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Yemen

Humanitarian Situation Report

30 Dec. 2015 - 12 Jan. 2016

Highlights

- Despite access constraints, UNICEF and its partners continue to reach some of the most complex, insecure and affected zones where communities are facing dire conditions, particularly in Taiz.
- In Taiz, mobile teams provided health and nutrition services for children and pregnant and lactating women; water-trucking reached displaced and host communities; and select families living in sieged areas received cash transfers.
- Starting on 9 January, UNICEF is supporting the operation and promotion of the national Polio vaccination campaign, expecting to reach over 5 million children in the coming weeks, including hard-to-access locations in Taiz.
- Bombardments and street fighting in several zones of Yemen continue to expose children and their families to violence, disease and deprivation. Unhindered access is required to assist the most affected communities.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

More than nine months of continuing conflict in Yemen, have left over 21 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, in 20 of 22 governorates.

The current crisis has exacerbated the already critical humanitarian situation in the country. Collapsed social infrastructure and basic services have left millions of people without access to healthcare, safe water and sanitation services, and thousands of children out of school.

On top of that, partners estimate that 2.5 million people are currently displaced within Yemen and need assistance and protection, 31 per cent of them are boys and girls.¹

Coping mechanisms and regular incomes of the most vulnerable families, have been highly impacted by the crisis - particularly by the increased price of basic goods, food and fuel, and the suspension of social programmes. Such conditions are increasing poverty and malnutrition among the most vulnerable populations.

To mitigate against increasing humanitarian needs, UNICEF continues to provide support across different sectors, including, but not limited to, health and

People in need of urgent humanitarian assistance:

21.1 million people, of which:
9.9 million children and
2.5 million IDPs (31% children)
 (Protection Cluster, includes prior to and since the conflict escalated)

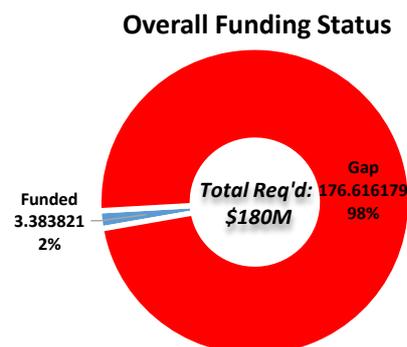
320,000 children under 5 at risk of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)
1 million children under 5 projected to suffer Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)

19.3 million people in need of WASH assistance

15.2 million people in need of basic health care

UNICEF 2016 Requirements:
US \$180 million

Funds received:
US \$ 3.4 (98 per cent gap)



¹ Sixth report of the Task Force on Population Movement, led by UNHCR and IOM (10 December 2015).

nutrition, WASH, education, child protection and social protection, working closely with Governments and local partners. Humanitarian response has been particularly challenging considering access constraints and the extremely hazardous working environment. In a recent statement, UNICEF's Representative in Yemen called for urgent help for children in Yemen, calling on "all parties involved in the conflict – as is their duty under International Humanitarian Law -- to allow unhindered access to areas affected by the fighting, where civilians are dying because hospitals are not functioning, medicines are in short supply and children are at risk of dying from preventable diseases".

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF continues to work in coordination with the Yemen Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and is leading the WASH, Education and Nutrition Clusters and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster. UNICEF has also established sub-national level Clusters for WASH, Child Protection and Education in Aden and Nutrition Sub-Clusters in all field offices, and continues to be an active member of the Health Cluster.

In addition to the hub in Ibb, which has been operational since 15 November, 2015, UNICEF continues taking the lead for the humanitarian hub in Sa'ada. UNICEF continues to review and monitor programme implementation through local partners, utilizing remote monitoring and some innovative use of mobile technology. Efforts continue to diversify and expand partnerships with local NGOs with the capacity to deliver emergency and humanitarian programmes on the ground.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy remains focused on delivering lifesaving services and supplies in line with UNICEF's Core Commitments to Children in Emergencies. This includes providing an integrated package of health, nutrition and vaccination services and preventive measures to mothers, newborns and children, preparing for potential outbreaks of childhood diseases, expanding treatment services for children with malnutrition and supporting displaced families through provision of safe water and hygiene facilities. UNICEF supports government partners to re-open schools, provide catch up classes, provide school supplies and encourage strategies for alternative accommodation for displaced persons occupying schools to enable children's return to school. Acknowledging the psychological distress experienced by children, UNICEF supports partners to provide psychosocial support through schools and community facilities including child friendly spaces (CFS). UNICEF and partners are scaling up efforts through all field office areas to reach the most vulnerable children and their families especially internally displaced persons which have now reached 2.5 million (IDPs)—roughly 10 per cent of the population. In light of the huge impact of poverty on children, targeted cash grants reach thousands of the most vulnerable families in Yemen. UNICEF continues to generate new evidence on geographic vulnerabilities, effectiveness of early relief efforts and remaining gaps in lifesaving interventions. While relief efforts seek to save children's lives, the UN Country Team continues to advocate for access to isolated areas, especially where blockades exist. UN leaders at country, region and HQ level remain committed to a peaceful solution to the conflict and negotiate for the protection of humanitarian supplies and sites. The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) for 2016 will be released in mid-January. UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2016 appeal is aligned with the YHRP and will be launched in the coming week.

UNICEF continues to work closely with local government providers to improve their capacity to respond to the ongoing crisis. UNICEF's humanitarian strategy prioritizes actions in such a way that supplies and services are directed to governorates with high levels of population displacement. In July, UNICEF activated its Level 3 Corporate Emergency Procedure which mobilizes the highest level of organization-wide support to the current crisis in Yemen.

Summary of Programme Response

Health & Nutrition

The Yemen Humanitarian Country Team (YHCT) estimates that in 2016, 14.1 million people lack sufficient access to healthcare, and 3 million children and pregnant or lactating women require malnutrition treatment or preventive services.² UNICEF and partners estimate that in 2016,³ about 320,000 children under 5 will be at risk of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 1 million children are projected to suffer from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), compared to 690,000 before the crisis.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided health and nutrition services for over 50,000 people through 77 mobile teams, including children, pregnant and lactating women (see table). New mobile teams were launched in Amran (5) and

14.1 million people
lack sufficient access to
healthcare

² Humanitarian Needs Overview – Yemen 2016.

³ According to the updated Humanitarian Needs Overview – Yemen 2016. Calculations are based on the results of the following surveys: DHS 2014, CFSS 2014, SMART Surveys 2014 /2015.

Sana'a (5). In Aden, Abyan, Lahj, Hadramout and Shabwah, 4,866 cartons of the therapeutic food Plumpy nut are under distribution and will support 5,700 severely acute malnourished children during the treatment courses (4 to 8 weeks).

Capacity-building activities during the first weeks of 2016 included two training workshops for 35 district and zonal nutrition monitors in Hodeidah⁴, and a Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) training for 60 community health volunteers in Albaydha governorate.

Health and nutrition services provided by 77 mobile teams MTs (30 Dec 2015– 12 Jan 2016)	
Children screened for acute malnutrition through routine nutrition services in Sana'a, Hodeidah, Taiz, and Aden governorates (10,122 male, 8,572 female)	18,694
Severely malnourished children under 5 years admitted to feeding programmes in Hodeidah, Hajjah, Almahwit, Raymah, Lahj, Aden, Shabwah, Aldhalea, Abyan, Ammant Al asimah, Sana'a, Amman, Dhammar, Sana'a, Mareb and Taiz (736 boys, 1,039 girls).	1,775
Mothers of children under 5 received infant and young child feeding counselling in Amman, Mareb, Sana'a, Hodeidah, Hajjah, Raymah, Aden, Taiz, Lahj, Aldhalea, and Abyan.	6,782
Children under 5 received vitamin A and micronutrient supplementation	4,700
Children received deworming capsules	2,470
Pregnant and lactating women received iron/folate supplementation	29,885

Given the collapse of public health services and their limited resources, since late-March 2015 UNICEF has been providing support to central, governorate and district cold rooms in health facilities, through provision of fuel and installation of solar panels. By the second week of January 2016, 246 - out of 333 - district cold rooms remain functional (74 per cent). According to reports received by UNICEF, about 25 per cent of health facilities with fixed Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) sites are no longer conducting routine vaccination. Most of these facilities are in the most conflict-affected districts.

UNICEF is funding operational costs and communication activities for the launch of a Polio, Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign which started on January 9th, 2016. The Polio campaign is expected to reach over 5 million children under 5 in 333 districts (3.9 million reached, as of 12 January), while the MR campaign will be conducted in 62 districts with a target of 2.6 million children, from 6 months to 15 years. In Taiz, local health workers have reached some of the areas under conflict.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

An estimated 19.3 million people (75 per cent of the population) now require some kind of assistance to meet their basic water, sanitation and hygiene needs.⁵

19.3 million people
with WASH needs

To guarantee access to water in the most affected communities, during the reporting period UNICEF continued to provide support to local water corporations in Al Bayda, Amanat Al Asimah (Sana'a City), Amman, Sa'ada and Al Mahwit Governorates, reaching 1,359,887 beneficiaries. UNICEF continued providing fuel for the operation of 28 rural water projects in six districts in Sa'ada governorate providing water supply to 147,397 persons. In addition, water trucking provided water for drinking and domestic use to 53,989 displaced people and their host communities in Amanat Al Asimah, Sa'ada and Taiz governorates –including districts under conflict.

In Amanat Al Asimah and Hajjah governorates, 1,659 basic hygiene kits were distributed to 11,350 people. In Hajjah, hygiene kits were distributed in two schools reaching 431 students. In Al-Shamayateen District in Taiz, 55 water tanks were installed for 1,474 beneficiaries. UNICEF also conducted hygiene awareness sessions focusing on personal hygiene, hand washing and safe water storage for 73,388 people in Hajjah Governorate. Moreover, 278 latrines were installed to serve 4,642 people in Hajjah and Ibb governorates.

UNICEF continued to provide support to Sa'ada cleaning fund with required monthly cleaning materials, incentives for 80 workers and maintenance of three cleaning vehicles for collecting and disposing of 1,053 tonnes of garbage and solid waste from Sa'ada town neighbourhoods. UNICEF continues supporting Amanat Al-Asimah water corporation on the operation of the wastewater treatment plant, with 1,400,000 beneficiaries in Sana'a city.

Education

Over 1.8 million school-aged children were forced out of school due to the closure of 3,584 schools after the escalation of the conflict in Yemen. In November, 2015, schools reopened, however to date 1,600 remain closed due to insecurity, damages and occupation by IDPs. During the reporting period, 15 schools reopened in urban districts in Taiz but 100 more were closed mainly in Sa'ada and Taiz. Over 387,000 children are now out of school.

+1.8 million children
forced out of school at the
beginning of the crisis

+387,000 children
remain out of school

⁴ Including 8 females, 27 males.

⁵ According to the updated Humanitarian Needs Overview – Yemen 2016. Current estimations, particularly for rural areas, are based on improved information provided by the General Authority for Rural Water Supply (GARWSP) branch offices.

UNICEF continues with the implementation of a package of education support with focus on vulnerable IDP children. UNICEF supported Ibb, Taiz and Hajjah Governorate Education Office (GEO) to track and identify school-age children and ensure their enrolment in schools or alternative places. As of date, 73,750 IDP children have been tracked and enrolled, including 1,200 in the IDP camp in Manguriah District (Hajjah Governorate), volunteer teachers have also been identified to receive training from UNICEF. In Ibb, UNICEF installed an additional 15 tents, thus reaching 1,554 IDP children with 25 tents since November 2015. To date, UNICEF has installed 137 tents to be used as Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) for over 5,100 children who have lost access to education either because of displacement or damages in their schools. Additionally, 17 schools providing access to education for IDP students have benefited from hygiene promotion activities.

As part of UNICEF's Back to School programme, 79,100 school bags packed with stationery items have been provided to affected children in Abyan, Ibb, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Al Bayda, Amran, Dhamar and Sana'a Governorates. Distribution of 237,000 school bags is underway. Assessment for school damages in preparation for rehabilitation is ongoing in all affected areas, except Sa'ada and Marib where access has been constrained. During the reporting period, an additional 90 schools were assessed.

Child Protection

Children in Yemen continue to be vulnerable to grave violations of their rights. The Humanitarian Country Team estimates that 7.4 million children are in need of protection due to the ongoing conflict.⁶

+7.4 million children
in need of protection services

To alleviate psychosocial consequences of the current situation on Yemeni children, UNICEF continues to offer Psycho-Social Support (PSS) to conflict-affected communities, IDPs and host communities. During the two-week reporting period, 24,783 children⁷ in Ibb, Taiz, Hodeidah, Hajjah, Al-Amanah, Hadramout, Aden, Dhale and Abyan governorates, received Psycho-Social Support (PSS) via community and mobile based Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) activities including sports, arts and recreational activities. In addition, 19,669 people⁸ received information and skills on protection of children in emergencies including messages to prevent the use or recruitment of children by armed groups or armed forces.

A joint field visit by UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL) branch in Ibb was conducted to monitor the implementation of CFSs in 16 districts of Ibb. Main findings and recommendations were shared with MOSAL branches in Ibb and Sana'a.

Mine risk education (MRE) sessions for conflict-affected and displaced communities were conducted engaging 63,471 people⁹ in Amanat Al-Asimah, Al-Hodeidah, Taiz, Ibb, Aden, Abyan, Dhale, Mukalla and Hajjah Governorates. The MRE working group led by UNICEF has developed new MRE materials focused on an audience of children, including warning messages related to new devices used in the current conflict, with positive and child friendly messages.

During the reporting period, 13 out of 19 pending grave violations from the previous reporting period were verified. The verified incidents took place in Sa'ada (6), Aden (5), Amanat Al Asimah (1), and Taiz (1) and resulted in four boys and three girls killed and five boys and three girls maimed, one boy recruited, two attacks on schools and one attack on a hospital.¹⁰

Social Policy

Negative coping mechanisms and the suspension of key social protection mechanisms are exacerbating the impact of conflict on millions of vulnerable Yemenis, pushing them into extreme poverty. The Social Welfare fund (SWF), which is the key government unconditional cash transfer programme supporting 1.5 million households, was suspended in March 2015 leaving around 7 million direct and indirect beneficiaries without an income.

7 million direct & indirect
beneficiaries
affected by the suspension of
Social Welfare Fund pro-
grammes

In mid-November 2015, UNICEF launched unconditional cash transfers to cover the basic needs of some of the most affected and poorest households in Yemen. Starting in Amanat Al-Asima (Sana'a city), the programme was later expanded to Taiz. As of January 12, UNICEF has been able to reach a total of 11,646 households (81,522 individuals) in Amanat Al-Asima and Taiz. In Amanat Al-Asima, 4,977 families (34,839 individuals) have already received two cycles of assistance (November and December 2015), and will receive their third cycle by mid-January 2016. In Taiz, 6,669 families (46,683 individuals) received the first cycle of assistance, this number is expected to reach increase to 8,000 families (56,000 individuals) by the end of January, the second cycle of assistance will start in February.

Partnerships have been crucial to this intervention. Through collaboration between partners in Taiz (Al-Amal Bank, the Social Welfare Fund and Hemmat Shabab), cash assistance has reached the most vulnerable families in sieged areas of Taiz including Al-Qahira, Al-Mudhafar and Salah, as well as families in areas of active conflict such as Al-Makha and Al

⁶ Humanitarian Needs Overview – Yemen 2016.

⁷ Including 13,418 girls, 11,365 boys.

⁸ Including 7,773 girls, 9,265 boys, 1,163 women, 1,468 men.

⁹ Including 57,380 children (25,235 girls, 32,145 boys) and 6,091 adults (2,723 women, 3,368 men).

¹⁰ Figures verified by UNICEF.

Wazaeah. Weekly coordination meetings between counterparts in Taiz and in Amanat Al-Asima, has been a key platform for facilitating implementation, collective decision making and addressing challenges of the programme.

Communication for Development (C4D)

Communication for Development activities remain crucial for the sustainability of UNICEF's assistance and development efforts in Yemen. Since the escalation of conflict, at least 963,906 people have been reached by UNICEF with critical information and promotion of positive behaviors, 78,653 of these were reached during the reporting period. Through the Communication for Development programme, individuals and families are engaged in counselling sessions, home visits and focus group discussions, among other activities, around critical lifesaving practices and messages including disease prevention/outbreak (malaria, dengue fever, diarrhoea/cholera), vaccination, exclusive breastfeeding and proper infant and child feeding practices, hygiene promotion and safe water use. UNICEF also continues to advocate for the safety of schools and spreading key messages on child protection issues, including child recruitment, child separation, child trafficking and mine risk education. In addition to this, a national polio communication campaign was launched to mobilize families to get their children vaccinated.

Supply and Logistics

Since the escalation of the crisis in late March 2015, a total of 3,600.3 metric tons of emergency supplies have been sent to Yemen. During the report period, emergency supplies valuing US\$110,000 were distributed to implementing partners, including 229 Early Child Development (ECD) kits, 90 school in a box, 500 cartons of Plumpy nuts.

Funding

In line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), **UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for 2016 was US\$180 million**, UNICEF has received US\$3.4 million against the appeal, leaving a **98 per cent funding gap**.¹¹ By 31 December 2015, UNICEF received US\$143.9 million against the original appeal for 2015, US\$182.6 million (leaving a 21 per cent gap).

Sector	Requirements	Funding Received		Funding Gap	
		US\$	%	US\$	%
Nutrition	61,500,000		0%	61,500,000	100%
Health	36,000,000		0%	36,000,000	100%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	48,500,000		0%	48,500,000	100%
Child Protection	14,000,000		0%	14,000,000	100%
Education	14,000,000		0%	14,000,000	100%
Social Protection in Emergency	6,000,000		0%	6,000,000	100%
Being allocated		3,383,821			-
Total	180,000,000	3,383,821	2%	176,616,179	98%

*Funds received do not include pledges.

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¹¹ By 18 January, 2016.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

2016 PROGRAMME TARGETS AND RESULTS*	Cluster		UNICEF	
	2016 Target	Total 2016 Results	2016 Target	Total 2016 Results
NUTRITION				
Number of children under 5 are treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	178,562	1,775	178,562	1,775
Number of PLWs benefitted from the IYCF counselling	313,119	6,782	313,119	6,782
Number of children under 5 given micronutrient interventions	4,000,000	4,700	4,000,000	4,700
HEALTH				
Number of children under 1 vaccinated against measles (MCV1)			770,000	221
Number of children under 5 vaccinated against polio			5,039,936	3,954,405
Number of children under 5 receiving primary health care			815,000	6,971
Number of pregnant and lactating women receiving primary health care			680,000	7,260
WASH				
Number of affected population (men, woman, boys and girls) provided with improved water sources and environmental sanitation services by developing, rehabilitating and maintaining the Public and community infrastructures ¹	6,384,984	1,919,769	5,186,000	1,919,769
Number of affected people with access to safe water as per agreed standards (7.5-15L per person per day)	682,332	53,989	100,000	53,989
Number of affected people provided with standard basic hygiene kits	1,382,461	11,350	500,000	11,350
CHILD PROTECTION				
Number of children in conflict-affected areas covered by MRM interventions	1,372,933	0	1,373,933	0
Number of children in conflict-affected areas receiving psychosocial support	399,594	24,783	279,716	24,783
Number of children and community members receiving knowledge to protect themselves against injury/death of mine/UXO explosion	502,158	63,471	351,511	63,471
EDUCATION				
Number of affected school-aged children provided with access to education via Temporary Learning Spaces and School Rehabilitation	244,500	1,531	156,000	1,531
Number of affected children receiving psychosocial support services in schools	575,500	738	173,000	738
Number of affected children with access to basic learning supplies, books and classroom furniture to be integrated into education system	522,710	69,102	360,000	69,102
C4D				
Number of affected people reached through integrated C4D efforts			1,200,000	78,653
SOCIAL PROTECTION				
Number of vulnerable households reached with humanitarian Cash transfer in Yemen			315,000	14,966

Footnotes:

(*) Indicators and results may change while the YHRP 2016 is finalized.

1. Cumulative catchment number of people accessing safe drinking water through rehabilitation / repair of the existing urban water supply systems with established operations / maintenance routines, rehabilitation of rural and urban water and sewage systems infrastructure including supply of equipment, spare parts, fuel, chemicals for treatment and other operation and maintenance costs, and the cumulative catchment of number of people benefitting from support to solid waste management services with supply of equipment, spare parts, fuel and other operational costs.