

## UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

# YEMEN

### SITUATION UPDATE

The impact of the conflict that broke out between the Yemeni government and Al-Houthi forces in the northern governorate of Sa'ada in August 2009 is still causing civilians in the north immense suffering. While the ceasefire reached in February 2010 continues to hold, no permanent peace agreement is yet in sight. As a consequence, the situation remains extremely fragile and security incidents are taking place regularly. Tensions, manifested through increased violence, continue to grow in the southern governorates, leading to disruption of services and increasing the vulnerability of children. According to the Humanitarian Country Team, there are more than 342,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) throughout the five conflict-affected governorates of Hajjah, Amran, Sa'ada, Al-Jawf and Sana'a, of which over 60 per cent are women and children. The overwhelming majority of IDPs are not in camps but in host communities. Throughout the conflict, the IDPs in Sa'ada City received assistance through Government, UN and local and INGOs, and since the ceasefire, levels of assistance in these areas have improved. However, with the destruction of facilities/infrastructure and lack of adequate staff to ensure restoration of services, those who are non-displaced in the Sa'ada governorate are suffering from lack of access to basic services and emergency relief assistance. This is further exacerbated by the difficulties experienced by humanitarian agencies in gaining greater access to the districts. Unexploded ordinance and mines in many parts of Sa'ada continue to pose life-threatening risks resulting in a slow pace of return among IDPs. Grave child rights violations such as child recruitment are emerging issues that need further evidence-based data to better determine its magnitude. The establishment of a monitoring and reporting mechanism is being supported with HQ and RO assistance for this purpose.

### KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

UNICEF has provided technical assistance, capacity building together with supplies and equipment in its support to the emergency. Through its lead role in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Nutrition Clusters and Child Protection Sub Cluster, it has gradually strengthened co-ordination efforts among partners at national and sub-national levels.

**Health:** In 2010, it is UNICEF's aim to focus on creating access to adequate health care for children and pregnant/lactating women in displaced camps and host communities. No significant progress on this issue has been made so far, due to lack of funds (zero per cent funded). However, UNICEF remains a significant partner in the Health Cluster and has contributed through the Government in providing vaccines and cold chain equipment for immunization activities by using regular programme resources. A vaccination campaign, together with nutrition screening, took place in early July 2010 in the five districts out of the total of 16 districts in Sa'ada and, targeting over 90,000 children.

**Nutrition:** UNICEF has provided support to the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) and partners in terms of securing ready-to-use therapeutic food as well as anthropometric equipment. The nutrition programme has allowed 187,000 children under five to be screened for symptoms of malnutrition and 42,300 children suffering from GAM to be enrolled in outpatient therapeutic programmes or therapeutic feeding centres.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Currently, all 70,000 IDPs targeted by UNICEF receive WASH assistance (other IDPs are covered by partners, including OXFAM and ICRC). The UNICEF-led WASH Cluster has ensured that over 40,000 IDPs in the governorates of Hajjah and Amran are provided with safe drinking water. The proposed water supply scheme in Haradh district has already been completed, and will provide safe water to IDPs in camps and other settlements. The total number of beneficiaries is 51,000.

**Education:** About 5,000 IDP students have been provided with basic education and support in the al-Mazraq camps where temporary learning classes have been established. Over 2,000 students received assistance within their host community schools in the Harad and Amran district. All students and teachers were provided with the necessary teaching materials. These will serve as temporary schools until damaged schools have been rebuilt. Due to lack of funding, the training of over 500 Ministry of Education directors, school supervisors and teachers in psychosocial techniques and catch-up education has not yet been achieved.

**Child Protection:** In total, 138,688 people have benefited from UNICEF's child protection activities in the conflict-affected areas, surpassing the 110,000 targeted originally. Birth certificates were delivered to 7,585 children by the Civil Registration Office in the Ministry of the Interior in the Hajjah Governorate. UNICEF was obliged to use its own resources to conduct the activities, due to limited and delayed funds received within the reporting period. Through

child-friendly spaces in camps, community centres and mobile child protection teams, 91,915 children have been reached, surpassing HAR targets. Awareness raising, sensitisation and mobilising efforts with a focus on Mine Risk Education have reached a total of 35,666 affected community members, in IDP camps (of which 13,353 women), scattered IDP settlements, host and affected communities.

### KEY CHALLENGES

Due to the continued volatility on the ground, there is very limited humanitarian access to affected populations in Sa'ada Governorate beyond the environs of Sa'ada City. UN's interaction with the Al-Houthi has been sporadic to date, with the government coordinating the overall humanitarian effort, including issues related to security clearance and direct contact by humanitarian agencies with the Al-Houthi. With the strengthened functioning of Peace Committees (comprising of government and Al-Houthi representatives) in the affected districts, new data on the scale of humanitarian needs is emerging from current rapid assessments underway by the UN and partners. Efforts are ongoing to gradually build trust between different stakeholders, which is expected to change slowly in the future. The threat of unexploded mines and ordinance in the conflict areas and the lack of basic services in nearly all the districts have also contributed to the continuing slow pace of return among the large IDP population outside of Sa'ada governorate. Other challenges include a lack of experienced implementing partners on the ground in the affected areas; limited government capacity to handle emergencies; and low levels of funding across the clusters, which have compelled further prioritization among agencies of their funding requirements.

### INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

UNICEF has been an active partner in inter-agency collaboration especially with UNHCR, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, and the World Health Organization, since the start of the emergency in Sa'ada. Apart from addressing the continuous emerging needs of IDPs in conflict-affected areas with a special focus on Sa'ada, UNICEF as Nutrition Cluster leader succeeded in strengthening the cluster approach in other geographical areas in the country, through partnership with UNHCR to address refugee needs especially in the south. UNICEF has also led the Child Protection Sub-Cluster and made efforts within the reporting period to strengthen this role. This included the establishment of Child Protection Working Groups in Haradh and recently in Sa'ada. UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster, which has strengthened partnerships among implementing agencies and improved coordination at central and sub-national levels, and has increased ownership within Government through local councils and the national water authority for emergency interventions. UNICEF significantly contributes to the WHO-led Cluster on Health, ensuring basic child health interventions such as immunization and availability of vaccines and drugs. In the Education Cluster, led by Save the Children, UNICEF has taken interventions to scale up in the IDP camps in Harad collaborating with local education authorities, while working through implementing partners in Amran to serve IDP children in host communities.

### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

There was a poor overall response to the HAR/CAP with only 30 per cent funding as of June 2010, with UNICEF's component receiving \$3.5 million (19 per cent) to date. Of this, WASH received the highest amounts, followed by Nutrition and Child Protection, while Health and Education remain completely unfunded. In early 2010, local donors advised a focus on life-saving interventions in the CAP, which compelled the UN system to further prioritize its funding needs for the period March to June. After the midyear review of the CAP, a review of projects led to a rigorous re-categorization into a three-tier framework of lifesaving, time critical and support services. In view of this, UNICEF is requesting a total amount of \$9.7 million down from \$19 million. Of this, UNICEF has a funding gap of \$6.1 million, taking into account the \$3.5 million received to date. In the event of a limited funding response, UNICEF will be challenged in terms of reaching at least 50 per cent of the children among the IDP and affected population with basic services. Together with limited access to the IDP population, this will exacerbate the already deteriorating situation among vulnerable children and women, leading to increased rates of morbidity and mortality. Moreover, children's access to education will remain inadequate and grave violations of their rights will neither be optimally monitored nor addressed.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)				
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap
Health	2,257,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Nutrition	5,050,000	2,701,750	1,179,944	1,521,806
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	6,376,000	3,181,019	2,132,490	1,048,529
Education	3,300,000	1,950,420	0	1,950,420
Child Protection	2,026,000	836,500	223,257	613,243
<b>Total*</b>	<b>19,009,000</b>	<b>9,669,689</b>	<b>3,535,691</b>	<b>6,133,998</b>

\*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

### EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

Cluster coordination will remain a priority for UNICEF in WASH, Nutrition and Child Protection.

#### Nutrition:

- All the seventeen districts of Sa'ada will benefit from community-based management of severe acute malnutrition.
- Availability of nutrition supplies will be ensured in all 330 districts of Yemen.
- A Nutrition Surveillance system will be established at a central level and in two pilot governorates.

#### Health:

- Provisions will be made to address the needs in emergency trust and medical supplies for health facilities and outreach activities in the conflict-affected governorates in a timely manner.
- Social mobilisation will be conducted to promote health services utilization.

#### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

- UNICEF will support the General Authority of Rural Water Supply Projects (GARWP) in Yemen in establishing an emergency unit. Support will also be provided to GARWP and WASH Cluster partners to implement the government's WASH Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), including maintenance, repair and pre-positioning of WASH emergency supplies available in the country.

#### Education:

- In areas affected by conflict, 150,000 school age boys and girls (100,000 vulnerable children and 50,000 IDP and host community children) will benefit from improved access to basic education.
- Quality of learning will be improved by the implementation of the following measures: teaching aids will be provided for the affected schools (black boards, school-in-a-box etc); basic learning materials will be distributed to students; and support will be provided to additional teacher (especially female) deployment.

#### Child protection:

- Monitoring, reporting and advocacy on grave violations against children's rights will be strengthened.
- Support will be continued or expanded in the protection of affected children and identification of conflict-affected and vulnerable boys and girls that have not been reached previously.
- Comprehensive awareness to the risks of death and injuries by mines and unexploded ordnances will be supported.