

# Working together for Yemen

August 2011

## Crisis Overview



During the past few months, Yemen has seen a fresh wave of displacement and refugees due to the unrest and heavy fighting. The already stretched resources catering for hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons are at breaking point.

The refugees and IDPs are not the only ones affected, with fuel and food shortages pushing many Yemenis well below the poverty line. According to UN OCHA, the cost of fuel on the black market has risen by over 60% and the cost of bread has soared by 50% in the past few months. According to IRIN, many cannot afford basic food items like bread and some families even skip meals. This particularly puts children at risk, with over half of them malnourished, according to a UN OCHA estimate.

Many international humanitarian organizations have left Yemen, creating a gap in the delivery and coverage of humanitarian assistance. The Emergency Response Fund for Yemen is underfunded, with only over \$6 million allocated to respond to this crisis.

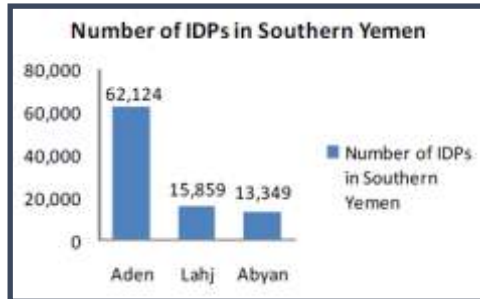
In this fluid humanitarian landscape, Humanitarian Forum Yemen is actively responding to the needs of local civil society. See verso for our Emergency Management Workshops.

For up-to-date information, access the OCHA website: [www.unocha.org/](http://www.unocha.org/).

See photos from our meetings on our Flickr page: [flickr.com/photos/humanitarianforum](http://flickr.com/photos/humanitarianforum).

## South Yemen Crisis in Focus—\$85 can save a family

The continuous unrest in the Abyan area has led to as many as 91,000 people fleeing towards Aden City and Lahj. The IDPs are hosted mainly in schools and with host families in the city, who can barely cope themselves.



Because of the conflict, access into Abyan is restricted, making the total account for IDPs quite difficult.

Displaced communities and families are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Items such as food, water, shelter, protection and healthcare are vital for survival. According to the UN, some are sheltering in caves.

In response to the critical situation for the hundreds of families affected, Humanitarian Forum Yemen has started coordinating an emergency response together with local partners.

In the first instance, potential intervention plans were discussed during a workshop organised by Humanitarian Forum Yemen in Aden (see verso). Local organisations identified points of access and needs in several areas in and around Abyan.



The organisations have committed to deliver emergency packages to families in need, which would sustain them for a month. The packages will contain both food and non food items: sugar, rice, oil, flour, tea, water, infant milk, blankets, sheets, tents, cooking utensils, latrines and first aid kits.

***A month's supply of essential items costs just \$85.***



To increase the coverage of the area and reach even more people in need, the organizations will also work in Rasad, Sarar, Khanfir, Lawadr, AL Wade'a, Ahwar, and Mudiyah.

Write to [info@humanitarianforum.org](mailto:info@humanitarianforum.org) or phone +44 (0) 207 368 1645 to contribute to this project.

## Emergency Management Workshops



The severity and constant change of the humanitarian situation means that planning and implementing effective relief is a great challenge. Emergency teams are faced with a difficult situation characterised by lack of information, resources and coordination. To meet these challenges, the Humanitarian Forum Yemen designed a one day workshop to develop emergency management skills.

### Background

The workshop aimed at developing good teamwork, and building a team of teams to focus on the sectors that require the most immediate attention.

The idea was to bring multiple groups of people that come together from different organizations with different goals to

reduce the impact of an emergency in the following sectors: IDPs, Health Care and Protection. The workshop was attended by 38 organizations, from both local and international NGOs, as well as the private sector.

The UNHCR representative provided the group with the most update statistics related to IDPs and the main areas UNHCR is delivering assistance. Ferdous Al Douli, chair of Al WD NGO, complemented the presentation by providing a more detailed report on the situation in Abyaan, in south of Yemen.

To ensure that participants were also aware that the issue of IDPs existed in Sana'a, the representatives from Al Namaa Network highlighted the current and ongoing conflict between Al Arhab tribe and the military.

The Arhab tribe reside in the Arhab town, on the outskirts of Sana'a. Lack of access to the town, absence of local NGOs and information has made the delivery of humanitarian response to this area challenging.

The workshop led to the creation of two emergency teams, who have agreed a

coordination and communication mechanism. Each team agreed to conduct needs assessments and draw-up an emergency response plan to be approved and delivered by the team.

### Coordination and Cooperation

The success of the workshop and the worsening humanitarian situation in the south of Yemen saw UNOCHA and HFY replicate the workshop in Aden City in July. To focus the discussion, the three most critical sites were selected, namely Abyaan, Lahj, and Aden. The workshop was attended by over 40 participants, representing local organizations from each of these cities, as well as local authorities, and international organizations, such as WFP, UNHCR, IOM, Care, ADRA, and Save the Children.

### Next steps

The participants discussed the immediate needs of the IDPs in Aden, Lahj and the situation in Abyan, with emphasis on protection, health and emergency needs.

See pictures from the meeting on our Flickr page: [flickr.com/photos/humanitarianforum](http://flickr.com/photos/humanitarianforum).

## Updates from our members and partners—August 2011

Our members and partners have kindly provided us with details of their response for the Yemen crisis.

The needs are complex; they can be met efficiently and speedily through collaboration and partnerships between humanitarian organisations wanting to provide relief. This avoids the duplication of efforts and enables those in need in Yemen to receive the aid and care they require.

Organisations have different skills, methods, contacts, trust and access to funding. Improving the quality of development and humanitarian work is vital for saving more lives.

Major actors need to understand each other better, and feel more able to share information and ideas.

*UNICEF* believes malnutrition is soaring and that there is a risk for a cholera outbreak due to poor sanitation.

*WFP* provides support for over 400,000 people, among them 60,000 children under the age of five. They are facing a shortfall of over 40 million USD to continue to provide emergency food assistance.

*UNHCR* were already present on the ground, caring for some existing 200,000 refugees and over 300,000 internally displaced Yemenis. They are working with their partners and local authorities to help just under 1000 IDP families hosted in seven schools in Aden.

Local Yemeni organisation *NEBRAS Health Society's* proposal is related to the delivery of emergency relief in the cities of Aden and Al Hawtah. The focus of the project is on medical assistance, and the objectives of the project are to: prevent the spread of

infectious diseases, provision of basic health care to IDPs, and ensure the medical needs of children, orphans, widows and IDPs are met. Nebras conducted a through needs assessment and clearly illustrates the mechanism to delivery assistance. For our Ramadan Appeal, Al Nebras has purchased 50 food baskets which will be distributed to the IDPs in Abyan and Lahj.

*Soul Organisation*, another member of Humanitarian Forum Yemen, is distributing clothing to the people in need.

*Al Islah* have kindly contributed with 2 million Yemeni Riyals (£5700) for the Ramadan Appeal.

For up-to-date information, access the OCHA website: [www.unocha.org/](http://www.unocha.org/) or our Yemen Unrest 2011 page: <http://www.humanitarianforum.org/pages/en/unrest-2011.html>.

We have a section on our website dedicated to projects and proposals for humanitarian needs in Yemen. Send us your reports, press releases and project proposals at [info@humanitarianforum.org](mailto:info@humanitarianforum.org).