

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 18-27 September 2018 | Issue 28

KEY ISSUES:

- Food and fuel prices have skyrocketed following a sharp depreciation of the Yemeni Rial against the US dollar. Crippling fuel queues are reported in Sana'a.
- Food security has further deteriorated, which could add another 3.5 million people to the 8.4 million people who currently need emergency food assistance in Yemen.
- The main Al Hudaydah-Sana'a road remains inaccessible due to fighting; access to the city is only from the north, on the Al Hudaydah- Hajjah road
- Over 2.3 million people have been displaced by conflict since 2015; and an additional 58,000 households were displaced between June and August 2018.
- Efforts are underway to expedite the release of humanitarian cargo currently held at Yemen's main entry points awaiting import approval.

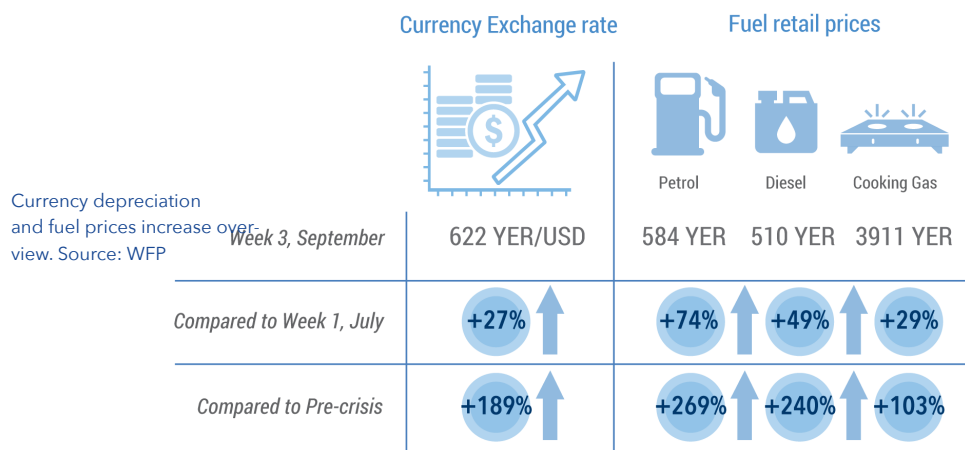
FOOD AND FUEL PRICES SPIRAL AS CURRENCY PLUMMETS

The Yemeni Rial (YER) has plummeted to its lowest ever value, pushing the cost of basic food items beyond the reach of many people. Food and fuel prices have doubled in some parts of the country over the past two months when the Rial lost 30 per cent of its value. Between the first week of July and the third week of September, the exchange rate on the black market rose from 489YER to the US\$ to 622YER.

The rapid depreciation in the Rial, the general security situation, the absence of price controls and trader practices will worsen the livelihoods and food security of Yemenis at famine risk given that almost all food consumed in Yemen is imported. According to FAO, the steep depreciation in the currency, as well as scarcity and the rise in the nominal price of fuel will push commodity prices up further (imported and locally

produced) through inflated transport costs. A further escalation of the conflict in Al Hudaydah Governorate, through which most imports pass, will worsen the situation.

During the reporting period, the price of the three main commodities – sugar, wheat and flour – rose to record levels with the cost of sugar rising by more than 20 per cent, wheat prices up by 23 per cent and wheat flour up by 27 per cent. As a result, food security has worsened with humanitarian partners estimating that this will add 3.5 million people to the 8.4 million people who currently need emergency food assistance. Pockets of famine-like conditions have already been reported in some areas. According to WFP, the economy has taken a nose dive and time is running out to prevent the country from slipping into a devastating famine.



Crippling fuel shortages have been reported. In Sana'a, extremely long queues have formed at gas stations that remain open, many are closed. The price of 20 litres of fuel has risen to 8,500YER, while on the black market the price is 20,000YER. In Al Hudaydah, black market prices have doubled to 600YER/1litre of petrol and 700 YER/1litre of diesel. Cooking gas too has increased to 7,000YER for a 20 litres cylinder, up from the official price of 3,000YER a cylinder. In Aden and Mukalla, fuel is in short supply. In Aden, electricity cuts have reportedly

increased to 10-12 hours per day due to fuel shortages.

In an attempt to stabilize the currency, the Central Bank in Aden has raised interest rates on deposits to an all-time high of 27 per cent. The bank has also raised interest rates on government bonds by 5 per cent to 17 per cent and reduced the amount of cash that individuals can take out of the country with prior permission to US\$10,000. Despite these measures, the Rial continued to depreciate.

Al Hudaydah Hub

Armed clashes continued on the eastern side of Al Hudaydah City near the airport and along the main road linking the city to Sana'a and Taizz governorates around Kilo 10 and Kilo 16, with no real changes in areas controlled by the parties. Hundreds of families have fled villages in frontline areas for nearby districts, but there was no major displacement of civilians from the city. Sporadic clashes also took place in areas of At Tuhayat and Ad Durayhimi districts. Civilian casualties were reported in both districts.

The main Al Hudaydah-Sana'a road remains inaccessible due to fighting and the only road access to the city is from the north, on the Al Hudaydah-Hajjah road. Difficulties were reported in dispatching humanitarian supplies from warehouses in Al Marawi'ah District, about 40 km to the east of the city. Humanitarian warehouses at the eastern entrance to Al Hudaydah City are also inaccessible. The fighting on the outskirts of Al Hudaydah City has displaced hundreds of families - mainly from neighbourhoods around the airport and in Kilo 16 and Kilo 10 - to areas in adjacent Al Marawi'ah and Bajil districts.

Ibb Hub

During the reporting period, armed clashes were reported in Hayfan and Maqbanah districts in Taizz Governorate, hampering the humanitarian response particularly in Hayfan where there were recurrent clashes and there is landmine contamination. In Ibb Governorate, the situation remained relatively calm.

In terms of humanitarian response, between 9 and 19 September, 1,045 displaced households received shelter support including 408 from Al Hudaydah Governorate who received NFIs and 204 from Al Saddah, affected by the recent landslide, who received NFI and emergency shelter kits. As regards access, there have been a spate of recent incidents at the Mashwarah checkpoint to the west of Ibb city.

Aden Hub

All the international sea and land ports on the southern coast are functioning. UNHAS flights from Djibouti to Aden resumed on 15 September. During the reporting period, UNICEF re-allocated 10,000 Plumpy Nut cartons to Al Mokha District which will provide approximately three month's supply for health facilities and mobile teams operating on the western coast. KSRelief has established a health centre in Al Khokha to provide primary health services to IDPs living on the site.

However, partners still face difficulties in reaching people in need in Al Tuhayat District on the west coast due to the proximity to the frontline. Partners continue with water trucking to respond to needs in Hays as the water pump in the area is still not functional.

Sa'ada Hub

As regards humanitarian response, Oxfam reported the completion of its water project in Al Jawazat and Al Sahn in Sa'ada City which will supply 2,567 households. A UNICEF implementing partner signed an agreement with local authorities to establish two Oral Rehydration

"We will remember 18 December for a long time"

"When the rockets were fired at our house in Hays District, Al Hudaydah Governorate, our family - my wife, three-month-old child, parents, brothers and myself - decided to leave," explained 25-year-old Marwan Hassan.

"We rented a bus to take us to a safe place. After just two km, the bus was hit. My friend and I were in the back seat; the rest of the family in the middle. I remember seeing fire and feeling terrible pain in my legs. My friend and my sister died instantly, she was only 16. My legs were blown off. My parents, wife and brother suffered minor injuries. I don't know how my child survived unharmed, stuck between chairs. We will remember 18 December 2017 for a long time.



"I was taken to Aden to a centre where I received treatment for three weeks. Six months later, I was moved to '22nd May hospital' in Aden for another six weeks. Eventually, my family moved to Shakra, where we now rent a house. I still need treatment and have to go to Aden hospital on a regular basis.

"My young brother is supporting our family working as a fisherman, but this is not enough to sustain us. Because of our situation and the fact that I am no longer able to work, we do not have sufficient money even for drinking water, much less for transportation to the hospital.

"When the humanitarian organisation came to our area, I was among the lucky ones who received basic hygiene kits, food, bedding and other things. They are also assisting us with much needed emergency cash. We are very thankful. I hope that this war ends soon so that we can return home. What is gone is gone; my friend, my sister, my legs... but we thank God that we are still alive."

Marwan being interviewed in Shakra.
Photo: ACF

Therapy Centres (ORCs) in al Hazm District and to train volunteer health educators on cholera prevention. WFP reported that its general food distribution for September has yet to start due to delays in the delivery of food commodities.

Sana'a Hub

Conflict-related casualties were recorded in Al Bayda and Marib governorates. Eleven civilians were

reportedly killed and others injured in an airstrike on a house in the Horan area of Radman District in Al Bayda Governorate. Heavy fighting was also reported in the Sirwah District of Marib Governorate, casualty figures are unknown. The Civilian Impact Monitoring Report indicates that on 13 September, in As Sabain in Sana'a City, airstrikes on a military camp in Al Nahdain damaged nearby houses. On 14 September, a child was killed in landmine explosion in Hawran, As Sawadiya.

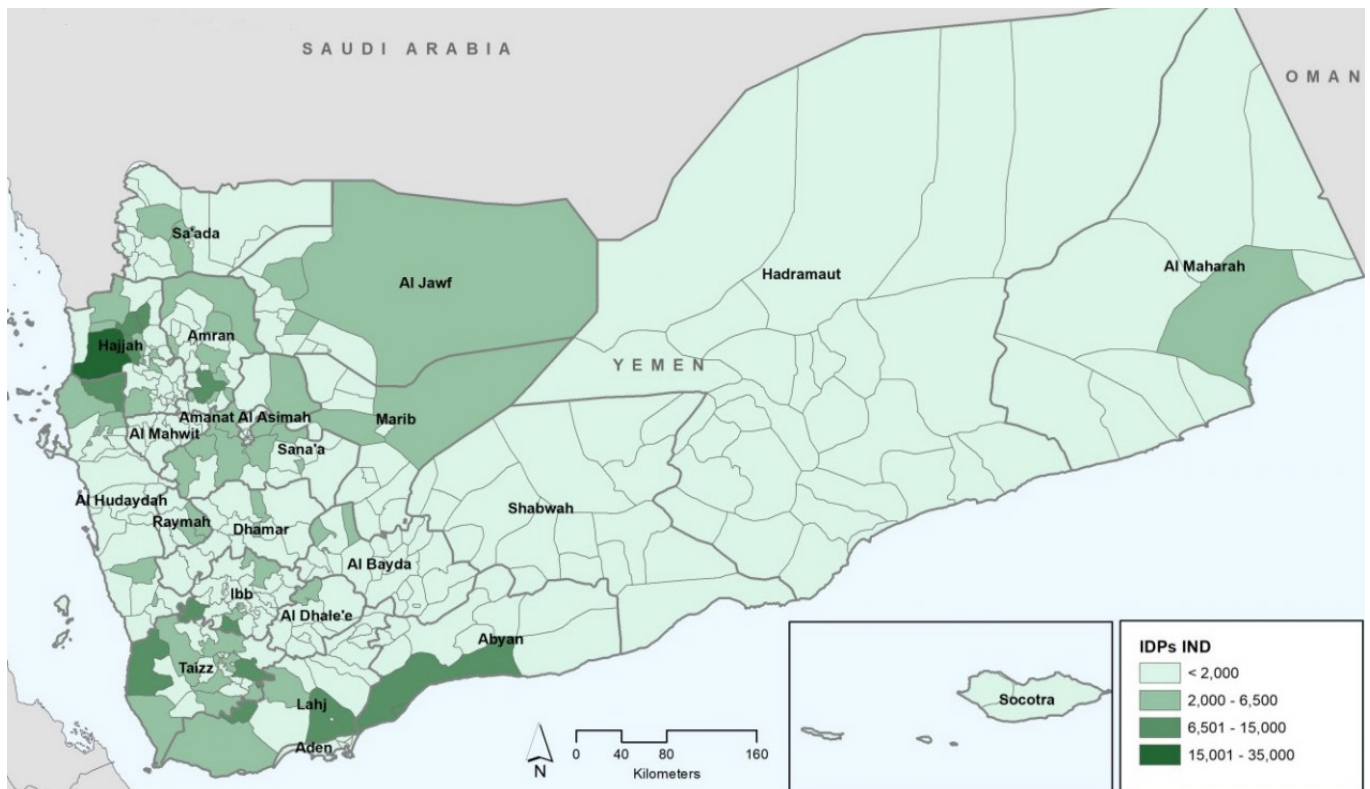
NEW REPORT ON DISPLACEMENT

Over 2.3 million people are estimated to have been displaced by conflict in Yemen since March 2015, and an additional 58,000 were displaced between June and August 2018, according to a new report of the Task Force for Population Movement (TFPM). The task force identified more than one million returnees across 22 governorates to June 2018.

Taizz, Hajjah, Amanat al Asimah, Ibb and Amran governorates recorded the highest displacement figures - over 25,000 households each - while Aden, Amanat al Asimah and Taizz had the highest number of returns, making them areas of both displacement and return. In Al Hudaydah, over 300,000 people are estimated to have been displaced by the escalated conflict.

The majority of IDP households live within host communities. The report indicated that simultaneous protracted and emergency IDP caseloads living within host communities and on sites puts a strain on limited resources during an ongoing conflict. According to TFPM, vulnerability levels among both IDPs and host communities are likely to remain high in locations with large IDP numbers.

The TFPM is a Technical Working Group that falls operationally under the Inter-Cluster Coordination Mechanism (ICCM) that comes under the general oversight of the Humanitarian Country Team. It works closely with local and national authorities.



Map of IDPs by district. Source: TFPM

LOGISTICS CLUSTER UPDATE

The Logistics Cluster reports that as of 24 September in-country fuel stocks include 21,865 litres of diesel and 169,756 litres of petrol in Sana'a, and 6,264 litres of petrol in Aden. The Cluster also has 1,200 m² of storage space in Sana'a, 3,400 in Al Hudaydah and 600 in Aden. Regular sea cargo and passenger transport services via the VOS Apollo and VOS Theia are temporarily on hold, but urgent sea cargo transportation or shipments may be organised using dhows. Land transport can be organized to and from Sana'a, Al Hudaydah and Aden to accessible locations.

The Cluster, however, reported that some humanitarian cargo is held at Yemen's main entry points in Aden, Sana'a and Djibouti, pending import approvals from various authorities. The cargo includes medicines, nutrition supplies, protection equipment and vehicles. Some of the items have been at the entry ports for several months. Efforts are underway to secure the release of these supplies.



UNHAS airplane. Photo: Federica D'Andreagiovanni

UNVIM UPDATE

From 19 to 25 September, 66,320 MT of cargo was discharged by three vessels at Al Hudaydah port. No cargo was discharged at Saleef or Ras Issa ports. Six clearance certificates were issued - four for Al Hudaydah port and two for Saleef port.



34,917 MT

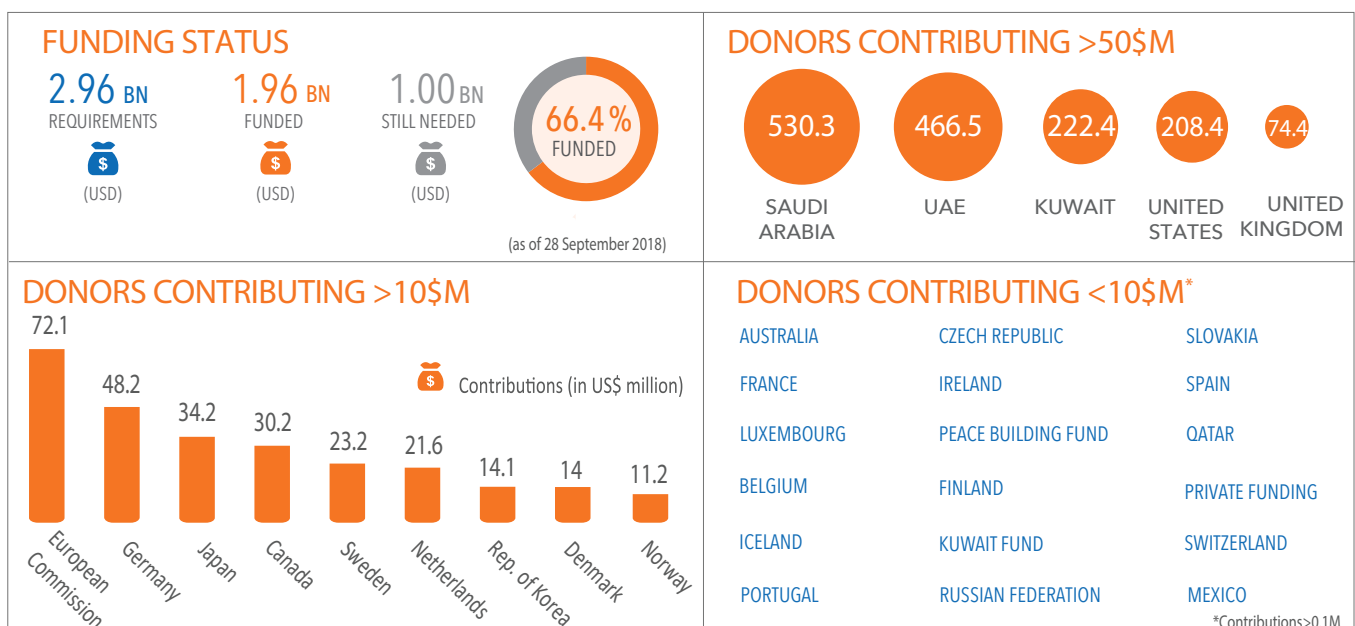
Source: UNVIM



31,403 MT

Al Hudaydah	66,320 MT
Saleef	0 MT
Ras Issa	0 MT

FUNDING UPDATE (AS OF 18 SEPTEMBER 2018)



Source: FTS

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: dandreagiovannif@un.org
 OCHA information products are available at: www.unocha.org/yemen | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int