



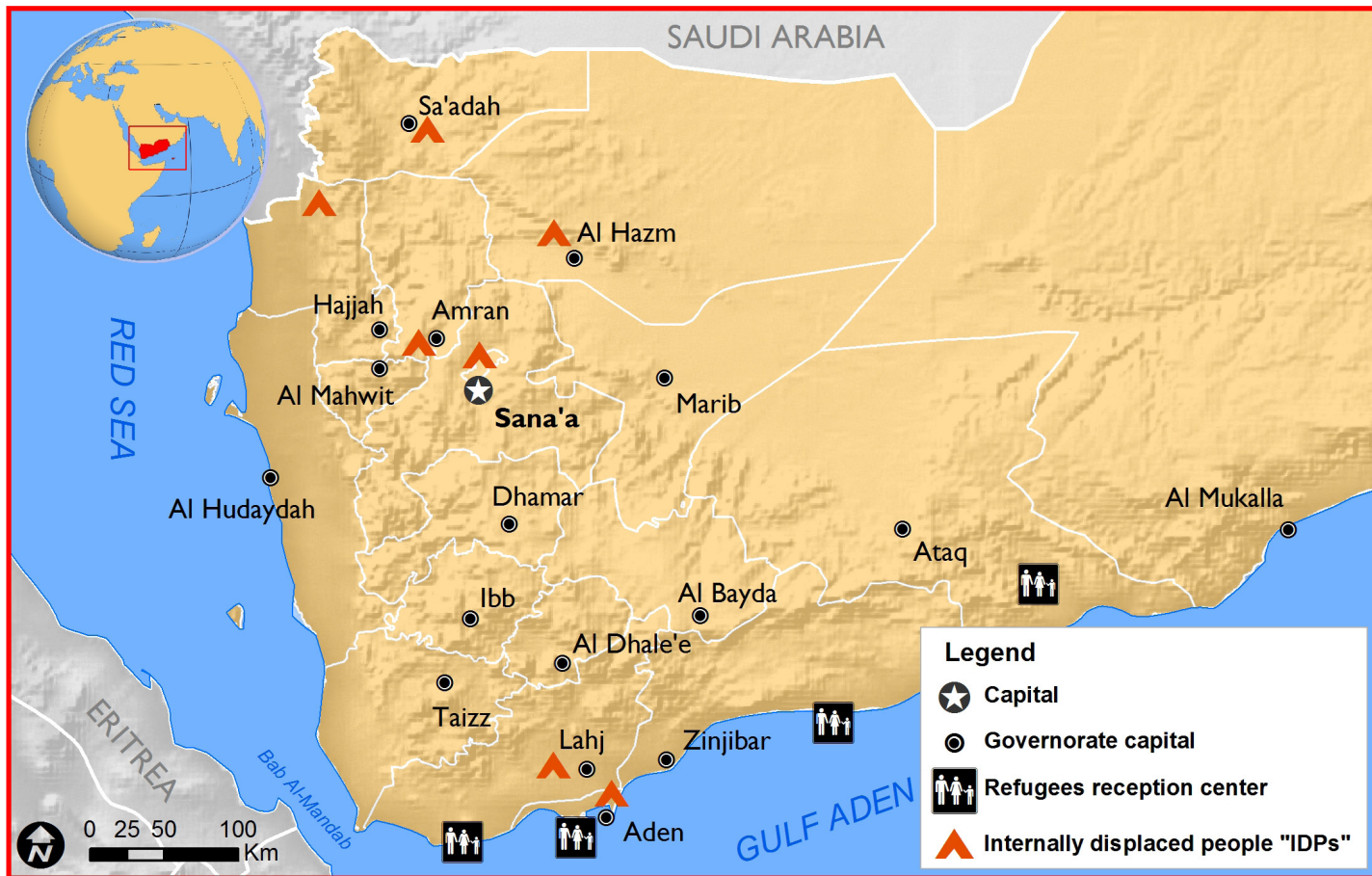
Emergency in Focus

Report No. 1 (15 June 2011)

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Yemen: Humanitarian Crisis

UAE: GMT: (+4:00) Yemen: GMT (+3:00)
UAE Dirhams: 1 AED = Yemen Rial: 58.40 YER



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Urgent needs to be addressed:

- Food
- Cash support for the poorest families
- Access to fuel for transport, water pumps and cooking

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since early June, the Yemeni capital of Sana'a and other cities around the country have witnessed escalated hostilities between supporters and opponents of President Saleh. As a result, thousands of civilians, mainly women and children, have left the capital for rural areas. The situation in Aden city is tense, and many other governorates across Yemen continue to experience civil unrest. In the South, fighting in Zinjibar City of Abyan governorate has resulted in an influx of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) into Aden city and Lahj governorate.

Before the present political crisis, Yemen was already facing serious humanitarian problems in which 32% of the country suffered from

food insecurity, while more than half of all children are chronically malnourished. Since the outbreak of violence in Sana'a, prices for water, food and fuel have been rising continuously. Fuel supplies are limited - the Marib pipeline has been out of operation since March and repair work has proven to be lengthy and difficult in light of the turmoil in the country - cars have run dry and in many places there is no fuel to run generators and water-pumps. This, in turn, has resulted in a three-to-sevenfold increase in water prices, depending upon the district and governorate.

According to a recent study by the World Bank, global food prices are in any case 36 percent higher than a year ago. Since January 2011, the prices for flour, sugar, vegetable oil and rice in Yemen have increased by 26% on average. In Sana'a, it is reported that the price of bread has risen 50% above what it had been only a few months ago.

The increases in the prices of essential food commodities have further reduced the purchasing power of the poor. These families typically devoted 30-35% of their income to buy bread alone and

the inflation in bread prices means that the poorest families have little option but to reduce consumption often to levels that endanger their health.

On average, food prices are 7% higher in rural areas than in the cities, most likely because of the transportation cost which has increased due to fuel scarcity. Cooking gas cylinders are reportedly selling for 4 times the usual price in some areas.

A recent field survey in the most food -insecure areas revealed that households are opting for negative coping strategies, such as reducing meal size, buying cheaper and less preferred food, reducing and eliminating consumption of meat/fish, borrowing money and buying food on credit and skipping meals altogether.

- Fuel at black market is 200 YR (AED 3.4) per one liter which is 166% higher than the official price.
- Families who devoted 30-35% of their income to buy bread alone are faced with a 50% increase in the price of bread

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

There is increased pressure on the health care system. Security risks make it difficult for medical professionals to report for duty. An estimated 30% of the population, mostly the elderly, women and children, now face difficulties in accessing health services. This crisis has also interrupted regular health programs for primary health care, especially programs for children, reproductive health and vaccination. In addition, the acute shortage of fuel and electricity is threatening the cold chain for vaccination.

Most IDPs from the Sa'ada conflict in 2009/10 have returned home, but there are new IDP arrivals in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah from Sana'a.

About 4,000 urban refugees from Sana'a are now seeking protection and relocation. In the south, a total of 9,947 IDPs (1,667 families) have been registered in 20 locations in Aden following joint rapid assessment by humanitarian agencies and an additional 4,700 IDPs have been registered in Lahj.



A Yemeni women at a WFP feeding centre | Photo: IRIN / Annasofie Flamand



IDPs in Northern Yemen | Photo: IRIN / Hugh Macleod

In addition, as of late 2010, 179,542 refugees were registered with reception centres by UNHCR. 95 per cent of them are Somalis. Other refugees in the country include Iraqis, Ethiopians and Eritreans, most of them living in Sana'a and Aden.

FINANCIAL SHORTFALLS FOR EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Emergency Food Assistance and Nutritional Assistance: WFP provides life-saving food and nutritional support for more than 400,000 people scattered across northern Yemen (including 60,000 children under the age of five). Regular assistance has contributed to the stabilization of acute malnutrition and mortality rates among the IDP population, and has played a positive role in maintaining food prices at relatively normal levels in Sa'ada City throughout the war.

Emergency Seasonal Safety Net: In response to the findings of its 2010 Comprehensive Food Security Survey, WFP launched an emergency seasonal safety net assisting over 1.8 million severely food insecure persons during the hunger period (May to October). This operation is particularly timely due to the recent and sharp increase of food commodity prices and is a vital step in helping Yemenis to meet their acute food and nutritional needs.

Concerns regarding national stability (particularly since May 2011) accentuate the critical necessity for this safety net operation.

Targeted Nutritional Support: This component addresses acute malnutrition amongst children under 5 and pregnant/lactating women, through blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programs. 356,000 beneficiaries are assisted under this component

Persons internally displaced by conflict in the northern governorate of Sa'adah, as well as refugees from the Horn of Africa, are entirely reliant upon humanitarian agencies for their survival.

WFP Emergency Operations	No. of Beneficiaries	Additional amount required
Live-saving food and nutritional support	400,000 people	AED 88 million
Emergency seasonal safety net	1.8 million people	AED 81 million
Targeted nutritional support	356,000 children under five years old	
Total		AED 169 million

USEFUL LINKS

- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**
www.unhcr.org
- **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**
www.ifrc.org
- **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**
www.icrc.org
- **Reliefweb**
www.reliefweb.int
- **Financial Tracking System (FTS)**
fts.unocha.org
- **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**
www.unocha.org/where-we-work/yemen
- **World Food Programme (WFP)**
www.wfp.org/countries/yemen

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REPORT YOUR ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES TO OCFA

All donations (cash or in-kind) from government representative organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations or charitable organizations can be reported to OCFA to be documented in UN Financial Tracking System (FTS).

OCFA wishes to include details of contributions from UAE donor organizations to humanitarian relief efforts in its next situation report. Sharing this information will help us identify gaps in relief work and better direct UAE aid to respond to the most pressing needs.

We would therefore ask you to send any information about your efforts – in Yemen (or any other emergency situation) -- to OCFA:

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Kindly, report your contribution either by email or fax in Arabic or English.

Disclaimer: Financial figures are provisional and may not reflect a comprehensive account of all the UAE foreign assistance. Other figures mentioned in the report do not reflect the views or the position of the UAE Government.

Currency value is USD \$1 = 3.673 AED
UAE Dirhams: 1 AED = Yemen Rial: 58.40 YER

Sources: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, World Food Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

All reports and more information are available on OCFA website: ocfa.gov.ae.