

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 27 August - 6 September 2018 | Issue 26

KEY ISSUES:

- As the depreciation of the Yemeni Rial continues, a further 3.5 million people may become food insecure and an additional 2 million may face a heightened risk of famine.
- The conflict in Yemen continues to exact a heavy toll on civilians. In August, 241 civilian impact incidents were reported.
- Humanitarian partners continue to work to prevent a third outbreak of cholera; some 133,000 suspected cholera cases have been confirmed since January.
- As of 6 September, the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) is 65 per cent funded with \$1.92 billion received against the overall requirement of \$2.96 billion.

DEPRECIATION OF THE YEMENI RIAL

In the first six months of 2018, the value of the Yemeni Rial decreased from YER 460 to the US\$ in January to YER 485 to the US\$ in June. In the first week of September, following a further sharp decrease in the value of the currency, the exchange rate stood at YER 600 to the US\$. The depreciation of the currency has affected the average market price of basic food commodities which have increased by up to 10 per cent in recent weeks. The cost of the minimum food basket has increased by 35 per cent since November 2017. The price of fuel commodities - cooking gas, diesel and petrol - have also increased by more than 25 per cent between November 2017 and September 2018. In the short term the result of the depreciation is likely to be that an additional 3.5 million people will become food insecure, adding to the existing caseload of 8.4 million people who need emergency food assistance, and over 2 million people are likely to be at heightened risk of famine.



A man receives a cash grant. Credit: Oxfam

UPDATES FROM HUBS

Sa'ada Hub

The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) reports that the general food assistance distribution has been completed in both Al Jawf and Sa'ada governorates and that commodities for the September cycle have been dispatched to both governorates. In Al Jawf, the FSAC was able to provide beneficiaries with a full food ration in all districts instead of half rations. The FSAC targets 23,700 households (HHs) with food assistance in Al Jawf and 103,300 HHs in Sa'ada.

Field reports indicate that on 4 September one woman was injured in the Bani Sayah area in Razih District after her house was hit by artillery shelling. A civilian was reportedly injured in the Al Raqqa area in Haydan District after his house and the surrounding area were hit by airstrikes. Airstrikes continue to be reported in Baqim District, affecting property and infrastructure.

Sana'a Hub

WHO reports that over 500 tons of essential medicines and medical supplies were shipped to Sana'a airport in August for distribution to affected governorates. These shipments contain critical life-saving cancer medication which will cover almost 50 per cent of urgent needs for one year and 100 nutrition kits sufficient to meet

the needs of more than 5,000 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

On 4 September, the Ministry of Industry and Trade closed three mineral water companies after they recently increased the price of mineral water by 50 per cent. Local authorities claimed that the price increase was unjustified. The issue is of concern since two of the companies are among the largest mineral water producers in Yemen.

Ibb Hub

Clashes continue in Hayfan, Mawyah and Al-Ma'afir districts. Access to IDPs in Hayfan District has been restricted by insecurity and road blocks. On 4 September, stressing the on-going efforts to normalize the situation inside Taizz City, the presidential committee called on IDPs in Salah District to return to their homes.

Aden Hub

On 2 September, protests broke out in Aden in response to an increase in the cost of goods and the decrease in the value of the YER. Protestors set up road blocks and burned tires in Al-Mualla, Crater, At-Tawah, Al-Mansura and Ash Sheikh Outhman districts. Protests also took place in Lahij, Al-Dhale and Shabwah governorates.

Some shops and businesses have remained closed in affected areas. As of 6 September, protests continue to restrict the movement of vehicles.

Who delivered a shipment of 50,000 rapid diagnostic tests for cholera and 21 trauma kits to respond to mass casualties to Aden from Djibouti on 4 September.

Following the shelling that hit a truck contracted by a humanitarian organisation in Al Tuhaytah on 29 August 2018, convoys to Khawkhah from Aden have been temporarily halted. Stocks previously dispatched remain at the three delivery points in Khawkhah as distribution has been suspended by the NGO partner on the ground. On 2 September, trucks mobilised by the Logistics Cluster to collect supplies from Aden and deliver them to Al Khawkhah were unable to reach

Khawkhah warehouses delaying the movement of resupplies to the western coast.

Al Hudaydah Hub

Nearly 470,000 people have fled Al Hudaydah Governorate since early June including people displaced within the governorate and families who have fled to Sanaa, Ibb, Aden and elsewhere.

About 12,000 people in As Safra District are still without clean water following damage to the Nushur water facility during fighting in July. Partners estimate that repairs may take 6 to 12 months and cost more than US\$600,000. Local water authorities are assessing the exact damage. Since July, the affected communities have depended on water from shallow wells.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS UPDATE

The conflict in Yemen continues to exact a heavy toll on civilians. The Protection Cluster reports that in August 2018, 241 civilian impact incidents have been reported as follows: Sa'ada (41%), Hudaydah (24%), Taizz (10%) and Hajjah (4%).

Early casualty estimates indicate that more than 300 people may have died: Hudaydah (56%), Sa'ada (23%), Hajjah (7%), Taizz (5%).

Reported cause of casualties: Airstrikes (56%), Shelling (28%), Small Arms Fire (6%).

The conflict continues to affect civilian infrastructure. In August the following facilities were affected:



Health: Al-Thawra Hospital in Al Hudaydah, Al-Amal Medical Centre in Ad-Dhale'e and Al-Jamhuri Hospital in Taizz.



Education: Khalij Aden University in Ad-Dhale'e, Zabid Technical Institute in Al Hudaydah, and schools in Hajjah and Sa'ada.



Water: Water tanks in Al Hudaydah and in Taizz.



Other: Mosques, cemeteries, food distribution points, roads and bridges.

CHOLERA UPDATE

WHO reports that the total number of suspected cholera cases between 27 April 2017 and 26 August 2018 was 1,155,251 with 2,401 associated deaths. Children under five years of age represent 30 per cent of suspected cases.

Some, 133,000 cases of cholera have been confirmed this year, 1,382 cases were reported in August alone. A total of 82 districts across Yemen are currently at extreme risk of cholera.

There are 56 Diarrhea Treatment Centres (DTC) operational in 39 of the 82 high-risk districts, and 56 Oral Rehydration Centres (ORCs) operate alongside each DTC. There are an additional 61 ORCs in high-risk districts. However, 43 high-risk districts have no DTCs. Humanitarian partners are doing everything possible to prevent a third outbreak of cholera and the approach to the cholera response has been streamlined. When an individual presents at a health facility with cholera symptoms, information about the patient is immediately sent to two operations rooms - one in the Ministry of Health (supported by WHO) and the other in the Ministry of Water and Sanitation (supported by UNICEF).

The response is two-pronged: the patient is sent to a DTC for case management and treatment, and samples are forwarded to laboratories for confirmation. In parallel, at the district-level Rapid Response Teams from

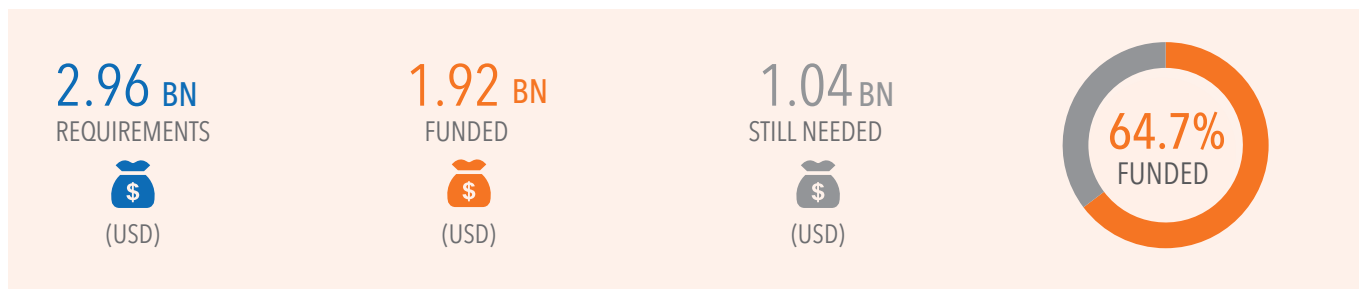
the Ministry of Water and Sanitation are dispatched within 24 hours to locate the patient's home and a 500 metre sanitation buffer is set up around the residence within 4 days. The streamlined approach has reduced the medical response time from one week in 2017 to 24 hours this year.



A doctor treating a cholera patient at Sheikh Othman Hospital in Aden. Credit UNICEF Yemen

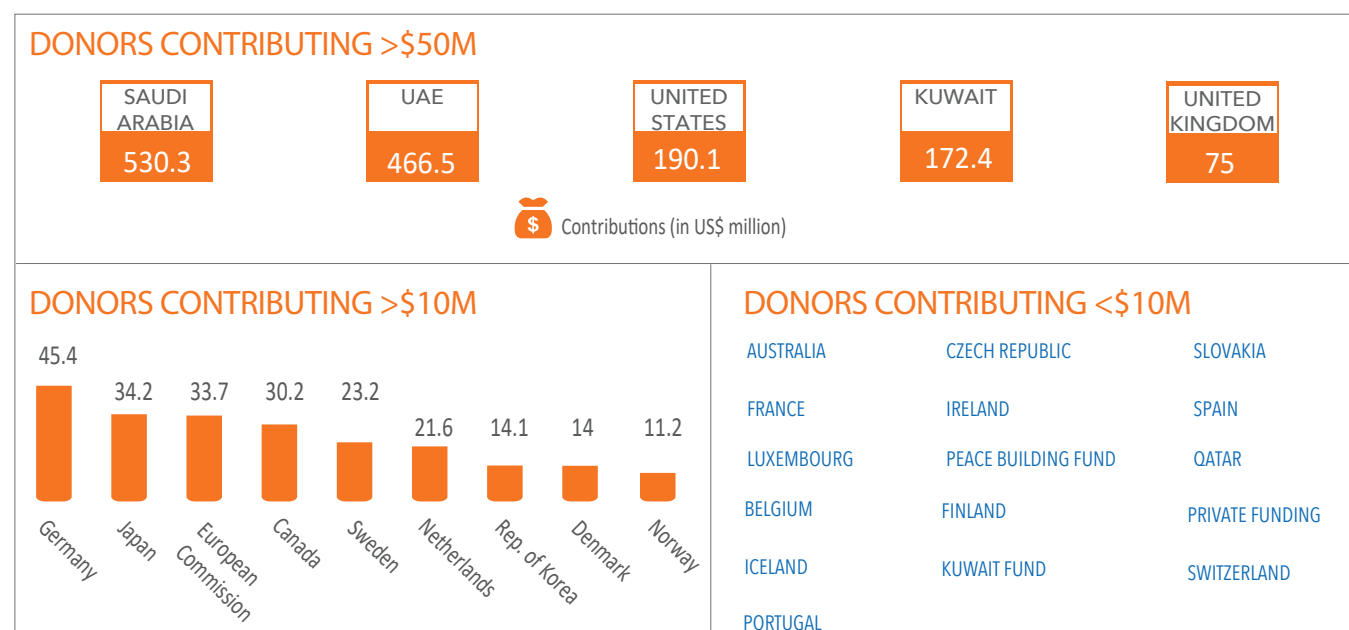
FUNDING UPDATE

As of 6 September, the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) is 65 per cent funded with US\$1.92 billion received against the overall requirement of \$2.96 billion. An additional \$692 million has been mobilized outside the framework of the YHRP.



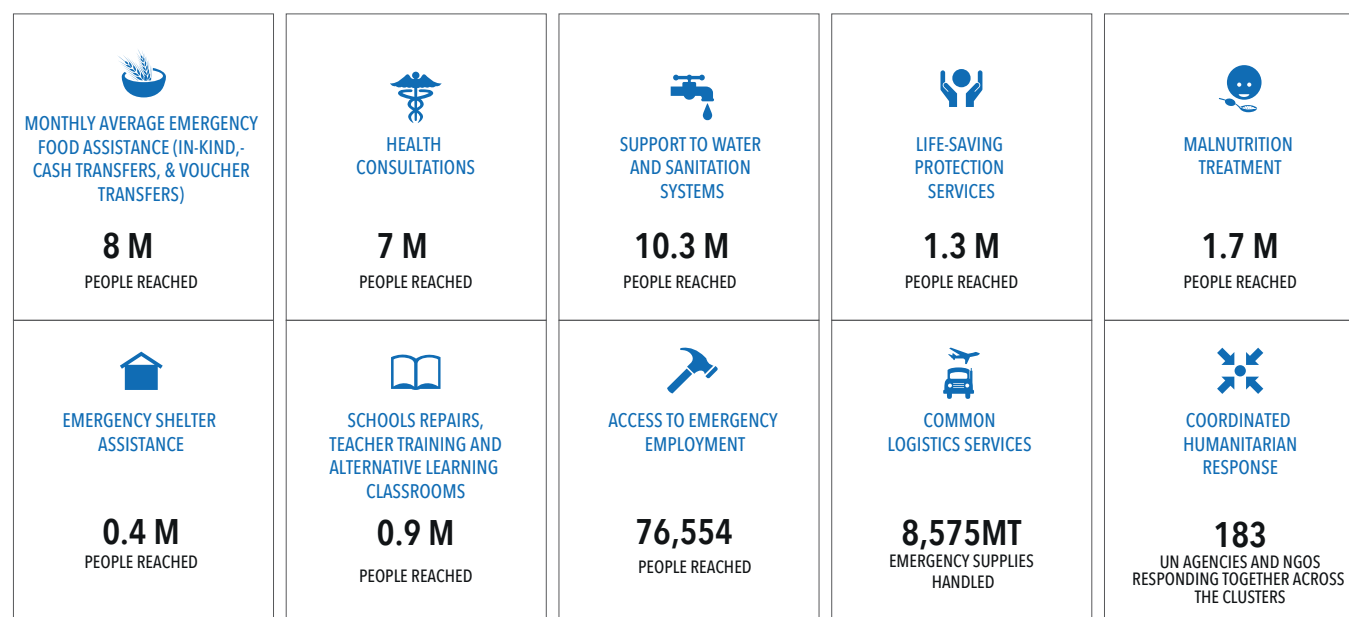
Source: FTS

Donors contributing to the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan



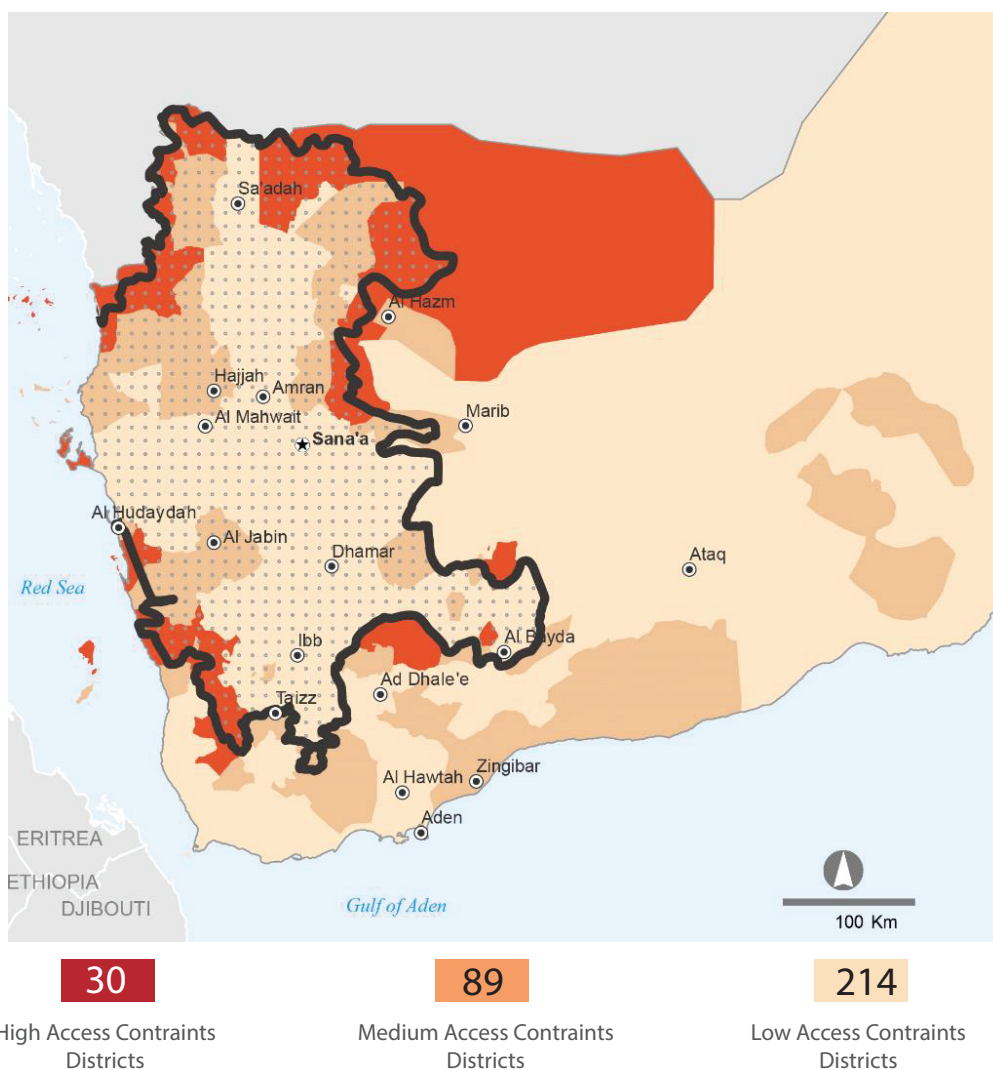
Source: FTS

Despite a difficult operating environment, humanitarian partners continue to reach millions of people. The table below presents the achievements made by each cluster between January and June 2018.



Source: HCT in Yemen

Obstacles faced by humanitarian personnel include the ongoing conflict, restrictions and bureaucratic impediments which delay movements, detention of staff and supplies, attempts to influence the selection of beneficiaries and partners and other harassment.



Source: OCHA

In areas where access is relatively good but vulnerability levels are high, partners are working to expand operations. A total of 100 districts with a combined population of 10 million people fall into this category. Of the 100 districts, 35 are high-risk for cholera. In areas where access is restricted and vulnerability levels are high, partners are advocating with the authorities to remove restrictions. A total of 62 districts, with a total population of 4.3 million, fall into this category.

UNVIM UPDATE

Between 29 August and 4 September, six vessels discharged 83,601 MT of cargo at Yemeni ports. 69,466 MT at Al Hudaydah Port and 12,000 MT at Saleef Port. Between January and September, 190 vessels discharged more than two million MTs of food and one million MTs of fuel at Al Hudaydah and Saleef ports.



50,880 MT



30,586 MT

Al Hudaydah 69,466 MT

Saleef 12,000 MT

Source: UNVIM

For further information, please contact:

George Khoury, Head of Office, UN-OCHA Yemen | Tel: +967 712 222 207 | E-mail: khouryg@un.org
Federica D'Andreagiovanni, Head of Communication, UN-OCHA Yemen | Tel: +962 79 687 6082 | E-mail: dandreagiovanni@un.org
 OCHA information products are available at: www.unocha.org/yemen | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int