



© UNICEF Yemen/2014/Sayaghi

Key focus:

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Water Is 'Essence of Life'

Emerging Issues and Situation Overview

Highlights:

- 9,500 people are benefitting from the newly renovated water network in Haidan—Sa'ada, an area heavily affected by the conflict.
- An inter-agency mission managed to access Al-Dhale on March 26 after several months of advocacy with national authorities.

An inter-agency mission managed to access Al-Dhale on March 26 after several months of advocacy with national authorities. Minimal damage to infrastructure was observed although there were visible marks of shootings on the hospital, which is functional. The situation in the city is back to normal and most of the displaced have returned to their homes. The chronic water situation that characterized Al-Dhale prior to the clashes has been compounded by the recent crisis particularly with regards to the breakdown of the sewage system in parts of the city. Interventions to avoid health outbreaks and address the situation are being looked at.

In Amran after heavy clashes earlier in the month, the situation has stabilized following a 15 day negotiated truce with the warring parties. Humanitarian activities resumed in the last few weeks, though the situation remains tense with uncertainties around resumption of hostilities in the coming days.

Children continued to be affected by the localized conflicts in the north and the south of Yemen, including being victims of mines, unexploded ordnance (UXOs) and explosive remnants of war (ERWs). UNICEF and its partners have received reports (not yet verified) of at least 18 children (12 boys, 6 girls) either killed (4) or maimed (14) due to mines, UXOs and ERWs. Considering that in 2013, there were only 28 such child casualties this is a significant concern. The recent inter-agency rapid assessment in conflict affected areas of Amran, released March 2014, shows concerns of UXO/ERW proliferation due to the on-going conflict. In response to this UNICEF is accelerating mine risk education (MRE) in affected areas and in parallel, advocating for de-mining operations to be conducted at the same time.

Key focus:

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

"Water is a basic human right. Each citizen has the right to adequate, safe, and affordable personal and domestic water". Months of advocacy by UNICEF have resulted in the adoption of this phrase by the National Dialogue as a recommendation for inclusion in the new constitution. Today, 4.5 million Yemeni children struggle to live with enough water. Nearly half (43 per cent) of Yemenis in the poorest households even have to walk for more than half an hour to collect water for their families to use at home. Even then, they can only use what they can carry back.

Yemen is one of the most water-stressed Arab countries, with rapid decline in water resources. On average, 140 cubic metres of water are available per person per year for all uses, compared to an average 1,000 cubic metres per person in the Middle East and North Africa region. Yet only 7 per cent of this reaches the population for personal and household use: 93 per cent of the water goes to agriculture, and about 60 per cent of this is channelled to Qat

production. The country sees only an average of 167 mm of rain per year, there is lack of proper reservoirs (dams) for rain water harvesting and an absence of perennial rivers. Rain water harvesting is practiced only at a very small scale using traditional systems.

With a hovering threat of outbreaks (Cholera/ AWD) and other waterborne diseases, lack of adequate water and sanitation contributes to the high levels of malnutrition in the country; 40 per cent of the 1 million children who are acutely malnourished in Yemen are suffering from diarrhoea. It is reported that 14,000 children under 5 in Yemen are dying from preventable diseases every year. Scarcity of water sources in some remote communities forces people to live on less than 15 litres per person per day (the minimum SPHERE standard). Women and children bear the brunt of securing water supply for their households.



In Aslem, Hajjah, a well is rehabilitated to provide a safe water source for the community

Some of the key challenges which contribute to the disastrous situation are non-functional (under major repair and maintenance) ageing water supply schemes due to disrupted power supplies, fuel and de-



Children collect water from an unprotected well in Al Badaah village in Aslem - Hajjah

struction due to conflicts. Currently 30 per cent of the water supply infrastructure in rural areas does not function and Qat production is the biggest consumer, using an estimated 40 per cent of Yemen's water.

The world has met the MDG target for access to improved drinking water, but Yemen is one of the few off-track countries and is not likely to meet its target by 2015 (WHO-UNICEF JMP 2012).

Emergency and development interventions include providing safe water, toilets, water tanks, sinks and hygiene supplies to schools, communities and internally displaced people (IDPs). Serious measures to reform the water sector are essential to social and economic progress. Inclusion of water issues in the new constitution can be the first solid step to adopt practical legislation, policies and guidelines. This can improve access to water and sanitation and ensure fulfilment of the right to water as one of the basic human rights. UNICEF is currently working with the Ministry of Water and Environment to develop a National Rural Sanitation Strategy, which should fit in the country's National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (NWSSIP). Along with partners and local authorities, UNICEF is now exploring avenues to provide more sustainable water to IDPs and host communities in Harad.

Nationwide Response



© UNICEF Yemen/2014

Education:

3,267 children are currently enrolled in the out of school programme in Al Mokha and Mawza'a Districts: 216 boys and 1,015 girls are in the second year, while 702 boys and 1,334 girls have joined for the first year of study.

75 latrines are being constructed (45) or maintained (30) in 18 schools in Taiz supported by DFID.

15,343 children (8,508 boys and 6,837 girls) are able to access their basic right to education at 25 newly completed schools in the conflict affected areas of Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Al Dhale and Shabwa Governorates, with support from the Government of Japan.

Health:

8 integrated mobile health clinics were launched in Aden Districts to address the low coverage of the marginalized Muhamasheen communities.

42 community midwives (22 from Al Jawf, 20 from Lahj) attended competency based training in community based maternal newborn care. They were provided with midwife kits, monitoring tools and commodities to provide critical maternal newborn care services in their catchment areas.

40 immunization specialists from Lahj Districts were trained on the integrated package.

WASH:

11,000 conflict affected individuals are now benefiting from three water harvesting tanks in Haidan District. 6,500 of them already have access to safe drinking water, while over 4,500 will have access soon.

An assessment has also been completed for about 500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and conflict affected families in Dammaj, who will soon receive hygiene and water filters, while 55 families will receive water tanks.

32,163 IDPs in Haradh were provided with 15-20 litres per person per day, and a further 6,804 schoolchildren were ensured access to water at 10 IDP schools.

Nutrition:

New mobile teams were deployed to provide Health and Nutrition services in 12 sites in Hajjah, where the most vulnerable and deprived children and women affected by high levels of malnutrition are living.

The health office in Hajjah conducted a ceremony to honour the top performing health workers and district level monitors in the SAM programme.

60 community health volunteers were trained on the integrated package in Taiz, while 100 health workers in Ibb attended refresher training on the outpatient therapeutic programme.

Interagency Collaboration

The child protection and protection clusters have agreed to harmonized needs indicators and geographical areas (Abyan, Al Dhale and Hajjah) for coordinated joint assessments in 2014.

A SMART survey in Hodeidah has been completed this month, the results will be ready by the end of April.

Child Protection:

5,605 children (2,422 girls, 3,183 boys) received psychosocial support services through community and school based child friendly spaces (CFSs) in the governorates of Abyan, Sa'ada, and Sana'a organized by Intersos, MoSAL and Mercy Corps. A total of 310 community members, including 56 girls and 202 boys), received awareness raising sessions on a variety of child protection issues such as child marriage, trafficking and violence against children by MoSAL in Sa'ada Governorate. In addition, 23 NGO staff from Abyan were trained by Intersos to build their capacity to run the CFSs which will sustain the planned activities.

An additional 17 unaccompanied migrant/Ethiopian boys have been interviewed/registered in Haradh (Hajjah Governorate) while 29 new arrivals (all unaccompanied migrant/Ethiopian boys) have been identified in Sana'a immigration centre and the interview process for facilitating their family tracing, safe return back to Ethiopia and family reunification is ongoing.

47,083 people (including 15,356 girls and 20,767 boys) received mine risk education under the leadership of YEMAC and in partnership with wide range of local NGOs and international NGOs in Abyan, Amran, Hadramaut, Sa'ada and Shabwa Governorates.

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 Protection	Micaela Pasini Chief of Child Protection	English, French, Spanish, Italian	+967 712223370 mpasini@unicef.org
Head of Mission	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.arabic – www.facebook.com/unicefyemen