

HAJJAH FLASH UPDATE

23 February - 11 March 2019 | Issue 3

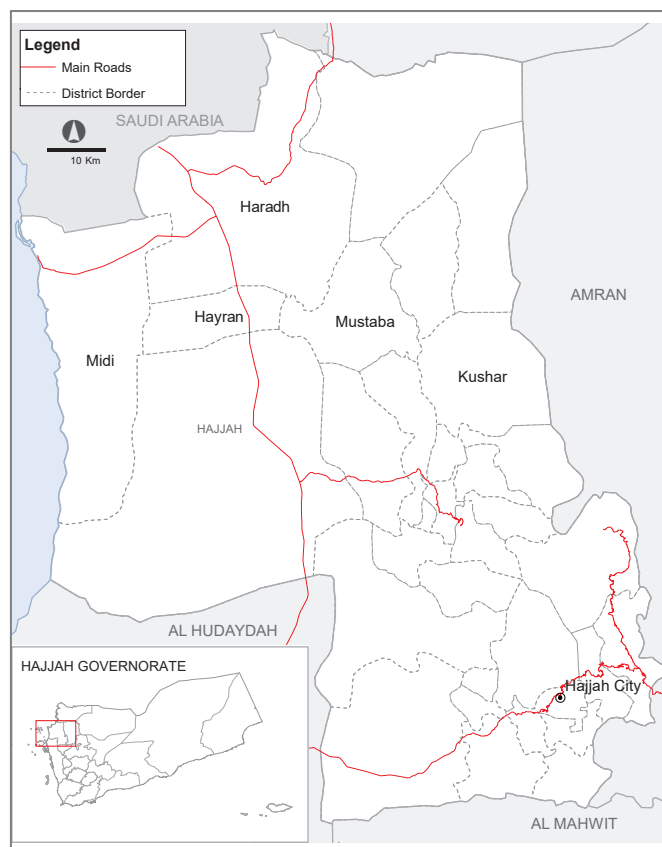
SITUATION OVERVIEW

Hajjah Governorate is one of the most conflict-affected governorates in Yemen. In the last six months, the number of people displaced by violence across the governorate has increased sharply from 203,000 to around 420,000 people. IDPs are scattered in more than 300 settlements in different districts.

During the reporting period, violence continued, with airstrikes and shelling incidents reported in Haradh, Hayran and Midi districts. In late January, Kushar district became a new flashpoint when clashes broke out between pro-Ansar Allah forces and the Hajour tribesmen of Kushar. In early March, following a change in the areas of control in Kushar district, fighting intensified with airstrikes reported daily along with IED attacks against local prominent figures.

As a result, the district continues to witness very high levels of civilian impact. There is a lack of verified civilian casualty figures in the district due to access constraints. However, field reports from Hajjah Governorate indicate that scores of civilians have been killed by strikes on houses in Kushar District during the past two days. Medical sources report that 22 people have died, including 12 children and 10 women. As many as 30 people have been reportedly injured, including 14 children. Many of the injured children have been sent to hospitals in Abs district and in Sana'a for treatment and several require possible evacuation to survive. In her statement of 11 March, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, [Ms. Lise Grande](#) condemned the deaths and injuries.

Conflict affected districts in Hajjah Governorate



Source: OCHA

The table below summarizes the displacement as of 5 March, mostly from Kushar (3,064 families) to various locations within Hajjah Governorate.

#	DISPLACED TO / DISTRICT	# OF DISPLACED FAMILIES	#	DISPLACED TO / DISTRICT	# OF DISPLACED FAMILIES	#	DISPLACED TO / DISTRICT	# OF DISPLACED FAMILIES
1	ASLAM	326	7	SHAGADIRAH	8	13	KARAH	200
2	AFLAH AL SHAM	143	8	BANI AWAM	64	14	QAFEL SHAMER	26
3	AFLAH AL YEMEN	300	9	BANI QEIS	59	15	MUSTABA	37
4	AL MFTAH	52	10	MAGRABAH	38	16	HAJJAH CITY	250
5	KHYRAN AL MUHRAK	1,551	11	SHARAS	7	17	KUSHAR	1093
6	NAJRAH	16	12	ABS	1100	18	JOMAIMAH	73

TOTAL NUMBER OF DISPLACED FAMILIES: 5,343

Displacement in Hajjah Governorate as of 5 March 2019. Source: OCHA

Thousands of civilians are reportedly trapped between conflicting parties and lack basic necessities or services. Roads leading to some villages are closed, limiting the movement of civilians.

Initial figures from humanitarian partners and local authorities indicate that more than 5,300 families have been displaced mostly from villages in Kushar and Aflah Al Sham districts. Al Qaflah District in Amran Governorate has also been affected by the conflict with 136 families displaced within the district and 300

families displaced to Amran City. In Al Qaflah District, Amran Governorate, response is ongoing to support IDPs: 432 families were assisted with RRM kits; 160 families with emergency shelter kits and 40 with rental subsidies by YRC. A joint humanitarian mission to Al Qaflah district is planned next week to further assess the needs and scale up the response.

Inter-Agency Mission To Hajjah

From 6 to 8 March, an inter-agency mission comprising UNICEF, IOM, OCHA, UNFPA and WFP visited Hajjah Governorate to assess the humanitarian situation of newly displaced families from Kushar and Aflah Al Sham districts, with the aim scaling up humanitarian response in Hajjah Governorate.

The mission identified gaps in non-food items (NFIs), shelter, and in WASH responses. Partners are planning three phases of simultaneous response: support newly displaced families from Kushar and Aflah Al

Sham; support the IDPs from Haradh, Midi and Hayran districts; and, build emergency stock of supplies to ensure timely response to any potential new displacement. Partners will be identified to manage IDP settlements with the aim to improve overall response through dedicated and regular monitoring of number of IDPs, needs and gaps in assistance and services to IDPs.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Major access challenges continue to hinder efforts to scale up the ongoing response in Hajjah. Humanitarian partners have been unable to access families near or across frontlines in Kushar and Aflah Al Sham districts since fighting began in late-January. Moreover, insecurity and lack of permissions prevent regular access to Midi, Mustaba and Haradh districts, where fighting continues along active frontlines. Nonetheless, efforts continue to reach people in need with lifesaving assistance wherever they are located.

Regular humanitarian movements continue in many parts of Hajjah Governorate but delays in the delivery of essential supplies have slowed first-line response to newly displaced families. The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) was curtailed in recent weeks due

to a delay in clearance to transport essential materials from Sana'a and Al Hudaydah to Hajjah to complete existing stocks. Clearances were received on 11 March, more than 18 days after which the requests were made.

Similarly, non-food items (NFIs) and shelter kits intended for displaced families, particularly women and children, are awaiting clearance to move from Sana'a. As of 10 March, a lack of permissions has prevented the delivery of regular food assistance to Abs and Kushar districts, affecting nearly 61,600 people. The humanitarian community is advocating for permissions to bring essential supplies to support response activities.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assistance

Registration of newly displaced families is ongoing. RRM partners (VHI, NRC, DRC, Relief International) have distributed 520 RRM kits to displaced families in so far. Some 1,500 transit kits arrived in Hajjah on 8 March and distribution started the following day to assist IDPs in Khayran Al Muharaq District. Some 456

RRM kits are available in Jomaimah District but the partner does not have approval to move the supplies to Kushar District. On 11 March, UNFPA received the approval to transfer 10,500 transit kits to Hajjah.

Food Security

WFP through its partners (DRC, NRC, MOE, VHI, RI) is on standby to conduct a one-off food distribution once the RRM partners complete their distribution.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

WASH Cluster partners report that continuing displacement has created an urgent need to scale up WASH responses for displaced people and vulnerable communities. A significant lack of sanitation services has increased the risk of a large-scale outbreak of cholera and/or acute watery diarrhoea, of which 6,322

suspected cases have been reported since January. The Cluster has called for increased support to enable partners to respond to the situation. However, the number of partners itself is limited, with 14 districts currently without partners.

Despite these constraints, the RRM consortium (ACF, DRC, OXFAM NRC) conducted the first round of rapid needs assessment for WASH in three districts (Khayran Al Muharaq, Aslam, and Abs) to identify needs and gaps.

The General Authority for Rural Water Supply (GARWAP) emergency unit and OXFAM started providing safe water to 2,452 IDP families in Hajjah town, Khayran Al Muharaq and Abs districts. GARWAP, supported by UNICEF, installed 44 water tanks for IDP families to deliver water to 1,102 IDP families in Khayran Al Muharaq District. GARWAP is targeting the same families for latrines.

The WASH cluster, through its partners, plans to provide 2,311 families with safe water, and 3,413 IDP families with sanitation / latrines.

UNICEF and GARWAP agreed to construct an additional 1,000 latrines for new IDPs. OXFAM increased the quantity of trucked water to cover 800 new IDP families in Abs.

The limited number of WASH partners in Hajjah Governorate (currently 14 districts are without implementing partners) and delay in securing approval from the authorities hinder the wash response.

Health

Fourteen health partners (UNICEF, WHO, ACF, IOM, UNFPA, RI, SCI, humanitarian appeal, BFD, SDF, ADRAA, ADO, MSF, DFD) are supporting 126 health facilities including six diarrhea treatment centres, seven oral rehydration centres and four emergency mobile teams to provide high-quality primary and secondary health care services as well as reliable referral services.

Provision of required basic essential medicines, medical equipment is underway to primary, secondary, and tertiary health facilities to cope with the additional load; including sustaining the supply chain for medicines and medical consumables to cover urgent gaps.

Efforts are underway to hire additional required health staff to enhance the capacity of the health facilities. Five emergency mobile medical teams are providing primary health care services.

Partners are working to ensure all children and other age groups are vaccinated against polio, measles and other preventable diseases. They also supporting safe deliveries as well as nutrition of IDP children and women; prevention of epidemic disease outbreaks; expansion of intensive care units and hospital surgical units to provide care for the additional population; and management of non-communicable and other chronic diseases.

NFIs and Shelter

Six NGO partners started a needs assessment 10 days ago; so far around 3,500 families have been assessed. IOM will preposition 9,000 emergency and shelter kits and 9,000 NFIs kits from Sana'a to Hajjah. Some 4,000 NFIs and shelter kits are expected to arrive in Hajjah by 14 March.

UNHCR has allocated 2,000 NFIs and 2,000 shelter kits in response to the situation in Hajjah.

Nutrition

UNICEF is supporting eight mobile teams to provide Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) services in Abs, Aslam, Khayran Al Muharaq and Aflah Al Yemen districts.

Some 126 health facilities are being supported by partners (WHO, UNICEF, WFP) to provide SAM and MAM services in all the districts in the governorate.

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