



© UNICEF Yemen/2014/Kate Rose

UNICEF Yemen Situation Report

August 2014

Key focus:

Girls' Education

Girls at school in Hodeidah. Their school is part of the child friendly schools programme to improve quality and boost access.

Highlights:

- **18,156 adults in Al Jawf were reached with awareness raising sessions on health, nutrition and WASH.**
- **1,000 more out of school children are being reintegrated into schools in Lahj and Al Dhale through non-formal education (NFE)**

Situation Overview

During August, the conflict in Amran spread to the neighbouring governorate of Al Jawf, where the situation continues to deteriorate. An estimated 8,000 people are displaced there, some of whom were originally displaced from Amran. Accurate data has not yet been obtained on the condition of schools, however UNICEF local partner reported that at least two have been damaged in Al Jawf. In Amran more than 60 schools have been reported as in need of some rehabilitation having been affected by armed conflicts in 7 districts. However, the majority of the work is minor and will not impact on access to education, while 11 of the 13 schools occupied by armed groups have been vacated. UNICEF is leading efforts to provide essential learning supplies to the affected children in these districts.

During August, 25 incidents were reported (11 verified) affecting 17 children (15 boys, 2 girls). The 25 incidents include 16 attacks on schools and hospitals. Eight of the schools in Amran were reported and verified as being used for military purposes by armed groups. The Education Task Force team in Amran was able to evacuate the armed groups from 6 of these schools in addition to 3 other schools reported in June 2014. While access has improved in Amran, receiving timely and verifiable information has been challenging in Al Jawf Governorate, where unverified reports indicate the killing and maiming of 6 children and the attack of one school in Al Ghayl District.

In the southern governorates of Shabwa, Hadramout, Abyan, Lahj and Al Dhale, the situation is also deteriorating and attacks are escalating. UNICEF Aden has taken measures to prepare for the onset of an increased emergency situation, including mapping the availability of local NGOs in the area.

Key focus: Girls' Education

Issue

Some 800,000 girls in Yemen do not go to school but are at home, helping out with chores such as fetching water, working to provide income, or sometimes preparing for marriage. Adult literacy is 40 per cent on average, but while 3 in 4 men can read and write, only 2 in 5 women are able to (NSPM)¹. Yemen is unlikely to reach the global commitment of universal primary education unless a huge effort is made to address the problem of out of school children.

The situation is even worse for girls in rural areas. The overall net enrolment rate is 72 per cent; however this drops to 58 per cent for girls in rural areas (NSPM). Financial, access and socio-cultural reasons play their part in keeping children away from school, but for girls, there are many more added complications. Socio-cultural norms influence what parents demand from the education sector such as insisting that there are nearby safe schools, female teachers, segregated schools, girls' lavatories and wall barriers. However, the situation analysis report² found that just 27 per cent of teachers were women.

In addition, UNICEF's baseline survey 2013 of 106 focus districts³ found that most schools do not employ women at all and those that do are predominantly staffed by men. It also reported that only one quarter of the schools surveyed had toilets specifically for girls.



© UNICEF Yemen/2014

Impact

At Grade 6, more girls begin to drop out of school than boys. Girls start being expected to stay at home to perform family duties, which include contributing to household chores. But one of the primary causes for girls' to be out of school is child marriage. Studies show that 14 per cent of Yemeni girls are married before age 15, and 32 per cent are married before the age of 18. Further analysis shows that nearly one in four girls who have not been to school are married aged 15-19, but just one in eight girls with at least a basic education are married at the same age (NSPM).

Yemen has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world, and yet studies show that malnutrition steadily decreases as the level of mother's education increases. According to the NSPM survey, 63 per cent of children of mothers with secondary education achieved adequate dietary diversity, compared to 34 per cent of children whose mothers had no formal education. If a girl marries at a young age, she is likely to have her first child while her own body is still developing, which further increases the risk of her baby being born underweight and underdeveloped. In Yemen, one in five women between the age of 20-24 gave birth by the time they were 18 years old (UNICEF baseline). In addition to this, Yemen has been at the bottom of the gender ladder for the past six years, ranking 134 out of 134 countries assessed.

Action

The barriers facing girls in education are systemically persistent and require emphatic responses that extend beyond reforms to education management and pedagogical practice. This requires strong political leadership and the cooperation of key community leaders.

UNICEF works with the Government to increase girls' enrolment and retention through training more female teachers (1,600 through the Global Partnership for Education programme); training teachers and supervisors to be more gender sensitive; improving facilities such as latrines; and setting up mothers and fathers councils in each school, which are all elements of the child-friendly schools (CFS) programme. Through the emergency programme so far, 32,376 girls have benefitted from the physical rehabilitation of 170 schools in 9 governorates, while 462 schools nationwide are currently included in the CFS programme.

A further 7,480 girls (and 1,320 boys) are included in the accelerated learning programme in Taiz, Hodeidah and Hajjah for out of school children, which will provide the opportunity to join Grade 7 after three years of study.

At the community level, approximately 65,000 parents, teachers and community leaders have so far been engaged in a drive to increase understanding and commitment about the importance of girls' education. UNICEF's behaviour and social change programmes seek to change parents' attitudes towards girls' education and build their confidence and capacity to adequately prepare and enrol their girls in school at age 6. The objective is to foster understanding on the importance of taking advantage of the window of opportunity for early learning; and the correlation between late enrolment and early school dropout.

1 NSPM Report 2013 & 2014, MoPIC, UNICEF, IPC: Adult illiteracy rates: 23% male, 57% female, 40% average

2 Situation Analysis of Children in Yemen 2014

3 UNICEF Baseline Survey Report 2013

Interagency Collaboration

In response to the Amran conflict and to address critical gaps in the ongoing emergency response, the child protection sub-cluster has requested additional funding from OCHA's Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) ranging in thematic areas from GBV to Child Recruitment and Monitoring and Reporting of Child Rights violations.

UNICEF Yemen Nationwide Response

Education:

1,000 more out of school children are being reintegrated into schools in Lahj and Al Dhale through NFE. Villages have been mapped and arrangements made to start the selection and training of volunteer teachers within September. This is in addition to the 8,800 out-of-school children already benefiting from NFE in Taiz, Hodeida and Hajja. 48 schools in Ibb and Taiz have undergone technical assessments of latrines in preparation for their full rehabilitation. 34 schools in Sa'ada have been selected for upgrading into Child-Friendly Schools (CFS) and school development teams have been identified for training. 150,000 affected children in Amran are being given learning supplies as part of the overall back-to-school campaign, which uses radio and TV flashes focusing on timely enrolment and girls' education.

WASH:

164,456 people are set to benefit from rehabilitated water and sanitation facilities in 44 health facilities (14 in Lahj, 22 in Al Dhale, 6 in Shabwa) 9,100 people (including 6,200 IDPs) have been connected to the Al Mazraq water project. 53 health and hygiene sessions have been conducted at community and household level in Al-Ashah, Al-Qaflah and Harf Sufyan districts, Amran Governorate, while water tanks have been distributed to 29 affected families in Amran City.

Child Protection:

3,680 people including 1,072 children (447 girls and 625 boys) received mine risk education under the leadership of YEMAC in Sana'a and Amanat Al-Asimah Governorates as well as in partnership with DRC/DDG in Abyan Governorate. 3,878 children (1,933 girls, 1,945 boys) received psychosocial support services (PSS) through community based child friendly spaces (CFS) organized by Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Intersos in Abyan and Shabwa Governorates. 199 children (4 girls, 195 boys) were identified as most vulnerable, due to physical abuse, separation, gender based violence (GBV) and child marriage and have been referred to relevant services. 115 people (including 85 children) were trained on child protection in emergency and psycho-social support. 104 unaccompanied migrant children (including 1 girl) were interviewed and documented in Sana'a, while an additional 52 boys were assisted with safe voluntary return to Ethiopia thanks to a joint collaborative effort between UNICEF, DRC and IOM.

84 unaccompanied Yemeni boys were identified and provided with interim care at the MoSAL run Child Protection centre in Haradh supported by UNICEF. 78 of these children have been reunited with their families and returned safely to their community of origin.

Nutrition:

1,695 health workers (448) and volunteers (1,247) were trained on the integrated package and communication for development (C4D) from 11 governorates. The C4D component included 40 members of the Muhamasheen (marginalized) community.



© UNICEF Yemen/2014/Rasha Al-rardi /Fatima Ghilan

18,156 people in Al Jawf (14,413 female, 3,743 male), many of whom brought their children with them, were reached with awareness raising sessions and key health, nutrition and WASH messages. This is especially pertinent in the current emergency context.

2,197 people have benefitted so far from the UNICEF supported mobile health clinics circulating in the emergency affected areas of Amran. Services include nutrition screening, IMCI, EPI, reproductive health and vaccinations.

Male and female youths paint 11 key behavioural messages onto walls in Aal-mansoriah District in Hodeidah as part of an awareness raising activity supported by UNICEF

Topic	Spokesperson	Languages	Contact Details
Child Health Nutrition	Iqbal Kabir Chief of YCSD	English	+967 71222 3426 ikabir@unicef.org
Education	Mohamed Ali Bile, Chief of Basic Education and Gender Equity	English, Arabic	+967 71222 3015 mabile@unicef.org
WASH	Mahboob Ahmed Bajwa Snr Water, Sanitation, Hygiene Specialist	English	+967 71222 3050 mabajwa@unicef.org
Child Protec- tion	Micaela Pasini Chief of Child Protection	English, French, Spanish, Italian	+967 712223370 mpasini@unicef.org
Head of Mis- sion	Julien Morcom Harneis Representative	English, French, Spanish	+967 71110 6127 jharneis@unicef.org
Communication	Kate Rose Reports and Communications Officer	English, Malay	+967 71222 3421 krose@unicef.org

For further information, contact:

Jeremy Hopkins, Deputy Representative, +967-71222-3493

www.unicef.org – www.facebook.com/unicefyemen.ar – www.facebook.com/unicefyemen