

UNICEF CO Situation Report

Date: July 2013

Highlights

- Nearly 50,000 children in Aden Governorate in the south were denied access to schools. This was due to the pro-separatist movement known as Al-Hirak, which called for ‘civil disobedience’ two days a week to draw attention to their demands. Advocacy efforts helped ease the situation in May to allow 255,730 students to sit for their exams.
- 531 unaccompanied or separated children were returned to their families between January and July 2013. This includes 266 Yemeni boys and 265 non-Yemeni children, all from Ethiopia, 8 of who were girls. These results were achieved through a rapid return system that was established for migrants in Haradh in the north and in Sana’a including children hosted at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) shelter and the child protection centre.
- The Government of Yemen is fully committed to prioritizing nutrition as the lead agenda. Yemen became the latest member of the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in November 2012 and has established a multisectoral coordinating committee under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) to oversee the implementation of the National Nutrition Multi-sectoral Plan (NNMSP).
- The national dialogue (NDC) process, which began on March 18th 2013, is ongoing with uncertain outcomes. The process provides a space for all stakeholders—including vulnerable groups who have been outside of the political process to date—to participate in shaping a new Yemen following the transition process and elections in 2014. The NDC will begin its “Final General Session” after all working groups have completed their work at the end of September 2013.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Humanitarian needs and the underlying context in the country remain largely unchanged since the beginning of the year. Improvements in access and security in some areas are encouraging, but an estimated 13.1 million people remain affected by the humanitarian crisis. The number of undernourished children remains unabated at 690,918 and child protection issues a concern, where an estimated 500,480 children are in need of protection.

Recent, fragile improvements, including the launch of the national dialogue offer a critical opportunity to move the crisis closer to recovery. The operating environment is unpredictable for humanitarian actors. The security situation remains volatile with localized conflicts, and increased risk of kidnappings of international staff. Whilst there was a reduction reported on the incidents of children affected by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs) from Abyan, consistent incidents from other governorates remain a concern.

Efforts in the first part of the year focused on supporting the return of over 90 per cent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to Abyan. In the north, the focus has been on developing sustainable solutions to protracted displacement and to increase support for the 95 per cent of northern IDPs who live outside. Ethiopian and Yemeni migrants are being deported back to Yemen from Saudi Arabia on an unprecedented scale, while migrants continue to arrive to Yemen from the Horn of Africa. As of the end of April, 36,000 people had arrived to the Yemeni shore, including 30,000 Ethiopian migrants.

Key Information			
Start of humanitarian response:			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	13,100,000	6,681,000	6,419,000
Children Affected (Under 18)	12,400,000	6,324,000	6,076,000
Children Under Five	4,744,549	2,430,103	2,314,446
Children 6 to 59 months	4,680,000	2,293,200	2,386,800
Pregnant women	673,484	-	673,484

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

- The cluster system has been activated in Yemen since 2009 with UNICEF having dedicated coordinators for the clusters it leads; namely, WASH, Education, Child Protection and Nutrition. Sub-national coordination structures have also been established in the respective sectors in the North (Sa'ada, Harad, Hodeidah), Center (Taiz) and the South (Aden).
- In an effort to strengthen Government leadership capacity in humanitarian coordination and early recovery, the nutrition and WASH cluster, and the child protection sub-cluster are now respectively co-chaired by the Ministry of Public Health, the Emergency Unit of the General Authority for Rural Water Supply Projects (GARWP) and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL). The Education Cluster continues to actively engage the Ministry of Education (MoE) in ensuring joint decision making on key planning and implementation issues, as well as needs assessments.
- In nutrition, UNICEF has focused on building the capacity of partners, particularly Government in planning and conducting SMART surveys and is co-leading the process of revising the National guidelines for community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) for Yemen with the Ministry of Public Health.
- The Emergency Unit of GARWP has led emergency response activities in six affected governorates and is currently managing the improvement of water supply systems for IDPs and host communities.

UNICEF Programme response

Nutrition

Results Status

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF		Sector / Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
children under 5 screened for malnutrition	897,828	544,109	897,828	544,109
Children with severe malnutrition treated	160,000	66,720	365,918	131,212
Mothers of children aged 6-24 months receive counselling and support for Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)	199,000	194,656	1,079,600	194,656
Number of children under 5 provided with micronutrient supplements	1,346,742	169,090	1,346,742	169,090
UNICEF Supported partners contributing to above UNICEF Results: The above results have been achieved through partnership with 7 International and National NGOs working in 7 high malnutrition-burden governorates: Merlin, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, CSSW, International Medical Corps, FMF and Village Hope International.				

Analysis of Results

There has been a slight increase in the targeted case load of acute malnutrition. It is estimated that a little over 1 million children under 5 are acutely malnourished and over 255,000 are severely acutely malnourished (SAM). Overall, the cluster has achieved over 42 per cent of the original target for treatment of SAM children to date. The above figures do not yet include the June reports from Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) facilities.

There are gaps in coverage of nutrition response in relatively inaccessible (due to insecurity) governorates such as Sa'ada, Al-Jawf and Abyan. Under funding is also a major constraint hindering continued provision of nutritional care for acutely malnourished children and underweight pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Nutrition cluster Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) projects are only 31 per cent funded.

In addition to the above results, cluster partners with support from the World Food Programme (WFP) reached 129,968 children aged 6-23 months at risk of malnutrition through the Blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP). UNICEF-supported CMAM sites have also been carrying out community screening for acute malnutrition. During this reporting period 544,109 children aged 6-59 months were screened for acute malnutrition.

UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health trained 1,427 community volunteers on the basic community health package with a focus on creating awareness of hygiene and sanitation and infant and young child feeding promotion. 886 health workers were also trained on case management of acute malnutrition.

Health

Results Status

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)
Children immunized against measles, polio, pneumonia and diarrhoea and provided with vitamin A supplements	800,000	265,480
Children with life-threatening childhood illnesses provided with appropriate treatment	50,000	28,000
Pregnant women receive access to antenatal care and obstetric services.	335,000	116,567
UNICEF Supported partners contributing to above UNICEF Results: The above results have been achieved exclusively with the Ministry of Health (MoH), our principle partner in health.		

Analysis of Results

The above results have been achieved through campaigns or special standalone events such as maternal and child health days. The numbers reached through routine health systems, which UNICEF also supports, have not been captured due to a dysfunctional health information system. However, efforts are underway to strengthen the information system to provide timely and complete data and information, so the above targets are still expected to be achieved by the end of 2013.

UNICEF supported disease specific campaigns such as the polio campaign implemented in June/July which also achieved results not included in the above table. This campaign targeted over 4.6 million children under 5 with oral polio vaccine and vitamin A supplementation. UNICEF provided over 5 million doses of vaccine and vitamin A capsules together with funds and technical support for social mobilization and monitoring. Over 4.4 million children representing 97 per cent of the target were vaccinated. Coverage in Al Jawf and Sa'ada was sub-optimal due to the de facto authority's reluctance to conduct a house to house strategy.

The World Health Organization (WHO) approved a strategy for interrupting the wild polio virus transmission, however, this will continue being a source of risk and threat to the spread of the both the wild and the vaccine derived polio virus.

Monitoring tools for 1,500 community midwives have been developed and over 150 health workers have been trained on Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI). Advocacy and Policy Dialogue have also taken place with MoPHP, USAID, EU, EKN, WHO/UNFPA/WB on the MOH Forecast for UN Commission of Life saving commodities for newborns and mothers.

WASH

Results Status

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF		Sector / Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
Emergency-affected population provided with access to safe water as per agreed standards	600,000	274,250	2,394,261	942,666
Children and women receive critical WASH-related information to prevent child illness (hygiene promotion)	1,500,000	111,020	2,250,000	198,902
UNICEF Supported partners contributing to above UNICEF Results: UNICEF has partnered with 5 NGOs in the provision of WASH services: CSSW, Oxfam, ACTED, Save the Children and Al Khair,				

Analysis of Results

The hygiene promotion target only captures the numbers reached by WASH cluster partners. An additional 345,240 people, the majority being women and children, have been reached with hygiene promotion through health education and mother-child campaigns. This will culminate in the Global Hand Washing Day to be observed in mid-October.

A recent water quality survey conducted by UNICEF and GARWP in Hodeidah and Hajjah indicated that most water extracted from shallow dug water wells is contaminated. Both Governorates continue to report high prevalence rate of diarrhoea and high levels of malnutrition. Small, low cost and high impact interventions to improve water quality have been initiated.

WASH in schools and WASH in health care facilities in support of the nutrition agenda has not been captured in the above table. UNICEF supported WASH in 150 schools reaching 60,985 school children.

Child Protection
Results Status

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF		Sector / Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
350,000 people, including 200,000 children, provided with awareness of explosive remnants of war	350,000*	365,027 (104%)	400,000*	406,992 (102%)
600,000 people (450,000 children and 150,000 adults) in conflict-affected areas are provided with protection (including psychosocial) services	525,000**	460,601 (77%)	600,000	460,601 (77%)
Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism coverage on grave child rights violations extended from 1.3 million to 1.5 million children	1,500,000 capacity of network coverage	MRM network capacity is estimated at 1,270,000 and is expanding	UNICEF Area of Responsibility (AoR)	Same
<p>UNICEF Supported partners contributing to above UNICEF Results: Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC)/DGG, Shawtab Foundation, Save the Children and Democratic School.</p> <p>*Upgraded to 400,000 as of Mid-Year Review **Represents cumulative number of all community members: 450,000 children (updated from the original 400,000) and 150,000 adults for the cluster with 450,000 children and 75,000 adults as UNICEF's target.</p>				

Analysis of Results

Targets have already been reached or are close to being reached across all indicators as a result of strong INGO/NGO partnerships, committees, working groups and Government ownership, specifically:

MRM: The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting of Grave Child Rights Violations (CTF MR) was established in October 2012. Capacity building efforts have contributed to enhanced timely, accurate, verifiable and objective information, which has gone on to accurately inform inputs to; the Secretary General's Annual Report on children and armed conflict; the first Yemen specific report to the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict; and the UN Country Team's (UNCT's) contribution to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

MRE: It is very likely that skills and capacities built in partnership with NGOs will be transferred to future local actors in case of the eruption of conflict. MRE activities are now being aligned with demining efforts, which have covered substantial areas in Abyan but need expansion to areas of Sa'ada and Hajjah Governorates. Tensions between groups in some areas coupled with the proliferation of mines and UXOs imply the possibility of increased exposure amongst civilians, so MRE activities remain crucial. Unfortunately such activities are not permitted throughout the country, for example in the centrally located governorate of Sana'a.

The South has witnessed a small downward trend in mines and UXO incidents affecting children as activities were extended for the first time into Hadramout and Shabwa. However, concerns remain in some areas in terms of access, particularly in areas where there is the presence of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

PSS: The Psychosocial Support programme has reached almost half a million rights-holders and has continually strived to improve through lessons learnt but is largely limited by a dearth of human resources, funds, weak ownership and unclear governmental authority. A wide scale evaluation has led to a revised strategy that is more strategic and sustainable.

Currently, PSS results are largely of 'coverage' nature and the sector faces the challenge of evaluating the quality and impact of this significant programme. While the MRE results are concrete for example, PSS results suffer from the possibility of multiple reporting –a matter that is being addressed at the CP sub-cluster level in terms of evaluation of outcomes and harmonizing monitoring, reporting and oversight mechanisms.

Education

Results Status

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF		Sector / Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
Boys and girls have access to and benefit from improved quality of education and school facilities	500,000	276,000	608,000	323,909
UNICEF Supported partners contributing to above UNICEF Results: UNICEF worked through the Ministry of Education and its governorate Education Offices.				

Analysis of Results

90,000 conflict-affected children have improved access to schools through the provision of 40 temporary classrooms and the rehabilitation of 186 damaged schools. However, there still remains a gap of 410 schools that are either totally destroyed or partially damaged and functioning under unsafe conditions, exposing the lives of about 100,000 students to risks. The majority of the interventions were in the south, resulting in a significant discrepancy between south and north. While about 37 per cent of the affected schools in the south have been rehabilitated, only 7 per cent were rehabilitated in the north.

Approximately 150,000 children throughout were provided with desks, chairs, school bags and other supplies by UNICEF in order to improve the physical environment of schools and to motivate children to attend more regularly. A further 120,000 children were given similar supplies by other partners. Recently, MoE, with support from UNICEF, has encouraged the school supplies unit to share specifications for school bags with all partners to ensure the production of good quality materials.

Communication for Development (C4D)

Cutting across many of the clusters, 345,248 people have been reached with key health messages on nutrition, maternal health, WASH and immunization. Most of the people were reached through face to face communication, through community midwives, school based activities and public dissemination through megaphones, banners and posters.

1,174 community health volunteers (CHVs) were trained on communication skills and delivering key health messages, while more than 600 community and religious leaders were oriented and mobilized to support the C4D messages.

During June 2013 and throughout the country, specific awareness and sensitization campaigns at the governorate and district levels were also carried out with strong involvement from influential people or offices (governor, education office, local councils, religious leaders) with support from the local media.

Supply and Logistics

Supply challenges have been experienced with clearance of security equipment and armoured vehicles. These are critical for the office emergency operations. This problem is being experienced by other UN agencies. The Humanitarian Coordinator has raised the issue with high authorities within the Government of Yemen on a few occasions to no resolve.

Human Resources

# Additional staff for humanitarian programme	# Additional staff currently in country	# Additional staff funded but not yet in country	# Additional staff not funded
2	4	2	Nil
Total # of Country Office staff pre-emergency: 85			

Security

The country is entering into a politically difficult period as the final stage of the NDC takes place. Unconfirmed plans include holding the national referendum on the (yet to be proposed) constitution on 15 October and commencing voter registration for elections in August ahead of the intended February 2014 election date. Insecurity may result from stalled negotiations or gridlocked consensus building. For the UN/UNICEF, the security environment may become more complex in the areas of operation. Moreover, in Sana'a the residual kidnap threat remains 'very high' with a number of sightings, warnings and movement restrictions imposed in respect to groups 'scouting' neighborhoods of the city for possible targets.

Funding

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 30/06/2013 for a period of 6 months)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Nutrition	24,452,004	11,565,551	12,886,453	53%
Health	6,900,000	2,152,977	4,747,023	69%
WASH	27,772,491	7,069,784	20,702,707	75%
Child Protection	9,700,000	3,180,474	6,519,526	67%
Gender Based Violence	-	-	-	-
Education	12,759,300	2,711,337	10,047,963	79%
HIV/AIDS	-	-	-	-
Programme Support	Integrated with Sectoral requirements	-	-	-
Cluster Coordination	Integrated with Sectoral requirements	-	-	-
Total	81,583,795	26,680,123	54,903,672	67%

* 'Funds received' does not include pledges

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