

8 August 2013. Next Report: September

UNICEF Yemen Situation Report

Reporting period: July 2013

Highlights:

- The first report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict in Yemen was presented to the Security Council Working Group by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict on 26 July. While challenges remain in Yemen, the significant steps made by the Government of Yemen in addressing the recruitment and use of children by Government forces have been highlighted.
- 1,500 boys and girls in conflict affected areas will be accommodated in 25 temporary classrooms which have been handed over to the local education authority in Sa'ada (in the north) this month.
- Two new Stabilization Centres (SC) for inpatient care have been established in two districts of Hodeidah Governorate (in the west of Yemen) this month, ready to admit severely malnourished children under 5 with complications



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A young boy shows his little finger to the vaccination monitor in Hodeidah.
The black mark proves that he received his polio vaccination.

Inter-Agency Collaboration, Coordination, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships

Nutrition cluster

- 8,169 severe acutely malnourished (SAM) children have been admitted to outpatient therapeutic programmes (OTP) in this month alone, bringing the total in 2013 to 55,689. The treatment programme overall has seen a recovery rate of 77% and death rate of 0.51%, meeting approved minimum standards.
- An Assessment Technical Working Group (ATWG) has been established to review and harmonize assessment tools, to plan surveys, validate and endorse results and recommendations. Its members will also support capacity building of Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) staff.

WASH cluster

- NSTR

Education cluster

- An estimated 15,000 boys and girls in the south (Aden, Lahj and Abyan) will benefit from the renovation of 64 schools under the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The bidding process is currently underway and work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- 127 internally displaced (IDP) families are to be found alternative solutions to free up the schools that have been used as shelters until now. UNHCR, OCHA and the executive unit will share conclusions soon with the aim of renovating the schools ready for the next school year, so that they can once again be used for education.



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Girls play at an adolescent friendly space in Arhab, Sana'a

Child Protection sub-cluster (CPSC)

- With over 100 Child Friendly Spaces across the sector, a group of 3 NGOs and the sub-cluster coordinator created a draft recreational supplies kit which met quality as well as 'psychosocial growth' criteria of stimulating thinking, fostering imagination, facilitating group play and in ensuring that gender roles are more freely developed than prescribed.
- A review of monitoring and evaluation tools across the sector has resulted in the drafting of a single harmonized form for monitoring, case management as well as outcome level evaluation across the cluster.
- A district reprioritization mapping based on existing and new child protection-specific criteria was carried out and completed.

UNICEF Response

Nutrition

- UNICEF facilitated the first meeting of the Yemen National Steering Committee for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) on 15th of July. A first draft of the National Multi-sectoral plan was submitted during the meeting, which had a wide and varied attendance including from ministries, academia, civil society, human rights activists, UN agencies and the donor community.
- 414,050 children under 5 (211,906 boys and 202,144 girls) and 190,947 pregnant and lactating mothers have been screened for malnutrition during May to July 2013. 15,824 children with SAM and 27,419 women, were consequently referred for treatment in their nearest health facility. However, through screening, a total of 49,093 women were detected with acute malnutrition, but not all were able to be referred due to the limited number of supplementary feeding centres available.
- 35,942 children under 5 received oral rehydration solution (ORS) and Zinc for diarrhoea (19,365 boys and 16,577 girls) and 30,879 children received Vitamin A with measles vaccination (15,944 boys and 14,935 girls) during the recent mother and child campaign. 281,405 children aged 2-5 were dewormed (144,523 boys, 136,882 girls) and 177,625 pregnant and lactating mothers received Iron and Folic acid tablets. 117,820 women of reproductive age were vaccinated with tetanus vaccine and 168,007 were educated about the main child feeding and caring practices.
- Two new SCs have been established for inpatient care in Al- Zaidia and Zabid Districts, Hodeidah Governorate and are ready to admit severely malnourished children with complications. UNICEF partner Merlin will oversee these centres, gradually handing over to the Government counterpart after ensuring their sustained and quality services.

- 226 community health volunteers have been trained on the integrated package in an effort to strengthen the community component of CMAM – community management of acute malnutrition (38 in Ibb Governorate (central/west Yemen), 38 from Al-khokhah District in Hodeidah, 60 in Abyan (Al-Mahfed, Ahwar), 30 in Shabwa (in the east) and 60 in Aden). A further 20 midwives have been trained on Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling in Ibb and Taiz.
- 7,668 mothers attended 145 IYCF corners in nine governorates just in the first half of 2013, which already shows an increase compared to the 6,832 mothers who attended the IYCF corners in 2012.
- To establish the pace for an effective iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) control programme in Yemen, a national three-year inter-sectoral plan of action for re-activation of the universal salt iodization (USI) was jointly developed with several government ministries, associations, factory representatives and salt producers.

Health

- A national immunization day (NID) for polio concluded on 2nd July with an administrative coverage of 97%. However, some areas faced issues, including Al Jawf (in the north), which completed the campaign one week later in 11 districts out of 12. One northern district, Khob wa al Shaaf in Amran, which has been the source of circulating vaccine derived polio, achieved sub-optimal coverage of less than 60% for the third consecutive NID. This is due to refusals influenced by the neighbouring governorate of Sa'ada, where the defacto authority has forbidden a house to house campaign. Conversely, Sa'ada itself surpassed the 80% target for the first time.
- Independent monitoring of the above NID was carried out, sampling 266 districts (80%) and 3,305, which verified coverage results of between 66% and 92%.

WASH

- 47,161 IDPs (17,052 inside camps and 23,305 outside camps and 6,804 schoolchildren) continue to receive a daily water supply from UNICEF.
- 201 latrines destroyed by heavy rain and storm in camps and settlements earlier this month are being rehabilitated/reconstructed by UNICEF partner Al-Khair Association. Meanwhile, 46 cases of watery diarrhoea have been reported in communities outside Al-Mazraq camps. No case has so far been reported in camp settlements.
- Almost 70% of the water supply pipe network (12,720 of 17,720 meters) has now been completed. However, the work is currently suspended due to Ramadan.
- 89% of latrines in Abyan have been found to be safe, clean and well maintained according to a survey conducted by Oxfam to monitor the use and availability of latrines. However, the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach being piloted in ten villages of Hodeidah Governorate shows slow uptake by the community with 89 pits dug and only 28 latrines constructed and being used so far. Oxfam is distributing 500 latrine construction materials to communities to further trigger them into action.
- 470 males and 1,236 females (94% of the target) attended awareness sessions on hygiene and sanitation practices in Hodeidah, while 76.7% were reached with hygiene awareness sessions and hand washing demonstrations.



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Education



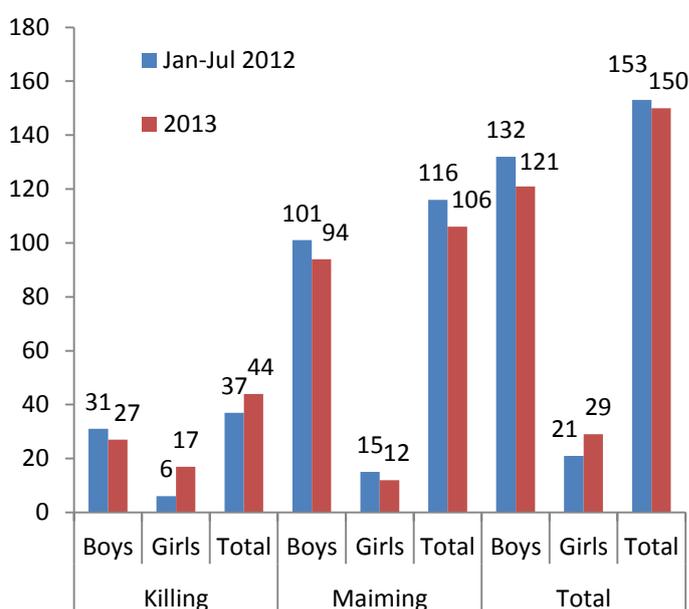
Girls play at a child friendly space in Sana'a

- 40 volunteers have been trained as trainers in Taiz as part of the out of school programme. A further 47 supervisors (8 female, 39 male) from 7 targeted districts in Hajjah attended a workshop to improve their supervisory skills for out of school children.
- 428 parents have been trained on their roles in managing effective parent teacher associations; 38 from 2 schools in Taiz; 327 from 3 districts in Hodeidah; and 60 from one district of Hajjah.
- 33 education officers from NGOs, INGOs and education offices in four governorates attended a one day workshop to analyse the situation for children from an educational point of view.

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Child Protection

- 6,980 individuals (including 3,680 children) received mine risk education (MRE) in Abyan and Amran Governorates in partnership with Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Intersos. 32 community volunteers/NGO staff were also trained on MRE in Abyan by Intersos.
- 25,599 children (11,287 boys, 14,312 girls) received psychosocial support through community and school based child friendly spaces and outreach services in Abyan, Aden, Al-Dhale, Hodeidah, Shabwa and Sana'a Governorates in collaboration with Al-Ferdous Foundation, Child Protection Initiative (CPI), DRC, Intersos, Mercy Corps, MoSAL and SSA. 3,841 of these children (1,730 girls, 2,111 boys) were identified as extremely vulnerable and provided with more specialized counselling services; and birth certificates were issued for 11,494 children (4,971 girls, 6,523 boys) in Sana'a and Aden Governorates.
- 137 unaccompanied migrant children, all boys, were returned to Ethiopia. UNICEF Yemen together with DRC in coordination with IOM and UNICEF Ethiopia ensured the safe return of these children. Now in Ethiopia, they are currently being provided with psychosocial support and other services with a view to their family reunification, if appropriate.
- With regards to grave child rights violations, 15 incidents were reported and verified in July, resulting in the deaths of 2 boys; injury to 10 children (8 boys, 2 girls); recruitment of 10 boys into Government forces; and 5 incidents of denial of humanitarian access for children. The incidents took place in Saa'da (5), Abyan (3), Amran (2), Hajja (2), Aden (2) and Dahle (1).
- There has been a significant decrease in the number of child victims of mines, unexploded ordnance (UXOs) and explosive remnants of war (ERWs) during the first half of 2013 compared with the first half of 2012. During January to July 2012 there were 85 child casualties (74 boys, 11 girls) compared with just 13 (9 boys, 4 girls) in 2013. There has also been a minor decrease in the total number of child casualties from 153 to 150 children. This is attributed to the extensive local networks on the ground, which generate timely, accurate, reliable and objective information of grave child rights violations. There is however an urgent need to expand demining and MRE in the North/Sa'ada and other areas such as Sana'a and Hadramout where new cases have been reported in 2013.



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