

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with the Humanitarian Country Team and humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Yemen country office. It covers the period from 29 June 2011 to 9 July 2011. The next report will be issued on or around 22 July 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Ongoing fighting in Abyan has resulted in a new displacement crisis in the south of Yemen.
- Concerns about protection of civilians are increasing as fighting continues in civilian areas.
- The high risk security situation continues to limit humanitarian access to Abyan Governorate.
- The fuel crisis is adversely affecting humanitarian activities throughout Yemen.
- Heavy rains in Haradh have caused destruction to goods and infrastructure in IDP camps.
- Humanitarian Funds have been mobilized to address the needs in the south.

II. Situation Overview

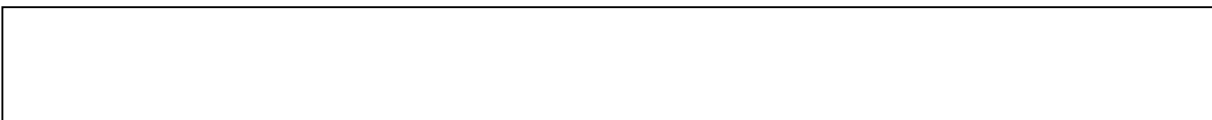
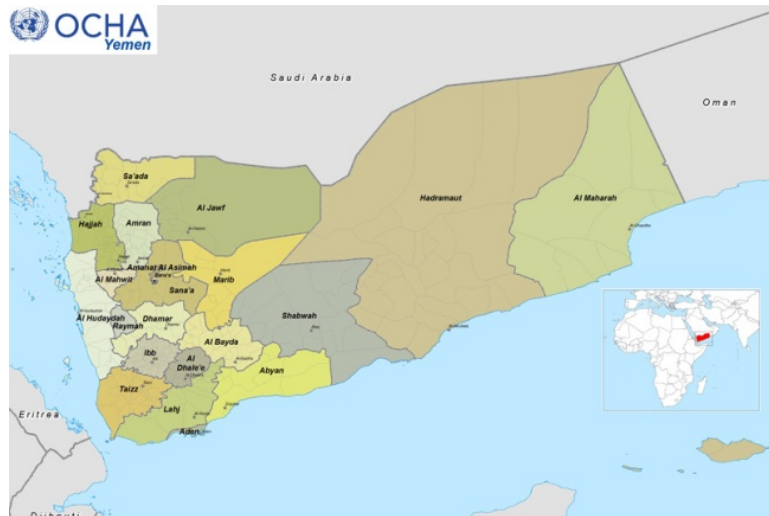
Humanitarian needs continue to increase as a result of the ongoing conflict in Abyan between government security forces and alleged Jihadist militants. The number of internally displaced people in the south increases on a daily basis. Thus far the Government has estimated the following number of IDPs in southern Yemen: 37,584 IDPs in Aden, 14,788 IDPs in Lahj and 8,475 in Abyan. However, until access is improved figures of IDPs in Abyan remain uncertain.

In the past week there have been reports of air strikes in southern Yemen whereby civilians have been killed and injured. In addition to the conflict in Abyan, there have been reports of heavy fighting and shelling of civilian areas in Nihm and Arhab, north of Sana'a City.

Fuel shortages continue to adversely impact day to day functioning of businesses, health facilities and certain humanitarian operations. There have been media reports pertaining to outbreaks of violence at petrol stations where people have been queuing for hours only to receive a limited amount of fuel.

From a humanitarian standpoint, there is some concern over the increasing needs as a result of IDPs fleeing conflict areas, as well as the negative impact of the declining economic situation. Increases in the price of basic commodities such as bread have added pressure on already food insecure households. Moreover, the shortage of fuel has impacted the private sector whereby people have lost their jobs and main income source.

Heavy rains on 29 June resulted in destruction to some property in Haradh. A few weeks ago the rehabilitation/replacement of goods and infrastructure destroyed by previous storms was completed. Camp III is particularly vulnerable to hazards related to natural elements. A more sustainable solution is required to prevent further damages in the future.





FOOD

Food distribution to IDP families registered in Aden is now well underway. As of 8 July 2011, 15-day rations were extended to 2,279 families in Aden City. Families who were registered late did not benefit from this first food distribution cycle. However, the July distribution cycle will aim to provide one-month rations to an expanded caseload of 3,330 families.

A rapid food security assessment in Aden determined that some 90% of all IDPs in the city are entirely dependent upon the host community to meet their daily food needs; only 10% are self-reliant. In addition, 40% of all IDPs interviewed said that food – including pediatric milk – was their most pressing need. A CERF grant of US\$1,477,089 has been awarded to address the emergency food needs of the IDP population fleeing Abyan Governorate.

Food assistance to IDPs in Sa'ada, Haradh, Amran and Sana'a is ongoing.

In May 2011, the humanitarian community successfully negotiated expanded access to some 116,800 previously unassisted IDPs and war-affected persons in the rural districts of Sa'ada Governorate. While the cluster has reached more than 300,000 IDPs and war affected persons during the previous round of distribution the cluster is now aiming to assist a total of 416,800 persons affected by the conflict in the north. Somali refugees in the south continue to receive food aid as well. The July distribution cycle for the refugee population is scheduled to begin on 17 July 2011.

Gaps & Constraints: Food distribution in Abyan Governorate has been limited by access constraints, but is expected to start by the end of the month.



EDUCATION

Agreements with NGOs are in place to support summer activities for children in Zeidiyah, Bait-Alfaqeeh, Dhale, Ibb and Sana'a City (Al-Hasaba area). Plans are underway for four similar agreements to be signed in Taiz, Hoedaidah, Haradh and Sana'a.

Preparations for the Back to School campaign are ongoing. The Back to School campaign is an initiative that aims to encourage children who have dropped out of the schooling system to return.

At a recent meeting to discuss children's rights, concerns were expressed about the possible effect that the current use of schools to house IDPs will have on examination space and next year's school enrollment. Mechanisms are in place to monitor the exam process for grades 9-12 in various field offices.

Gaps & Constraints: Schools are going to be reopening soon and should the crisis in the south become protracted, alternative accommodation needs must be found to house the IDPs.



EMERGENCY SHELTER

IDPs in Aden are being housed in 48 schools and are also residing with host families. Some complaints have been received that IDPs residing with host families are not receiving equal aid distributions.

In Lahj, IDPs are mainly residing with host families. A rapid assessment concluded that a large number of IDPs fled sans assets. Their primary needs were identified as follows: 35% of households assessed confirmed that their primary needs are clothes, 40% food rations including paediatric milk and cold potable water, 20% NFIs (mattresses, bed sheets, sanitary pads, towels, soaps, washing powder, jerry cans etc.), hygiene and cleansing materials/agents.

The distribution of NFIs is ongoing in Aden, Lahj and Abyan.

Gaps & Constraints: IDPs in Lahj and Abyan are scattered across remote villages and it is difficult to reach or track the movement of these IDPs. Although distribution of NFIs is ongoing, some IDPs still lack essential commodities.



NUTRITION

A rapid nutrition assessment for IDPs in Aden has just been completed and another is ongoing in Lahj.

Emergency preposition nutrition stock has already been dispatched to southern Yemen and further supplies are to be sent soon.

Gaps & Constraints: The uncertain security situation in Abyan limits response capabilities. The ongoing fuel crisis could also delay nutritional activities.



HEALTH

A campaign for the vaccination programme for measles/vitamin A and polio targeting IDPs in Aden and Lahj was completed on 29 June. Vaccination programming has been adversely affected by the shortages of gas and fuel. As a contingency plan vaccines have been stored at different locations.

As of 30 June more than 4,268 medical consultations had been recorded in Aden, Lahj and Abyan through mobile medical clinics.

The outbreak of diarrhea continues in Abyan, Lahj and Aden. As of 30 June 1,813 cases of diarrhea have been reported. The breakdown is as follows: 1,197 in Abyan (15 May – 30 June), 171 in Lahj (19-30 June) and 445 in Aden (19-30 June).

Access to Abyan is limited and data is thus uncertain, it was reported that Al Razi and Shukra hospitals are non-functional due to the security situation and that healthcare is now available at private institutions. The Health Cluster continues to lend its support by sending vital medical supplies to functional health facilities in the Governorate.

The reproductive health needs of the IDP community will be met with the introduction of the Minimal Initial Services Package and family planning services at both Lahj and Aden. This will involve supplementing the national health facilities with the necessary Reproductive Health Kits, at the primary and secondary health care level, to ensure that they are able to keep up with the increased demand for health with the influx of IDPs as well as to ensure that a referral system is in place should obstetric complications arise. Also, in IDP locations which are not in close vicinity to health facilities, mobile clinics will be operated to ensure that IDPs in those areas are able to access primary reproductive health services.

Gaps & Constraints: Limited access to Abyan remains a challenge. The shortage of fuel might lead to closures of hospitals and certain health programming. The fuel shortage has disrupted the cold chain for vaccines in Hajjah. Al Mazrak Camp I, faced challenges as staff could not be transported and generators lacked fuel. This could be a contributing factor to the increase in cases of diarrhea.



LOGISTICS

In order to address the problem of fuel scarcity across Yemen and its impact upon humanitarian operations, the Logistics Cluster lead has been tasked with securing guaranteed access to fuel for members of the humanitarian community. The Logistics Cluster has been working on obtaining a regular supply of fuel, which is essential for the optimal functioning of humanitarian activities. In the first distribution cycle, the Logistics Cluster was able to provide a total of 14,880 liters of diesel and 10,560 liters of petrol. During the second cycle, a total of 71,000 liters of fuel will be distributed.



PROTECTION

Protection monitoring of IDPs continued in Aden, and a referral system has been established to refer and follow up cases that needs immediate intervention. Identification of such cases is carried out mainly by visits to schools hosting IDPs and also referral from multi-agency rapid assessment teams.

A national network – Humanitarian Forum Yemen – composed of local NGOs organized a workshop on protection of civilians in Sana'a. An assessment mission is currently being prepared to visit displaced families from Arhab and Nihm in Amran Governorate.

Child Protection: Two trainings on child protection and the prevention of violence were conducted for 30 volunteers in Hoedaidah.

In Al-Dhale, Ibb and Taiz some children benefited from recreational activities and in Taiz, some family members were provided with information on child protection in emergency situations. In Ibb, a new child protection committee was established to monitor and report on child protection violations. The committee is also responsible for response and referrals.

Meetings were held with the Multi-Sector Cluster (migrants and refugees) to address the issue of unaccompanied minors for repatriation. The focus was on providing alternative care for unaccompanied minors before repatriation.



WATER SANITATION HYGIENE

The WASH cluster has been ensuring access to safe water for IDPs residing in schools in Aden. Dozens of volunteers were trained in hygiene promotion. To help fight the outbreak of diseases cleaning materials for latrines was distributed to the 48 schools in Aden, which are housing IDPs.

Water provision for IDPs in the camps in Haradh continues, however water rations have been decreased due to fuel shortage. Hygiene promotion activities have been accelerated in response to an increase in the reported cases of diarrhea in the camps in Haradh.

Gaps & Constraints: The fuel shortages continue to affect WASH activities. The decrease in water rations in IDP camps in Haradh caused by fuel shortages has led to some IDPs turning towards unsafe water sources. This could be a contributing factor to the increase in cases of diarrhea.



CAMP COORDINATION/MANAGEMENT

A storm on 29 June resulted in the collapse of 170 tents in the camps in Haradh. A school in Al Mazrak Camp III also collapsed. Prior to the 29 June storm, rehabilitation and replacement of destroyed goods

caused by heavy rains a few weeks earlier was completed. It has been noted that Al Mazrak Camp III is vulnerable to natural hazards and a more sustainable solution is needed as the cost of replacing tents and goods are high.

Sectors such as health and water reported challenges with distribution as a result of the shortage of fuel. Following the transfer of management of Al Mazrak II to the UN, it was decided to close down Al Mazrak Camp II in the coming weeks.

Humanitarian assistance in the camps is ongoing. Recently 164 Somali refugees arrived in Haradh and were provided with the same assistance as IDPs including shelter, food, water, NFIs and healthcare, before it was decided to relocate them to the Kharaz Refugee Camp in the south.

In the south, some 3,002 IDP families (16,568 individuals) are accommodated in some 50 schools in Aden Governorate. So far 86% has received NFIs and hygiene kits. Plans are underway to verify and agree on modalities for distribution of NFIs for the estimated 3,430 IDP families (18,940 individual) in the host communities in Aden Governorate

Gaps & Constraints: The lack of fuel is affecting the healthcare centres and WASH activities in the camps. There is a lack of proper documentation for some IDPs, which hinders IDP access to aid supplies. Child marriages present a key protection concern in the camps. In the south, humanitarian partners are experiencing difficulties in the verification of the IDPs in host communities. There is also a need to harmonize assistance packages to improve monitoring and distribution of assistance.

REFUGEES

More than 4,000 refugees remain displaced following the conflict in Sana'a and southern Governorates (Abyan, Lahj, Taiz). The number has increased due to the economic hardship as many refugees have lost their jobs and the cost of living has increased.

Some 75 Somali families continue to seek shelter at the Somali refugee community center and are expecting to be transferred to Kharaz Refugee Camp in southern Yemen. The number of people seeking assistance, allegedly due to inability to pay their rent, has also increased. Another 130 Ogeden refugee families have also requested financial assistance.

On 25, 29 and 30 June 2011, three convoys relocated some 150 refugee families (628 persons) from Sana'a to Kharaz Refugee Camp. These include some 30 Somali refugees that were camping outside UNHCR office for weeks and the 164 refugee previously relocated to Haradh. In addition, some 43 families displaced from the fighting in Abyan have arrived spontaneously in Kharaz Camp.

Last week, anti-riot forces had to disperse some 600 refugees, including Oromo, Eritrean and Somalis, who had gathered in front of the main gate of the UNHCR office in Sana'a, blocking all the entrances into the office and locking in the staff. Many of the refugees had camped outside the office for the past three months, and several unsuccessful attempts had been made to negotiate with representatives of the refugees on the assistance that the office could provide within its limited capabilities. As a precaution measure, the UNHCR office was closed for three days and the presence of the police in the area was strengthened. UNHCR has informed the Government counterpart, the Vice Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of NSCRA and the General department of refugees and head of immigration and requested them to take appropriate action.

In an effort to find a solution for the hundreds of refugee families displaced due to the civil unrest, a joint follow up mission took place to identify land or public buildings as a temporary location for refugees.

Gaps & Constraints: The number of displaced vulnerable refugees seeking assistance continued to increase. Resources for relocation of the refugees are limited. The high rise in fuel and cost of living affected operations in general.

MIGRANTS

Migrants are being assisted with voluntary return to their home countries. Due to security reasons the process was recently suspended, however the programme is once again operational. Since the beginning of July, 1,759 migrants were assisted with voluntary return home. Since November 2010, 5,622 migrants have been assisted with voluntary return.

Gaps & Constraints: The impact of the fuel shortage on transportation costs is making operations difficult.

III. Coordination

Coordination is ongoing in northern and southern Yemen. In Aden, an inter-cluster meeting took place in order to identify gaps and plan joint responses. Several sectorial needs assessments have been conducted. Humanitarian information on the situation in the south is being gathered, systematized and disseminated.

IV. Funding

Seven (Emergency Response Fund) ERF proposals are currently under review. The projects are targeting specific geographical areas that were adversely affected by the conflict such as Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Sana'a and Hadramout. One ERF proposal focuses on addressing the current fuel crisis. Other proposals are for WASH, Health, Nutrition, Shelter and NFIs. The total amount requested for these seven projects is US\$ 1.2 million. US\$3.4 million has to date been allocated for projects through the ERF, and the current balance of the ERF is US\$ 2.5 million.

290 million requested (US\$)	48 % Funded
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Eleven new CERF proposals have been submitted in order to respond to the increasing needs caused by unrest and fighting in the south. The total request for CERF is US\$ 8.5 million, adding to the US 6.3 million allocated by the CERF in May to respond to increased needs in Yemen.

A total of US\$ 138 million (48%) has been pledged to the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP). The original total funds requested for the YHRP was US\$ 224 million, however the requested funds were adjusted in the Mid Year Review to address increasing humanitarian needs in Yemen.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

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