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# Yemen

## Humanitarian Situation Report

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### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

## Highlights

- The conflict in Yemen continues to take a toll on children and families. At least 115 children have been killed between 26 March and 20 April, 2015. These numbers are believed to be conservative, as the total number of children is likely to be higher.
- UNICEF emergency health supplies have arrived in Sa'ada and have been distributed to several districts. These include emergency health kits and drugs that can meet the primary health care needs of 20,000 persons for 3 months, midwifery kits to support 500 deliveries, as well as resuscitation kits and several items for trauma management.
- UNICEF-provided fuel enabled the Sana'a Water Corporation to power pumps for one week, benefitting 169,000 people in Amanat Al Asima with access to clean water.
- UNICEF and partners supported the return of more than 150,000 pupils to school this week as three districts in Ibb Governorate resumed schooling.
- During the reporting period, through UNICEF's support, 4,290 children under 5 have been vaccinated and 2,925 have been treated for malnutrition in Harad, Al Bayda and Amran.
- UNICEF's partners provided psychosocial services to 1,095 children in child friendly spaces in Abyan, Hadramout, Taiz/Ibb, Al Bayda and Amran.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The deepening humanitarian crisis in Yemen continues to have a detrimental effect on children and their families. At least 115 children have been killed and 172 maimed between 26 March and 20 April, 2015 and an estimated 150,000 people have been internally displaced since the beginning of the conflict. Population movements remain fluid due to ongoing airstrikes in some parts of the country, despite the announcement of the end of 'Operation Decisive Storm' and beginning of 'Operation Renewal of Hope'. Although the change in phase has been welcomed in some areas, in the south, the situation has reportedly intensified as street fights and the use of heavy weaponry by parties to the conflict continue. The country is in a state of paralysis as fuel, water, and food supplies deplete rapidly and electricity and communications networks are increasingly cut off for long periods of time. Millions of people in Yemen are receiving less than an hour of uninterrupted water supply per day, while others face electricity cuts that last many days. Rising food prices and shortage of fuel has brought the country to a complete standstill. Food shortages continue to affect many areas as fuel costs prevent transportation, for example a truck carrying vegetables between Sa'ada and Hodeidah now costs approximately \$2,500 which is five times higher than before the conflict began. Even when food is available, the number of people who can afford to buy it is decreasing dramatically, either due to the lack of work or because the prices are too high. The lack of power combined with damaged water pumps in the south has forced people to resort to water collection from unprotected and abandoned wells. With the

### People in need of urgent humanitarian assistance:

**15.9 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance prior to current crisis, including **7.9 million** children (OCHA, WHO, UNICEF)

**150,000** internally displaced persons (IDPs) (OCHA)

**1,080** people killed, including **115** children (OCHA and UNICEF)

**4,350** people injured, including **172** children (OCHA and UNICEF)

**1.87 million** children out of school, and **3,526** schools affected,

### UNICEF 2015 Requirements:

**US\$88.1 million**

increasing temperatures and deteriorating hygiene, cases of waterborne diseases are on the rise, with unverified reports of acute diarrhea resulting in a number of child deaths in Mualla this week.

Twenty-three hospitals have been attacked since the beginning of the conflict and health staff and teachers are increasingly unable to report to work as the fuel crisis worsens. Schools continue to be suspended in many parts of the country. While the situation improved in some areas, for example in Ibb, 150,000 children returned to school, other areas, such as Taiz and Abyan saw a deterioration. According to verified reports, a total of 30 schools have been damaged or occupied. In addition, verification is ongoing for reports of 62 damaged schools (including 42 in the south and 19 in Sa'ada), and a further 154 schools inaccessible due to their occupation by armed groups (41 schools) or their being used as shelters by IDPs (113 schools), mostly in the south. In Hodeidah, final exams began for the early grades on 19 April, however clashes forced six schools to close almost immediately after opening, preventing 6,171 children from taking their exams.

## Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF is working in coordination with the Yemen HCT, which has temporarily relocated to Amman following the crisis. Inside Yemen, Area HCTs (AHCT) in Sana'a/Amran, Hodeidah/Harad and Sa'ada have all been activated, with exception of Aden due to the volatile situation. UNICEF Yemen has established a hub in Amman supporting the emergency response in-country and ensuring staff safety. Cluster leadership is also ensured from the Amman hub with dedicated in-country focal points. Meanwhile the UNICEF team operating in Yemen have been involved in conducting assessments and responding to priority needs wherever security conditions permit.

## Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian response to the recent crisis is being carried out under the framework of the inter-agency Flash Appeal (April 2015), responding to urgent humanitarian needs as identified through the 2015 contingency plan finalized in March, and an assessment of operational capacity to deliver against assessed and evolving needs. The Flash Appeal covers all vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, migrants, refugees and other affected people and prioritizes life-saving and protection programmes.

## Summary Analysis of Programme response

### Health & Nutrition

UNICEF is supporting mobile teams to provide integrated health and nutrition services for IDPs and host communities in a number of hard to reach or conflict-affected areas, including in Harad, Abs, Aslam, Khyran, Hairan, Qufi Shamar, Al Bayda and Amran. Some 4,290 children under 5 have been vaccinated and 2,925 have been treated for malnutrition in Harad, Al Bayda and Amran (including 1,211 for severe and 1,714 for moderate acute malnutrition). UNICEF estimates that over 30 mobile health and nutrition teams are needed to respond to increased needs, and has identified teams and distributed supplies. Current insecurity however, is hampering the response of teams to some areas. UNICEF is supporting the maintenance of the cold chain by providing fuel to the national cold room and several governorates. UNICEF is also supporting in country transportation of vaccines to ensure that routine vaccinations of children continues, and in anticipation of further fuel shortages, has delivered 6 months' worth of supplies of vaccines, injection devices and printed material to the north. Emergency health supplies have arrived in Sa'ada and have been distributed to several districts. These include emergency health kits and drugs that can meet the primary health care needs of 20,000 persons for 3 months, midwifery kits to support 500 deliveries, as well as resuscitation kits and several items for trauma management. Sixty community health volunteers have been trained on the integrated programme in Al Bayda.

### Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF transferred fuel to the Sana'a Water Corporation to power water pumps for one week, benefitting 169,000 people in Amanat Al Asima. UNICEF continues to provide daily clean water for up to 1,200 IDPs in Lahj, and is supplying fuel to enable community water pumps to operate in two villages in the south (Al Wadi and Sufyan) benefitting some 800 people. During the reporting period, 1,620 IDP families in Harad and Hairan have received basic hygiene kits and 45 ceramic filters were distributed to families who were far from

a safe water source. In the same area, an estimated 2,500 IDP families are now connected to water schemes through the installation of 12 water points. UNICEF is providing two hospitals with cleaning materials and tools, both of which are receiving conflict related injuries and trauma cases referred by other hospitals in the area.

## Education

UNICEF continues to advocate for and support the reintegration of IDP children into schools in Taiz, and is working to address the needs of IDP school children in Hodeidah. All school principals in Hodeidah were asked to open their schools to IDP children in order to allow them to complete their final exams. Discussions on alternative exam arrangements for other areas are ongoing between UNICEF and the Ministry of Education. UNICEF has developed a response plan that will cover the education supply needs for 40,000 (mainly IDP) children over a two month period.

## Child Protection

Of at least 115 children killed between 26 March and 20 April, 64 children were killed by aerial bombardments, 26 by unexploded ordnances and mines, 19 by gunshots, 3 by shelling and 3 by unverified causes related to the conflict. In the north of the country, 71 children have been killed while 44 have been killed in the south. These numbers are believed to be conservative, as the total number of children maimed and killed is likely to be higher. The verification process is ongoing. There are several unverified reports of children killed by snipers in Aden, including three boys and one girl. Child protection working group members in Aden continue to visit injured children and help their families with food and medicines where the situation permits. UNICEF's partners continue to provide psychosocial services for children in child friendly spaces in Abyan, Hadramout, Taiz/lbb, Al Bayda and Amran, reaching 1,095 children in the latter three areas since 19 April. The Country Task Force on monitoring and reporting grave violations against children continues to verify reported incidents. This includes 140 verified cases of children being recruited as child soldiers. There are unverified reports that one party to the conflict in the south has begun randomly detaining youth with the intention of exchanging them at a later point. UNICEF partners continue to advocate with armed groups to stop the use and recruitment of children, and to register and release child soldiers when identified. The country task force is following up on yet-to be verified reported incidents including of a kindergarten being used as a weapons warehouse; a child kidnapped by an armed group and later released; a teacher kidnapped by an armed group after the school refused to submit to the group's demands that children join a demonstration; a house destroyed by an armed group after the family (including an activist from another armed group) refused to leave, terrifying children and families in the neighborhood.

## Communication for Development (C4D)

Thirteen volunteers in Sanaah and Azarak have reached 420 people since 28 March with mine risk awareness, hygiene awareness and information on the importance of immunization. Ten volunteers continue to conduct door to door and group interpersonal sessions disseminating emergency messages and information to combat behavior that could lead to a cholera outbreak. Mine risk education (MRE) messages continue to broadcast through mosques and online media as well as on radio and TV stations wherever possible, although some stations in Aden, Shabwa and Abyan have closed periodically due to clashes. Radio Lana is sharing MRE posters through its social media channels, while 11 of UNICEF's partners are sharing MRE messages, as well as posters in Abyan, Dhale and Shabwa.

## Funding

On 17 April, the UN launched a Flash Appeal for Yemen, totalling nearly \$274 million for three months, out of which UNICEF is appealing for US\$27.98 million. This brings UNICEF's total revised humanitarian appeal for 2015 to US\$88.1 million.

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