# The humanitarian situation in Yemen in facts and figures 13 September 2017



# **People in need**<sup>1</sup>:

- The situation in Yemen is worsening and more people are suffering and dying at the hands of a conflict. Since the publication of the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) in early 2017 and driven mainly by increased food insecurity and cholera, needs have increased by 2 million rising to 20.7 million people across the country require assistance.
- This includes 9.8 million people who are in acute need and require immediate assistance to save or sustain their lives and 10.8 million people who require humanitarian assistance to stabilize their situation and to prevent them from slipping into acute need.

#### Cholera outbreak:2

- WHO reports that as 10 September the cumulative total of suspected cholera cases reached 652,542 with 2,066 associated deaths.
- Children u<15 account for 41% of all suspected cases while people over 60 represent 30 per cent of fatalities.
- The health system is unable to respond to the needs of the population as only 45% of health facilities in Yemen remain with limited functionality. Disease surveillance systems, data collection and verification continues to be a challenge throughout the country and only 2 labs (Sanaa and Aden) are 'authorized' to confirm suspected cholera cases.
- As of 9 September, Health Cluster partners are supporting 253 Diarrhoea Treatment Centres (DTCs) (with 3,270 beds) and 1,046 Oral Rehydration Points (ORPs) in 20 governorates. Partners have reached 77% of the target number of DTC beds and 52% of the target ORPs.

#### **Threat of famine:**

- An estimated 17 million people 60 per cent of the total population- are food insecure.
- Nearly 7 million people fall under Emergency (IPC-4) and are severely food insecure.
- An additional **10.1 million people are under Crisis** (IPC-3) and are moderately food insecure.
- Seven out of 22 governorates of Yemen are under Emergency (IPC Phase 4) Taizz, Abyan, Sa'ada, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Lahj, and Shabwah.
- **Ten governorates are under Crisis** (IPC Phase 3) Aden, Amran, Dhamar, Sana'a, Amanat Al Asimah, Ibb, Marib, Raymah, Al Mahwit, and Hadramaut.
- Nationally, the population currently under Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) has increased by 20% compared to the results of the June 2016 IPC analysis.
- Four governorates Taizz, Abyan, Al Hudaydah and Hadramaut have Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates above WHO 15% critical threshold.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated data for the Facts&Figures originates from the PMR, April 2017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> WHO eDEWs updates September 2017

- Seven governorates have GAM rates between 10% and 14.9%.
- 95 districts in 14 Governorates have GAM exceeding 15-20 per cent breaching the emergency threshold. These districts require integrated food security and nutrition life-saving intervention to prevent slipping into famine
- Over two million children under the age of five are acutely malnourished and are at a grave risk of dying.

# Convergence of famine and cholera:

- In 67 districts across 13 governorates is there is a convergence of highest food security and nutrition needs and cholera (Abyan, Al Dhale'e, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahj, Raymah, Sa'ada, Shabwah and Taizz.
- The PMR conducted in April 2017 has highlighted that only 28 percent of the 67 priority districts where food insecurity and cholera intersect have been reached by health/Wash/Nutrition/Food security clusters.
- An OCHA analysis shows that 387,479 MT of food entered Yemen in July, approximately 25 per cent higher than June, and 29 per cent higher than the monthly average during the previous six months of January to June 2017. Despite this, millions of poor Yemeni households lack the capacity to buy their minimum food needs.

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene:

• The total number of people in need has now reached **15.7 million people** (**previously 14.5 million**). While the number of people in acute need are 7.3 million (reduction of 11 per cent), the number of people in moderate need have reached 8.4 million (25 per cent increase).

#### Health:

- An estimated 10.4 million people lack access to basic healthcare, including 8.8 million living in severely under-served areas.
- Medical materials are in chronically short supply, and only 45 per cent of health facilities are functioning to some degree. There are no doctors left in 49 out of 276 districts.<sup>3</sup>
- An estimated 30,000 dedicated local health workers who play the largest role in ending this outbreak have not been paid their salaries for nearly 10 months and operational costs in more than 3,500 health facilities are not paid. Hospitals and clinics face crippling staff, medicines and equipment shortages.
- Between 19 March 2015 and 15 July 2017, WHO reports that 8,400 conflict-related civilian deaths and over 48,000 injuries figures that are considered to significantly undercount the true extent of the casualties, considering the diminished reporting capacity at health facilities and people's difficulties accessing healthcare.

#### **Malnutrition:**

• 2.8 million of people need the acute malnutrition treatment in 2017, including 1.8 million acutely malnourished children (0.4 million of whom are severely acutely malnourished) and about 1.1 million pregnant and lactating women.

#### **Protection:**

 About 11.3 million people need assistance to protect their safety, dignity or basic rights, including 2.9 million people living in acutely affected areas. Vulnerable people require legal, psychosocial and other services, including child protection and gender-based violence support.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> WHO eDEWS updates September 2017

 On 9 and 10 August, 280 Ethiopian and Somali migrants were forced from two boats into the sea off the coast of Shabwah: 226 people survived while 53 are presumed dead.

## Targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure:

- Attacks have hit a range of civilian targets such as houses, hospitals and schools as well as dual use targets, such as roads, bridges, and factories as well as military targets.
- Between March 2015, when OHCHR began reporting on civilian casualties, and 30 August, at least 5,144 civilians have been documented as killed and more than 8,749 injured. Children accounted for 1,184 of those who were killed and 1,592 of those injured.
- Reported air attacks in the first half of 2017 have already exceeded the total for all of 2016, with the monthly average number reported almost three times higher than last year. The monthly average number of reports of armed clashes in 2017 is 56 per cent higher than last year
- The UN has regularly condemned attacks on civilians and called on the warring parties to protect civilians and to respect their obligations under IHL.
- The United Nations Secretary General, Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs made a statement on the UN Security Council on 30 May while the Humanitarian Coordinator's latest statement was issued on 05 August.

## **Education:**

- According to UNICEF, at least 2 million children are now out of school.
- More than 1,700 schools are currently unfit for use due to conflict-related damage, hosting of IDPs, or occupation by armed groups. This includes 1,500 that have either been damaged or destroyed.

## Displacement, shelter and essential items:

- An estimated 4.5 million people need emergency shelter or essential household items, including IDPs, host communities and initial returnees. Ongoing conflictrelated displacements, as well as initial returns to some areas, are driving these needs.
- More than 3 million people have fled their homes in search for safety and security. Some 2 M remain internally displaced and around 900 K have returned to their home district, but still require support to ensure their safety and re-establish their livelihoods.

### Livelihoods, community resilience and economy:

- An estimated **8 million Yemenis have lost their livelihoods or are living in communities with minimal to no basic services.** Communities require support to promote resilience, including clearance of landmines and other explosives in up to 15 governorates, with particularly high contamination in Saad'a, Taizz and Aden.
- The economic status of 78% households in Yemen is currently worse than in the precrisis period<sup>4</sup>. This is mainly due to public budget deficit, which has led to a reduction in government expenditures, delayed or total unavailability of salaries for government employees since September 2016, collapse of the social protection system, liquidity crunch of the local currency, depreciation of the Yemeni Riyal against the US Dollar and depletion of central bank reserves.
- Yemen's economy has been severely affected by conflict. **Overall 2015 economic growth has further declined by almost 35 per cent.** This is largely driven by a 75 per cent decline in oil and gas revenues (US\$3.7B). Infrastructure damage of roads,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> IPC analysis July 2017

- ports, bridges, schools and hospitals is significant. Reconstruction costs have been estimated at U\$12B.5
- Some 42 per cent of female-owned businesses have closed since March 2015. Over 70 per cent of small and medium enterprises have laid off half of the workforce. The number of active consumers has dropped massively throughout the country (Aden 85%, Sa'ada 80%, Taizz 72%, Sana'a 71%, Abyan 45%).
- The fishing sector has reduced its production by 50 per cent and 65 per cent of fishermen have lost their job. The agriculture sector has suffered a loss of almost 50 per cent of its workers, followed by the private service sector (8.1 per cent).
- Due to a lack of revenue, salaries for an estimated 1.5M civil servants, throughout Yemen, have been sporadically paid in the 10 months.

## Assistance provided throughout Yemen

- Despite the tremendous challenges, the humanitarian community in Yemen continues to deliver its coordinated assistance out of five hubs in Aden, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Sa'ada, and Sana'a.
- 128 national and international humanitarian partners are actively coordinating to assist people with the most acute needs in priority districts across Yemen's 22 governorates. Together they have assisted about 7 million people with some form of humanitarian assistance since January 2017.
- The number of humanitarian partners per governorate range from 6 to 52. The highest number are found in Amanat Al Asimah (52), Taizz (46), and Aden (43). This is consistent with the percentage of population in needs in those governorates registered at 39 per cent, 55 per cent and 43 respectively.

#### Access:

- Access remains a serious challenge. Out of the 20.7 people in need of assistance, approximately 2.9 million people live in districts with the highest access constraints, of whom 1.7 million are in acute need of assistance.
- The main access impediments are: bureaucratic constraints and restriction of movements within or into the country; violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities; interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities; and conflict- and logistics-related constraints.

#### **Refugees:**

Since conflict erupted in Yemen in March 2015, Yemenis, Somalis, national returnees
and people of other nationalities have fled Yemen into the Horn of Africa. Over
95,000 arrivals from Yemen to the Horn of Africa are being reported by UNHCR.

#### Funding against the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan:

- The revised 2017 YHRP seeks US\$2.3 billion (upwards from 2.1 billion) to assist 12 million;
- The 13% increase in financial requirements is primarily attributed to inclusion of the cholera response plan (\$254 M out of the additional \$271 M).
- Due to the increased financial requirements, the revised YHRP is now 42% funded (down from 44 per cent prior to the revision).
- Some 406 M have been channeled outside the YHRP framework.

## **Inadequate fuel supplies**

 $<sup>^{5}\,</sup>$  Preliminary Damage Needs Assessment by the World Bank 2016

- Concerns remain over insufficient fuel imports into Yemen. In August, there was a significant decrease in the amount of food (243,875 MT) that entered Yemen, which was 39% less than the amount that entered in July and 24% less than the monthly average from January to July. However, for the second consecutive month there was an increase in fuel arriving into the northern Yemeni ports, with 206,547 MT of fuel entering in August, approximately 41% higher than June, and 44% higher than the monthly average from Jan Jul 2017.
- The humanitarian impact has been far reaching. Most of the water supply in Yemen is pumped using diesel generators, and without electricity and power, the public health systems in Yemen are ill-equipped to respond to the fast spreading cholera epidemic: two-thirds of population does not have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the lack of safe drinking water and inadequate sanitation conditions, especially in the cities where uncollected waste has played a significant role in the spread of the disease.