UNICEF Yemen Situation Report
October 2014

Key focus:
Birth Registration

Highlights:

42,000 students from 85 schools in Aden (grades 1-3) received School Hygiene Kits as part of the global hand washing day celebrations.

14,297 children in Mareb and Sana’a have received new school furniture following rehabilitation of their schools through the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) programme.

Situation Overview

During October, sporadic fighting continued in parts of the country, while the security situation in Al Jawf has been relatively calm but still fragile: one truck belonging to an INGO was looted during distribution of supplies for Alghail IDPs.

The CTF MR verified two incidents of killing and maiming in Sa’ada and Al Dhale’e Governorate due to mines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs) resulting in the injury of two boys and two girls. Additionally, six incidents were reported with 12 boys killed and 14 children (13 boys and a girl) maimed in the governorates of Sa’ada (4), Amanat Al Asimah (1) and Ibb (1). Two boys between the ages of 8 and 12 were observed manning a checkpoint in Amanat Al Asimah.

Four schools and one hospital were verified to be attacked by parties of the conflict in Amanat Al Asimah (3) and Marib (1) governorates. Nineteen schools were reported to be used for military purposes out of which 17 where verified in Marib (9) and Amanat Al Asimah (8). All schools except two were subsequently vacated. Two incidents of denial of humanitarian access were reported and verified in which entry to the affected areas of Amanat Al Asimah and Sana’a by the humanitarian personnel was restricted.
Key focus: Birth Registration

Issue
Yemen has the lowest birth registration rate in the Middle East and North Africa region and one of the lowest in the world. Since 2006, birth registration rates have decreased from 22% to 17% in Yemen, meaning that 83% of children under 5 are without a birth certificate, have no legal identity and are therefore invisible.

Disaggregated analysis reveals a number of inequities relative to birth registration, with wealth, educational-level of mother, as well rural-urban disparities playing an important role. Specifically, the percentage of children having their birth registered is as low as 10 per cent in rural areas and rises to 38 per cent in urban areas. When disaggregating by mother’s education, birth registration prevalence is significantly lower for children whose mother has no education (12 per cent) as compared to children whose mother has basic or secondary education (22 per cent). In the lowest wealth quintile only 3 per cent of children had their births registered in 2012 (and virtually zero per cent during July-September 2014), whereas slightly more than half are registered in the highest wealth quintile (51 per cent). The rate of unregistered births among the Muhamasheen reaches 91 per cent.

Impact
The lack of a birth certificate can have serious negative effects on the life opportunities of individuals. For example, without birth certificates, healthcare, education and other basic social services are often very difficult to access. It is nearly impossible to enforce on-time school enrolment of children at six years old without birth certificates. On-time enrolment supports the long term goal of retention of children in school and completion of the basic education cycle.

Children whose age cannot be determined because of lack of birth certificate face greater risks, such as increased risk of forcible conscription in armed forces and armed groups, child marriage, child labour, including working in dangerous environment harmful to their health, and the risk of being treated as adults in the justice system. Children on the move such as unaccompanied and separated children often lack a birth certificate, making family tracing and reunification complicated and increasing their risk to child trafficking. Exploitation of children in all respect become easier due to uncertified age through legal documents.

Action
UNICEF, with support from the European Union, is working with the governmental Civil Status and Registration authority (CRA) to register as many of Yemen’s children as possible. Efforts are underway to accelerate universal birth registration through: Rapid campaigns focusing on conflict affected and socially excluded children: a total of 23,125 conflict-affected, displaced and most vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized (Muhamasheen) children (11,080 girls, 12,045 boys) were given birth certificates in Aden, Abyan and Taiz.

Demand creation through awareness raising: Birth registration is being promoted as a key component of a behaviour and social change programme that facilitates dialogue with individual parents (mothers/fathers) at household levels and with community members and leaders. As of October 2014, 619,727 individuals are estimated to have been reached through partnerships with various international and national NGOs in 12 governorates. In partnership with Ministry of Information’s Mother and Child media programme, 6 radio programmes have been produced on national and state level radio stations focusing on increasing awareness of and demand for birth registration services, with an estimated reach of over 500,000 listeners.

Legal reforms: UNICEF is supporting the CRA to review and amend the current legislation. One of the main proposed amendments is to make it compulsory to show a birth certificate when applying for an ID card.

Support to Policy reforms, particularly by improving synergies, cooperation and interoperability with other service areas. Interventions include integrating a birth registration component in immunization and other public health campaigns and outreach activities.

Support to Strengthening birth registration service delivery through computerization, increased decentralization and capacity building of CRA both at national and sub-national level.
UNICEF Yemen Nationwide Response

Education:

11,561 children (6,653 boys, 4,908 girls) whose 35 schools were occupied by IDPs in Amran Governorate, are set to benefit from school improvement grants of approximately $1,000 each.

42,000 students from 85 schools in Aden (Grades 1-3) received school hygiene kits as part of the global hand washing day celebrations.

14,297 children (9,670 boys, 4,627 girls) and 842 teachers and principals at 40 schools in Mareb and Sana’a have received new school furniture following rehabilitation of their schools through the GPE programme.

Child Protection:

56,239 people including 48,243 children (19,243 girls and 29,000 boys) and 7,996 adults (3,185 women and 4,811 men) received mine risk education (MRE) through YEMAC in Dhale, Abyan, Aden and Amran Governorates as well as in partnership with DRC, Intersos, MoSAL, and wide range of local NGOs.

26,050 people including 25,135 children (11,190 girls, 13,945 boys) and 915 adults (515 women, 400 men) received psychosocial support services (PSS) through community based child friendly spaces (CFS) organized by DRC and Intersos in Abyan and Shabwa Governorates.

110 unaccompanied migrant children, all boys, were assisted with safe voluntary return to Ethiopia thanks to a joint collaborative effort between UNICEF, DRC and IOM. Once back in Ethiopia, they were provided with psychosocial support and other services with a view to being reunified with their families as appropriate. 152 Yemeni unaccompanied children (148 boys, 4 girls) were identified and provided with interim support. 132 of these children have been reunited with their families and returned safely to their community of origin and 12 children were assisted with safe return and reintegration into their family/communities of origin.

WASH:

35,983 internally displaced people (IDPs) in host community and IDP schools in Hajja, benefited from chlorinated water supplied to camps in five districts. 39 hand pumps have been installed and 21 wells were improved and protected, enabling 9,896 rural people including 5,483 children access to safe water.

379 IDP families have received hygiene kits and water filters in Al Jawf.

Nutrition:

848 (311 female, 537 male) health workers were trained to deliver Outpatient Therapeutic care (OTP) and 134 (74 female, 60 male) to deliver therapeutic feeding services. To expand the services to more children, six new OTPs, two stabilization centres, 7 mobile clinics and 25 supplementary feeding programmes were established.

83,775 children have been admitted to the community management of acute malnutrition programme to date, with a cure rate of 67% (49,656), a death rate of 0.2% (175), a default rate of 30% (22,535) and a non-respondent rate of 3 % (2,219).
Interagency Collaboration

Phase two of multi-phase national capacity building initiative on Child Protection in Emergency was completed in October. A core nationally representative group of 35 child protection experts/actors were trained on the globally endorsed Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Settings in Sanaa. Following a Training of Trainers model, next month those trained will train a further 150 local actors in field offices.

The Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for child protection Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2015 was drafted in consultation with the cluster members in Sanaa and presented to OCHA and the humanitarian community for feedback. The HNO forms the basis for drafting the response strategy for the child protection sub-cluster in 2015.

UNICEF, Puppet theatre delivering 11 key behaviour messages on health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection issues for children and adults in communities in Hodeidah.

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