



1-8 April 2015

Yemen

Humanitarian Situation Report

unicef 

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- The security situation continues to deteriorate in Yemen with no signs of abating. As of 5 April, WHO estimates that 614 people have been killed and 2,038 injured by violence (including 77 children killed and 44 injured between 26 March and 6 April).
- Civilian infrastructure has been damaged including schools, health facilities and electricity stations. An airstrike on 7 April near Al Rasheedi School in Yemen's Ibb Governorate reportedly left at least two children dead and two injured, while a child was reportedly injured near to Al Khadhra School in Midi, Hodeidah.
- UNICEF is providing supplies and medication, and supporting the operation of 9 health facilities in 4 conflict-affected districts in Sa'ada. UNICEF is also supporting 2 mobile health and nutrition teams in Harad District.
- UNICEF WASH cluster focal points are working in Al Dhale, Abyan, Lahj and Aden to support continuity of water supply. UNICEF is also providing water to Al Mazraq camp and distributing chlorine tablets to families.
- UNICEF is carrying out ongoing reporting and verification of grave child rights violations, disseminating Mine Risk Education messages (almost 10,000 people have been reached since 1 April), and is providing psychosocial support services (almost 2,000 children have been reached in Amran and Al Bayda).
- The Ministry of Education has extended the suspension of schools in Sana'a and Aden Governorates to 12 April. Meanwhile, all schools in Hodeidah, Sa'ada and Sana'a and a further 1,800 schools across the country are closed, affecting nearly 1.5 million children. UNICEF is working with governorate education offices to identify alternative schooling arrangements for children whose schools are temporarily closed, including possibly moving children in affected areas to schools in nearby areas not affected by the conflict.

People in need of urgent humanitarian assistance:

100,000 newly displaced populations (estimated figures since the current crisis)

614 people killed, including **77 children** (WHO and UNICEF)

2,038 people injured, including **44 children** (WHO and UNICEF)

1.5 million children out of school

14.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance prior to current crisis, including 6.9 million children

UNICEF 2015 Requirements:

US\$60.1 million

(based on 2015 humanitarian appeal, currently under revision)

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The security situation continues to deteriorate in Yemen with 14 out of Yemen's 20 governorates affected by coalition air strikes or armed conflict. In Aden, street fighting continues, including, with the use of tanks and heavy weaponry, while access between districts in the south is difficult if not impossible. In Hadramaut, local tribes are reportedly mobilizing against militants who have taken control of Mukalla City. Civilian infrastructure has been damaged including schools, health facilities and electricity stations. The fuel crisis is intensifying which is likely to increase the cost of living and negatively affect the emergency response operation. This is particularly worrisome in southern areas, where water

and electricity shortages have also been reported. Water pipes supplying Al Mazraq IDP camp and two villages in the north have been damaged by explosions, while the main water supply serving two districts in Aden has been disrupted. Basic food products are scarce and prices are increasing, leading to rising panic among the population. Supply ships carrying wheat and fuel were recently refused entry at the Hodeidah port.

As of 5 April, WHO estimates that 614 people have been killed and 2,038 injured by violence (including 77 children killed and 44 injured between 26 March and 6 April). The Yemen Red Crescent Society reported that three of its volunteers have been killed. On 3 April, an ambulance in Aden was hit by shelling, killing two volunteer paramedics. Another ambulance driver was reportedly shot dead at the hospital in Dhale. In the south, ambulances have been hijacked by parties to the conflict allegedly to be used for fighting, which has impeded humanitarian work to refer the dead and wounded to hospitals immediately. There are reports of children taking part in fighting and children are also reportedly seen at checkpoints despite assertions by armed groups that they are not being used.

An estimated 100,000 people have been displaced since the start of the crisis, with secondary and tertiary displacement taking place as the conflict spreads. Following the attacks on Al Mazraq last week, IDP camps 1 and 3 are almost empty as families were forced to relocate to nearby Al Madab, Al Qufl and villages in rural areas. On 2 April, mortar shells reportedly fell in near Al Madab, forcing displaced families to relocate once again. Some 1,006 displaced families near the border with Saudi Arabia moved to safer districts around Harad, and an additional 932 families from Abyan and over 900 from Aden and Lahj have been displaced. In addition 3,894 families have been displaced across 88 different locations in 10 districts of Amran, and a further 4,647 families have been displaced within Sa'ada. All displacement figures are estimates and are in the process of being verified. Needs assessments are ongoing in various parts of the country including in Hodeidah, Hajjah, Amran and others are planned in Al Dhale and Sa'ada. Other areas remain difficult to access

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF Yemen is working as part of the Yemen Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) which has temporarily relocated to Amman following the recent crisis. Area HCTs in Sana'a/Amran, Hodeidah/Harad and Sa'ada have been activated, while the Aden Area HCT has not been activated due to the volatile situation there. UNICEF Yemen has established a hub in Amman supporting emergency response in country and ensuring staff safety. Cluster leadership is also being led from the Amman hub with dedicated in-country focal points. Meanwhile the national team on the ground have been involved in conducting needs assessments and responding to priority needs wherever security conditions permit, particularly in the sectors of WASH and child protection.

Humanitarian Strategy

As part of the Humanitarian Country Team, UNICEF is responding under the framework of the recently activated Yemen humanitarian contingency plan. Priority needs remain mass casualty management and health, protection, WASH and nutrition. In the second week of the conflict, assessments are being prioritized as security permits. UNICEF is also undertaking a revision of its programmes with a view to restructuring its ongoing activities to respond to emerging needs. This review will inform the preparation of an inter-agency flash appeal, currently under development.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health and Nutrition

Nine health and nutrition facilities have been closed in five districts due to the current conflict or the unavailability of health personnel, who have been displaced. UNICEF is providing supplies and medication as well as supporting the operation of nine health facilities in four conflict-affected districts in Sa'ada. Three mobile teams are working to provide health and nutrition services, two in Harad District and one in Lahj. All southern governorates have confirmed that they are able to adequately store their vaccines, including the new injectable polio vaccines (IPV) in proper storage facilities. However, shortages in fuel are putting a strain on governorate health offices in other areas, so close monitoring is ongoing to identify gaps and help inform response plans accordingly. UNICEF supported the transportation of vaccines to several district level health facilities, including in Hajja, Raymah and to others in the north to avoid breaks in the cold chain and ensure supplies are readily available.

Health and nutrition facilities in Ibb and Taiz are still operational, and nutrition facilities are also operational in parts of the country not directly affected by the conflict. That said, the functionality of health and nutrition facilities throughout the country remain under threat due to fuel shortages and operational budget cuts. As a result, children in treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) who depend on such facilities are extremely vulnerable. For instance, 15,352 children under 5 who had been enrolled in treatment for SAM in Hodeidah before the recent conflict began, are now threatened

by a shortage of supplies. Furthermore, decreased access to WASH services as a result of continuing conflict, is likely to lead to increases the numbers of children with SAM.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Aden, Lahj, Al Dhale, Abyan (southern area): The water situation in the south continues to be dire. The main pipe supplying water to Mualla and Tawahi Districts (supplying around 70,000 people) was damaged on 5 April. There were concerns over the safety of staff fixing the pipe due to the continued fighting and presence of snipers stationed in nearby buildings. UNICEF and other actors are now supporting the repairs in partnership with the local water authority. The price of water tankers has increased to 10,000 Yemeni riyal (\$50), leaving vulnerable people unable to afford it.

The WASH Cluster in the south is planning to carry out an assessment in Al Dhale, Abyan and Lahj. UNICEF is in the process of negotiating support by way of fuel for the local water cooperation to maintain the continuity of water supply service for at least one month, benefitting approximately 1.5 million people. UNICEF continues to provide urgently needed cleaning materials and tools for the two main hospitals in Aden, despite difficulties faced in purchasing and delivering supplies to hospitals because of the insecurity. UNICEF continues to provide water to Al Mazraq camp, although some difficulties have been faced in camp 1 following the destruction of the supply lines. Currently water is being supplied to 37,000 people in Al Mazraq camp, and is also being trucked to nearby areas where IDPs have relocated. On 8 April, UNICEF partners began assessing the situation inside villages where IDPs have relocated to within Harad and neighbouring districts. In Sana'a, UNICEF and the local authority for water and sanitation are currently reviewing the provision of water for 1 million beneficiaries, which threatened by fuel shortages.

Education

The Ministry of Education has extended the suspension of schools in Sana'a and Aden Governorates to 12 April. Meanwhile, all schools in Hodeidah, Sa'ada and Sana'a and a further 1,800 schools across the country are closed, affecting nearly 1.5 million children. An estimated 52 of these schools are closed due to occupation by armed groups (an estimated 25 schools) or to use as shelters by IDPs. This data is currently being verified. UNICEF is working with governorate education offices to identify alternative schooling arrangements for children whose schools are temporarily closed, including possibly moving children in affected areas to schools in nearby areas not affected by the conflict.

An airstrike on 7 April near Al Rasheedi School in Yemen's Ibb Governorate reportedly left at least two children dead and two injured, while a child was reportedly injured near to Al Khadhra School in Midi, Hodeidah. Families living nearby fled to seek shelter in safer areas.

Child Protection

UNICEF and partners are providing child protection activities including mine-risk education (MRE) and psychosocial support (PSS) to children in Sana'a. Shabwa Radio allocates an hour daily for parents to ask about mine risk safety for their children, with UNICEF and YEMAC staff responding. In addition, radio stations in Shabwa, Lana, Aden and Abyan continue broadcasting MRE messages, and refer confidential calls to YEMAC. UNICEF began a mine risk awareness campaign involving theatre, short stories, radio talks and songs in two schools in Amran. This was planned as part of the 4 April international day of mine risk and victims assistance. The first few days of the campaign reached 3,276 (including 2,620 girls) and will go on to cover a total of 20 schools and 5 child friendly spaces in Amran, targeting host communities, conflict affected areas and IDPs. Between 1-7 April, 6,093 people (including 2,695 children) were reached with MRE by trained facilitators in areas targeted by airstrikes in Al Amanah and Sana'a Governorates. These figures are in addition to the 18,000 people reached in recent months, prior to the conflict in Hodeidah. Psychosocial support activities also continue, reaching 1,861 children in Amran and Al Bayda, 451 of which are girls.

Partners continue using the MRM reporting mechanism to verify accounts of grave child rights violations, however access and security in some areas is extremely difficult so total numbers are hard to verify. Confirmed cases over the past few days include one child killed and three more injured (one unverified) during missile bombardment and fighting in Al Mualla District on 4 April. There have been unconfirmed reports that a child has been arrested by an armed group in Hodeidah.

Supply and Logistics

International flights to Yemen and access by sea continue to be restricted, severely limiting the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver much needed supplies and deploy humanitarian personnel. Increased fuel prices throughout the country have affected road transport. Two humanitarian flights that arrived in Yemen recently, suggesting the possibility that more humanitarian supplies will be granted access in the coming period. UNICEF is working with the logistics cluster to address logistic challenges for transporting supplies into and within Yemen.

Security

The security situation in the south of the country remains extremely volatile and prevents the free movement of UNICEF staff and partners. In areas not directly involved in the conflict and where security permits, staff are able to respond to the needs of the population, however, they are subject to risks due to the unpredictability of the ongoing conflict. UNICEF is concerned about restrictions to transporting humanitarian supplies and staff into and within Yemen, as well as the targeting of humanitarian workers and assets. Challenges remain for NGOs and local associations operating in the north of Yemen - 8 NGOs were forced to close by armed groups, further threatening humanitarian efforts to reach those in need. The planned interagency assessment for IDPs in Sa'ada was suspended by the de facto authority.

Funding

UNICEF along with partners is reviewing its humanitarian appeal, which prior to the recent escalation in conflict, stood at US\$60.1 million.

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