Issue 23

KEY ISSUES:

- Violence in several governorates has killed tens of civilian, including children and women, and continues to displace thousands of other people.
- As of 05 August, 50,552 households have been displaced from Al Hudaydah and 47,400 households (93 per cent of caseload) have received assistance through the rapid response mechanism (RRM)
- More than 1.4 million people in need of assistance live in districts with high access constraints. Food and fuel imports declined by 18 and 20 per cent, respectively, in July

PARTIES TO CONFLICT ARE REQUIRED TO PROTECT CIVILIANS AND CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

Tens of civilians were killed in violence in several governorates during the reporting period. The most concerning incident occurred on 2 August when strikes were reported at a fish market and near Al Thawrah Hospital in Al Hudaydah City, killing civilians including women and children. As of 6 August, WHO reports that the latest casualty figures stand at 55 deaths and 130 injuries.

Civilians and hospitals are protected under international humanitarian law. Several partners condemned the strikes and called on all parties to the conflict to respect the laws of war.

"We've said this before and we are saying it again - parties to the conflict are obliged to do everything possible to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure. This is not a voluntary commitment - it is mandatory on all belligerents," said Ms. Lise Grande, Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator. "So many people have died in Yemen - this conflict has to stop."

Ongoing violence in Al Hudaydah Governorate is continuing to trigger displacement. Since June 2018, humanitarian partners in Hudaydah hub have registered more than 50,500 displaced households. While most displaced people are hosted within the governorate, others have moved to neighbouring governorates and need humanitarian assistance. Nine schools in Sana'a City are currently hosting displaced households. In Taizz and Ibb governorates, displacement from Al Hudaydah has reached over 4,300 households.



Al Thawrah is one of the few functioning hospitals in Al Hudaydah City.
Photo: OCHA

During the reporting period, civilian casualties were reported in Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates, especially in districts bordering Saudi Arabia, as airstrikes, shelling and fierce fighting continued. Casualties included a child and his mother in Sagayn District and another civilian in Shada'a District, Sa'ada Governorate. In Al Jawf, two civilians were reportedly killed by airstrikes in Bart Al Anan District.

Armed clashes intensified in the northern and eastern parts of Taizz City, with residential neighbourhoods coming under indiscriminate shelling. On 28 July, Al-Thawrah Hospital inside the city was hit but no casualties were reported. Other incidents occurred in Aden and Lahj, with casualties. One partner in Aden reported on 1 August that the local trauma hospital has received 493 patients from the frontlines on the western coast since April; 83 per cent of the 173 patients received from Al Hudaydah and Taizz in July were injured by gun shots, landmines or bombing.

UPDATES FROM THE HUBS

Al Hudaydah: Since June, partners in Al Hudaydah have registered 50,552 displaced households that are hosted in various governorates. Displacement

continues from areas where military operations are ongoing. As of 5 August, partners had assisted 47,400 displaced households through the rapid response

mechanism. Over 11,000 households received multi-purpose cash grants some 13,200 received NFIs and emergency shelter kits. However, airstrikes and shelling increased over the reporting period. A warehouse for a humanitarian partner was hit, damaging an estimated 8,000 hygiene kits and 51 water storage tanks of 2,000 liters capacity. Overall, airstrikes were reported in 12 districts in Al Hudaydah Governorate. There are concerns that ongoing conflict could disrupt water supply systems, compounding the risk of cholera and other diseases.

Aden: More than 4,800 households were displaced by conflict to Aden and other accessible areas in the southern governorates from 1 June to 1 August. Some 4,217 households have been registered and 3,119 households have received rapid response kits. During the reporting period, partners also discussed demining activities in west coast districts. Meanwhile, the depreciation of the local currency in Aden has led to increased prices of essential commodity prices. Prices have increased by more than 15-20 per cent despite the attempts of the Central Bank in Aden to close unlicensed exchange shops.

Sana'a: Partners in Sana'a Hub have scaled-up responses to the needs of newly displaced people, including 285 households (1,533 individuals) from Al Hudaydah that are currently living in nine schools within Sana'a City. Distribution of rapid response assistance and non-food items is ongoing in the various governorates. Some 10,045 households have been reached by partners with rapid response assistance.

During the reporting period, the Protection Cluster produced its latest Civilian Impact Monitoring (CIMP) report showing no change in incidents between 31 May and 6 June in Amanat Al Asimah (Sana'a City),

Sana'a and Marib governorates. Meanwhile, money exchange shops in Sana'a City were buying US dollars at an exchange rate of 524 YER/1 USD on 2 August. This is the highest exchange rate that the Yemeni Rial has ever reached and constitutes a 143 per cent decrease in the value of the currency since the beginning of the ongoing conflict.

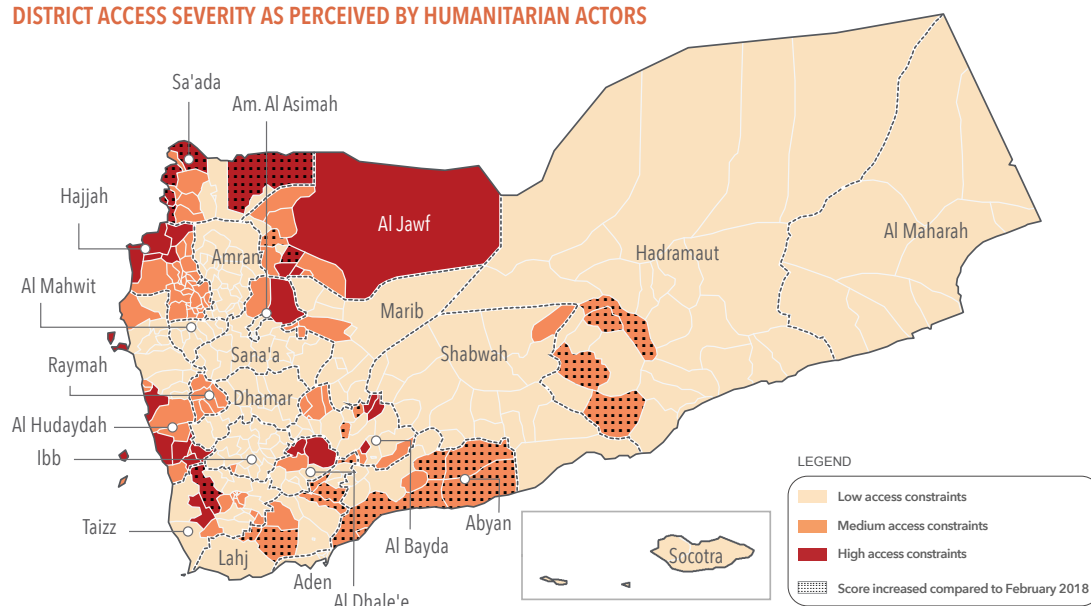
Ibb: The number of households displaced from Al Hudaydah to Ibb and Taizz governorates has reached 4,330. Partners have reached 2,347 households with rapid response assistance and are targeting 429 households with NFIs in Ibb and Taizz. Effective August, UNFPA will support 233 health staff with monthly incentives in 36 public hospitals across the Ibb Hub (123 staff in 16 public hospitals in Ibb Governorate and 110 in 20 public hospitals Taizz). Meanwhile, gasoline prices have increased from 7,500 YER for 20 litres to 8,000 YER, while the 20 litre cooking gas cylinder is 2,000 YER and at the black markets is priced at 3,000 YER. At the same time, the value of the Yemeni Rial deteriorated during the reporting period dropping to an exchange rate of between 510 and 530 for 1 USD. Currency fluctuation is expected to increase hardship among vulnerable families.

Sa'ada: Despite a challenging security environment humanitarian partners continue to deliver assistance to people in need. On 31 July, one partner completed the third phase of its cash assistance to 2,000 households in Al Jawf. Each family received an accumulated amount of 156,000 YER over three phases. In addition, 2,000 households have received hygiene kits. A local partner distributed 200 NFIs and food baskets to the newly displaced households in Al Maton district. On 31 July, WHO donated one truck of medicines and supplies to Bart Al Anan hospital in Al Jawf.

ACCESS SEVERITY

The access environment in Yemen remains extremely difficult, with more than 1.4 million people in need of assistance living in districts with high access constraints. This is an increase of 200,000 people since February 2018. The districts with the most severe access constraints are concentrated in the most conflict-affected governorates, including Al Hudaydah, Sa'ada, Hajjah, and Al Jawf, with more than 1.1 million people in need living in these four

DISTRICT ACCESS SEVERITY AS PERCEIVED BY HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

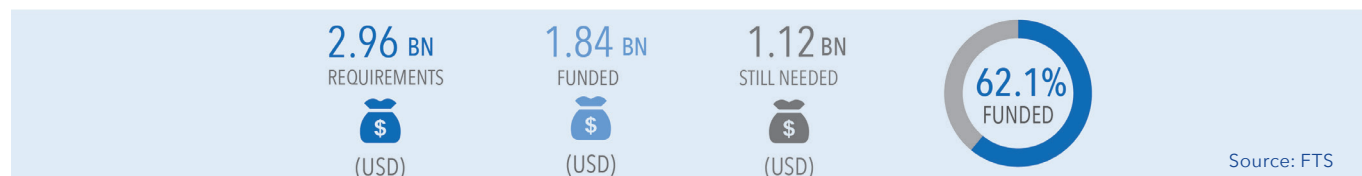


governorates. Al Hudaydah has the highest number of people in need living in districts with severe access constraints (more than 400,000 people).

An analysis by OCHA shows that administrative restrictions remain among the most prevalent access constraints facing humanitarian actors. These include delays associated with the signing of sub-agreements with implementing partners or with the approval of humanitarian activities and movements. Other restrictions include checkpoint searches, interference in humanitarian programmes and violence against humanitarian personnel.

FUNDING STATUS

As of 31 July, the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan was 62.4 per cent funded. Some US\$1.85 billion have been received out of the \$2.96 billion needed. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States of America and Kuwait are the four biggest donors to the plan with contributions ranging from \$172 million to \$530 million. KSA, UAE and the United Kingdom are top donors outside the YHRP with contributions ranging from \$137 million to \$196 million.



RETURNS OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

IOM reports that on 4 August, 132 Ethiopian migrants departed from Al Hudaydah through the Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) Programme on their way to Djibouti where IOM will facilitate their return to Ethiopia. A total of 615 migrants of Ethiopian origin has been assisted this year. On 5 August, IOM and UNHCR facilitated the spontaneous return of 116 Somali refugees out of Aden to Somalia. This is the 10th spontaneous return process in 2018 with a total of 1,321 refugees.

In 2017, IOM helped 2,860 migrants return home from Yemen through Al Hudaydah port, of whom 746 migrants were voluntary returnees. The majority were Ethiopian migrants but others included Sri Lankans, Indians, Nigerians and Pakistani migrants. Despite the current situation in Yemen, an estimated 7,000 migrants enter the country each month, most of them seeking to reach Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries where they hope to find better economic opportunities.



Migrants in the passport and immigration center in Sana'a. Credit: UNOCHA/ Mohamed Aman

UNVIM UPDATE

UNVIM reports that between January and July 2018, a total of 151 vessels have discharged their cargo in Hudaydah and Saleef ports with 70 of the vessels transporting food items and 81 transporting fuel. In July, 17 commercial vessels discharged supplies at Hudaydah sea port which represents a 19 per cent decrease in the number of vessels berthed compared to previous month. Consequently, food and fuel imports declined by 18 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively. Only one containerized cargo vessel has arrived at Al Hudaydah since December 2017. From November 2017, there has been a 43 per cent decrease in vessels that are berthing at Al Hudaydah and Saleef ports on average, compared to the pre-blockade average.

During the period from 1 - 7 August 2018, eight vessels discharged 120,464 MT of cargo at Yemen's Red Sea ports of Al Hudaydah and Saleef.



66,100 MT



54,364 MT



0 MT

Source: UNVIM

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