

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 7 - 21 November 2018 | Issue 32

KEY ISSUES:

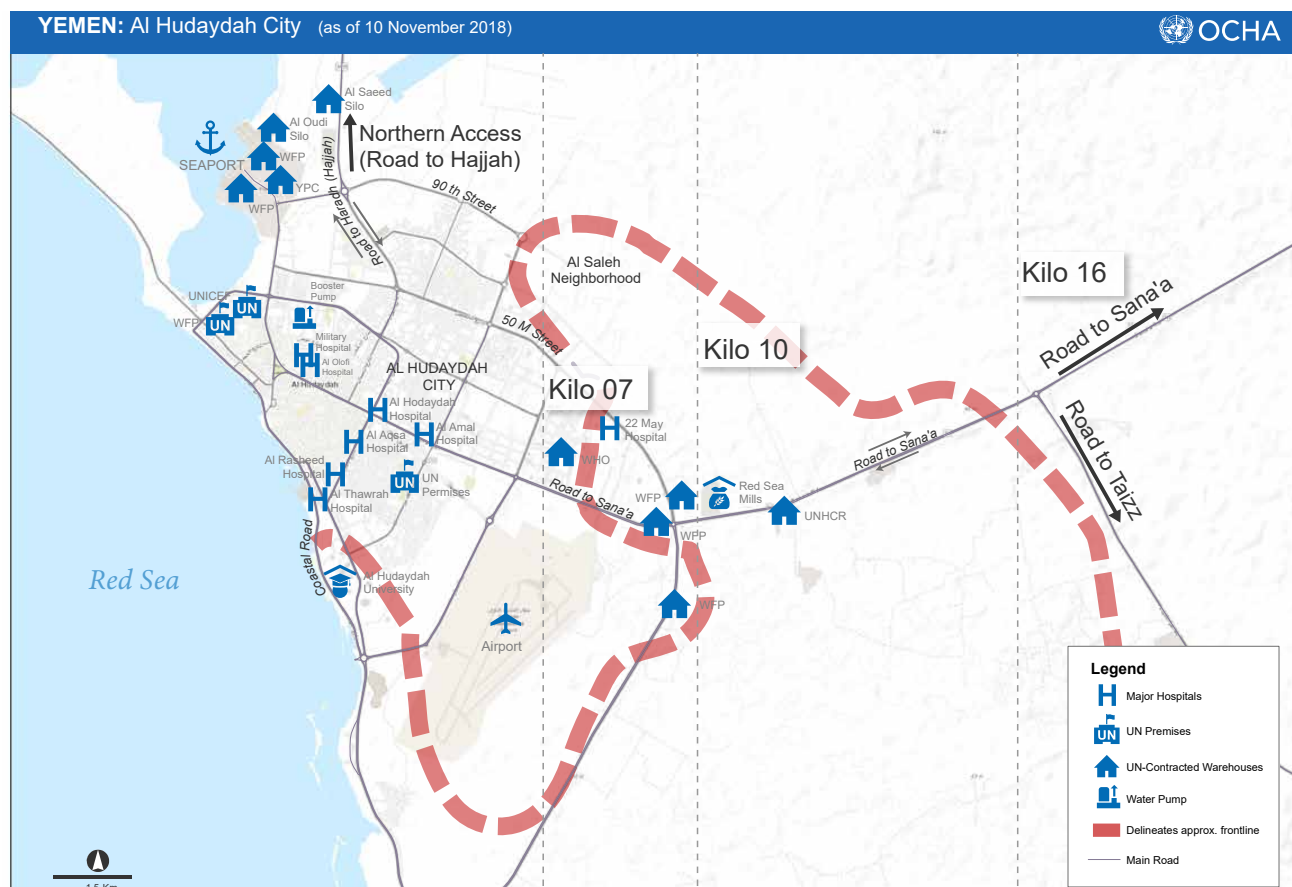
- The exchange rate of the Yemeni Rial rose significantly during the reporting period, up to about 520 YER per dollar, indicating that steps to stabilize the exchange rate are beginning to take effect.
- Humanitarian partners continue to preposition and deliver life-saving assistance to people in need and support vital installations in Al Hudaydah City.
- As of 19 November, partners identified more than 132,000 displaced households from Al Hudaydah Governorate; of whom more than 123,000 households have received rapid response assistance.
- The UN Human Rights Office documented 17,640 civilian casualties in Yemen; 6,872 dead and 10,768 injured from 26 March 2015 to 8 November 2018.
- Commercial food imports through Al Hudaydah and Al Saleef ports fell by more than 50 per cent compared to September 2018, with only 17 ships discharging their cargo in October.

THE SITUATION IN AL HUDAYDAH AND THE HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Although there was no formal declaration of a ceasefire by the warring parties, the pause in fighting in and around Al Hudaydah City that started on 12 November contributed to a significant reduction of violence. Artillery shelling and airstrikes did not completely stop and continued to pose a threat to civilians, with incidents reported on 20 November near 50 Street around Al Saleh residential complex. Artillery shells also damaged houses in the 7 July neighborhood in Al Hali District. The Protection Cluster reported that on 20 November, three civilians were killed when airstrikes hit a house in Kulayb village

south of Kilo 16 in Al Hali. On 19 November, one civilian was killed and four injured when an airstrike hit a vehicle on the main road in Al Maghras in At Tuhayat District.

Field reports indicated that most shops are closed and the number of people in the city has decreased significantly. This information also was corroborated by the fact that the Rapid Response Mechanism registered only 14,000 IDP families having fled from Al Hudaydah City since 1 October.



To ensure the continued delivery of life-saving assistance to people in need and support to vital installations in the city that are under threat due to the expansion of the conflict near populated areas (e.g. Kilo 16, Kilo 10, Al Hudaydah University, 90 Street, Al Saleh and Al Rabasa neighborhoods), humanitarian partners continue to pre-position supplies according to the Al Hudaydah preparedness plan. Six warehouses are operational in Al Hudaydah City to store supplies and have at hand 40,000 food rations, 15,000 rapid response mechanism kits, 5,000 non-food items (NFIs), 2,000 tents and other emergency shelter kits.

The Nutrition Cluster has pre-positioned nutrition supplies to support 42,000 children suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition and 14,200 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition until the end of the year; 10,500 cartons of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) will be pre-positioned as emergency stock. To date, 2,500 cartons of RUTF are pre-positioned in Al Hudaydah City at the General Health Office; while the remaining 8,000 cartons are expected to arrive in the city by 28 November.

The Water Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster reported that 20,000 consumable Health Kits and 14,000 Basic Health Kits for Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) have been pre-positioned. UNICEF supplied the Local Water Sanitation Corporation with 600,000 liters of fuel so that drinking water is pumped till the end of the year. Partners are identified to implement multi-purpose cash assistance programmes. Protection partners completed the mobilisation of community-based protection networks and other community-based structures to refer cases and 'trapped populations' for assistance.

The Health Cluster reported that fuel and medical supplies, including trauma kits, have been pre-positioned for the three public hospitals (Al Thawrah, Al Olofi, Al Salakhana). WHO is supporting the health

facilities in the city with 121,000 liters of fuel supplies to cover needs until the end of the year.

Al Thawrah Hospital is the only facility in the city equipped to provide a full range of secondary and tertiary care. This facility is critical for millions of people in Al Hudaydah Governorate. Its services include a malnutrition treatment facility, two intensive care units that are providing intensive emergency care including for newborn babies, and a cholera treatment centre that has treated 1,615 patients since August 2018. More than 81,000 children were treated at the hospital in 2017, while over 45,000 have received treatment there so far this year.

Since the lull in hostilities, Al Thawrah Hospital has remained functional and accessible. However, front lines remain very close by, meaning any resumption of hostilities could quickly render the facility unusable. Already, Al Thawrah Hospital has been damaged several times during fighting before the lull. While other hospitals continue to operate in Al Hudaydah, none offer the level of care and services provided by Al Thawrah. Its continued operation is vital for the city and its surroundings.

In parallel to supporting the major hospitals, six primary health centers were identified in the city (two in each district) for trauma treatment and primary health care, and are being supported through the provision of required supplies and staff.

The humanitarian community continues to appeal to all parties to the conflict to ensure that humanitarian workers are able to work safely, and particularly that medical facilities and health staff are protected. This is all the more important as a polio campaign is slated between 26 to 29 November in active-conflict districts (Durayhimi, Bayt Al Faqiah, At Tuhat, Al Kawkhah, Al Hays, Al Garrahi, Al Hali, Al Mina, Al Hawak, Zabid).

UPDATES FROM HUBS

AL HUDAYDAH HUB

As of 19 November, Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners identified more than 132,000 displaced households and assisted more than 123,000 with RRM assistance, as per the breakdown below. WFP targeted 41,000 families (approximately 250,000 people) with its blanket food distribution programme, and to date has reached 19,000 families:

DURATION	REPORTED	VERIFIED	ASSISTED WITH RRM	HUB
From June 2018 till Now	85,175	85,214	81,725	HUDAYDAH
	17,658	15,911	13,021	ADEN
	5,527	9,576	7,541	IBB
	34,078	21,614	21,614	SANAA
TOTAL	142,438	132,315	123,901	

Source: RRM partners

Following reports of the spread of armyworms, a caterpillar pest of grass pastures and cereal crops, in parts of Hajjah Governorate, FAO is providing 600 litres of insecticide to the local agriculture office for a spray campaign in the 13 affected districts.

ADEN HUB

The security situation in Aden and the neighboring governorates was relatively calm with no major incidents reported. As of 14 November, the total number of families displaced by conflict to areas accessible to partners in the Aden hub stands at 30,441 households. The number of families displaced from Al Hudaydah to Aden hub area from 1 June up to 14 November stands at 12,796 households. On 7 November, a medical INGO closed its projects in Al Dhale'e, citing repeated attacks and threats against its facilities and staff.

The Danish Refugee Council reached 540 displaced households with rapid response assistance in Haymah, a village along the coastal road to Al Tuhayat District. The area is reportedly hosting up to 700 families who fled Al Hudaydah Governorate in October. A joint OCHA, FAO, UNDP and WHO mission travelled to Al Ghaydah District in Al Maharah Governorate on 12 November to assess outstanding humanitarian need in the wake of Cyclone Luban which affected 3,000 households. In response to the humanitarian situation in the area, WFP will implement a general food distribution for 2,000 displaced households; while WHO is sending an 80 KV generator to Qishn Hospital (the worst hit during the cyclone), cholera kits and essential drugs, laboratory tools and materials to the main hospitals along the coast.

IBB HUB

Armed clashes continued during the reporting period in Taizz Governorate, including in Maqbana, Hayfan and Jabal Habashy districts. In Taizz City, which is crossed by different frontlines armed clashes and shelling remained a major threat to the civilian population.

UNFPA reported that as of 13 November, registered IDPs in the Ibb hub had reached 9,576 households; of whom 7,541 households were assisted through the RRM. In Far Al Udayn District, a partner of the Wash Cluster, handed over to the authorities a water project in Al Akhmas area to serve 11,500 beneficiaries in 22 villages. The project was established in coordination with the General Authority for Rural Water and Sanitation Project in Ibb and the Ministry of Planning.

UNHCR completed preparations for delivery of winterization cash assistance to 2,032 vulnerable households (1,735 IDP and 294 host community households). 170,000 YER will be provided to each household.

SANA'A HUB

Nihm District in Sana'a Governorate experienced the most hostilities in the Sana'a hub. According to the Protection Cluster, fighting continued in Radman Al

Awad in northern Al Bayda Governorate, as well as Sirwah District in Marib Governorate. Twelve civilian casualties were reported, 11 of which resulted from a grenade incident in Sana'a city, killing one person. Airstrikes were reported in various locations including Harf Sufyan District in Amran Governorate, while armed clashes were reported in Al Malagim and Natj districts in Al Bayda Governorate.

WHO, with support from the World Bank and ECHO provided the Diabetes Care Center in Al Thawrah Hospital in Sana'a City with oral antidiabetic drugs, enough to cover the needs of 3,000 patients for six months and supplies for 100,000 rapid blood sugar tests. UNICEF airlifted more than 16 metric tons (MT) of various vaccines to Sana'a Airport, enough for five million people across the country.

In response to displacement from Al Hudaydah Governorate, a local partner launched a cash transfer project to provide accommodation, food baskets and hygiene kits for 2,120 displaced families in Sana'a and Ibb governorates.

SA'ADA HUB

Shelling and airstrikes were reported in areas along the western border with Saudi Arabia, with houses and farms frequently impacted. According to the Protection Cluster, Razih District experienced the most incidents. Armed clashes were reported in Razih, Al Dhaher, Baqim and Kitaf districts in Sa'ada Governorate, and Al Maslub, Maton, Khab wa Sha'af, Al Ghayl and Barat Al Anan districts in Al Jawf Governorate. On 9 November, a woman was killed, and two were injured when their house was shelled in Razih. Casualties were reported in other districts, but figures are unknown.

Despite the security situation, humanitarian partners delivered assistance. UNICEF continued to support Sa'ada and Al Jawf health authorities in providing health and nutrition packages to 17 districts. WFP, through implementing partners, completed its October general food distribution for 103,401 households (620,406 individuals) in Sa'ada and 20,543 households (123,258 individuals) in Al Jawf.

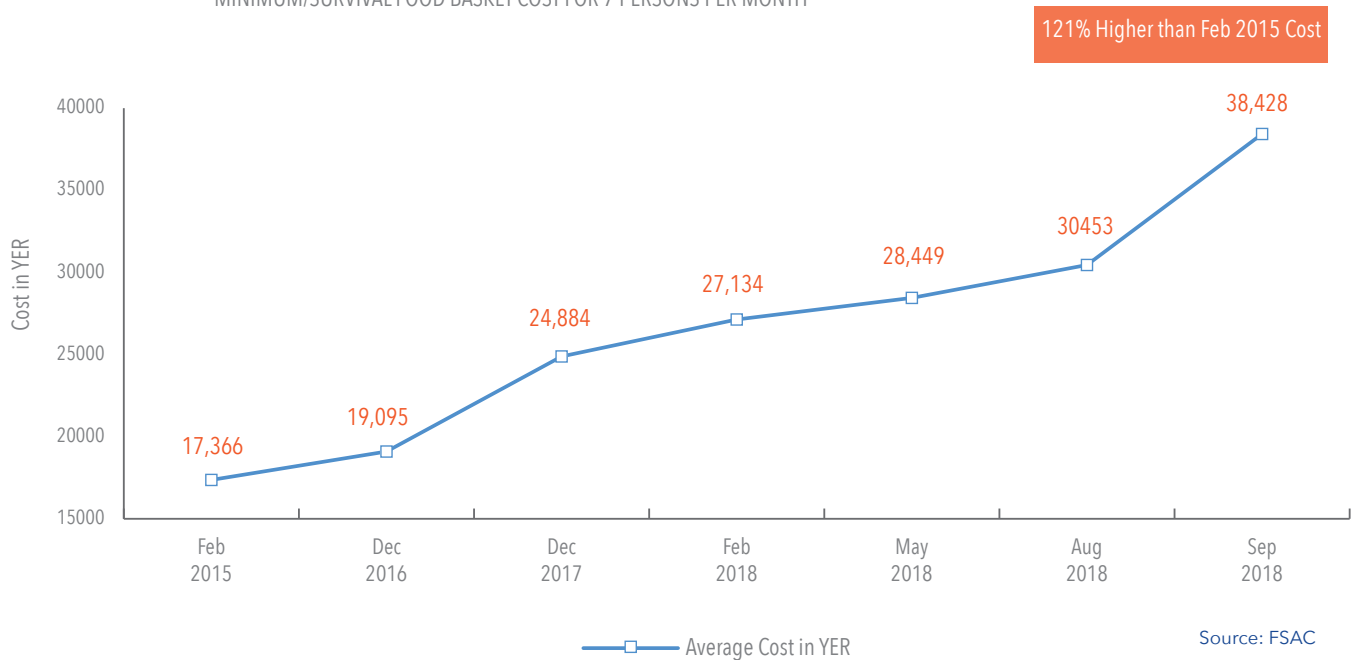
UNHCR, through its partners, distributed NFIs to 2,000 displaced families and emergency shelter kits to 500 displaced families in Razih. It also verified 568 vulnerable displaced families in Sa'ada City before they can receive cash subsidies in the amount of 150,000 YER; and is verifying another 1,567 displaced households who reportedly need rental subsidies. Save the Children donated solar systems to the local vaccination and nutrition departments in Sa'ada.

MILLIONS OF YEMENIS CAN NO LONGER AFFORD WHAT THEY NEED TO SURVIVE

During the reporting period, the Yemeni Rial recovered significantly with the exchange rate rising to about 520 YER per dollar from as low as 800 YER/US\$. The recovery is an indication that steps to stabilize the exchange rate are beginning to take effect.

The rapid depreciation of the currency since July led to fears that staple food prices could further increase beyond the capacity for households to meet their basic food needs, FewNet warned. Between July and October, the value of the Rial dropped by half, from 496 YER/US\$ to between 700 and 800 YER/US\$.

MINIMUM/SURVIVAL FOOD BASKET COST FOR 7 PERSONS PER MONTH



COMMODITY IMPORTS THROUGH AL HUDAYDAH AND SALEEF PORTS

To avoid famine, it is essential to keep all ports functioning and to remove obstacles to imports or domestic distribution of essential goods. In October, commercial food imports through Al Hudaydah and Al Saleef ports – where most food enters Yemen – fell by more than 50 per cent compared to September. Only 17 ships discharged cargo in these ports in October – the second lowest monthly figure ever recorded.

On average 20 vessels are berthing and discharging at Al Hudaydah and Al Saleef ports in a month, a 41 per cent reduction from the pre-blockade average of 35 vessels. There is a 35 per cent decline in vessel clearance requests (26) compared to pre-blockade average of 40 vessels. As of 12 November, four vessels carrying 52,835 MT of fuel were being denied permission by EHO, at the request of the Government of Yemen. The four vessels were inspected in Djibouti and issued with UNVIM clearance certificates.

Since November 2017, food imports are meeting only 78 per cent of the estimated national food requirements each month, representing a decline of two per cent from September and 18 per cent below the pre-blockade average. Fuel imports are meeting less than one-quarter of the estimated national fuel requirements, with no change to the average since September but still six per cent below the pre-blockade period, according to the OCHA Commodity Tracking report.

As of October, in-country food stocks were estimated at 1.244 million MT. According to WFP, the available wheat stock could cover the national requirement for about two and half months, rice for one and half months while vegetable oil would last only for two weeks. Fuel commodities (petrol and diesel) continued to be scarce. Al Hudaydah suffered the most from scarcity of commodities in the markets due to the intensified conflict.

UNVIM UPDATE

Al Hudaydah and Al Saleef ports are operational. Between 7-13 November, five vessels berthed and discharged supplies, four in Al Hudaydah and one in Saleef. The Logistics Cluster maintains two vessels in

service, one in Al Hudaydah - in case of evacuation - and the other serving the Djibouti - Aden - Djibouti sea route. Cargo transport to Al Hudaydah is available by dhows.

Total cargo discharged in the period 7 - 13 November 2018


46,022 MT


27,524 MT

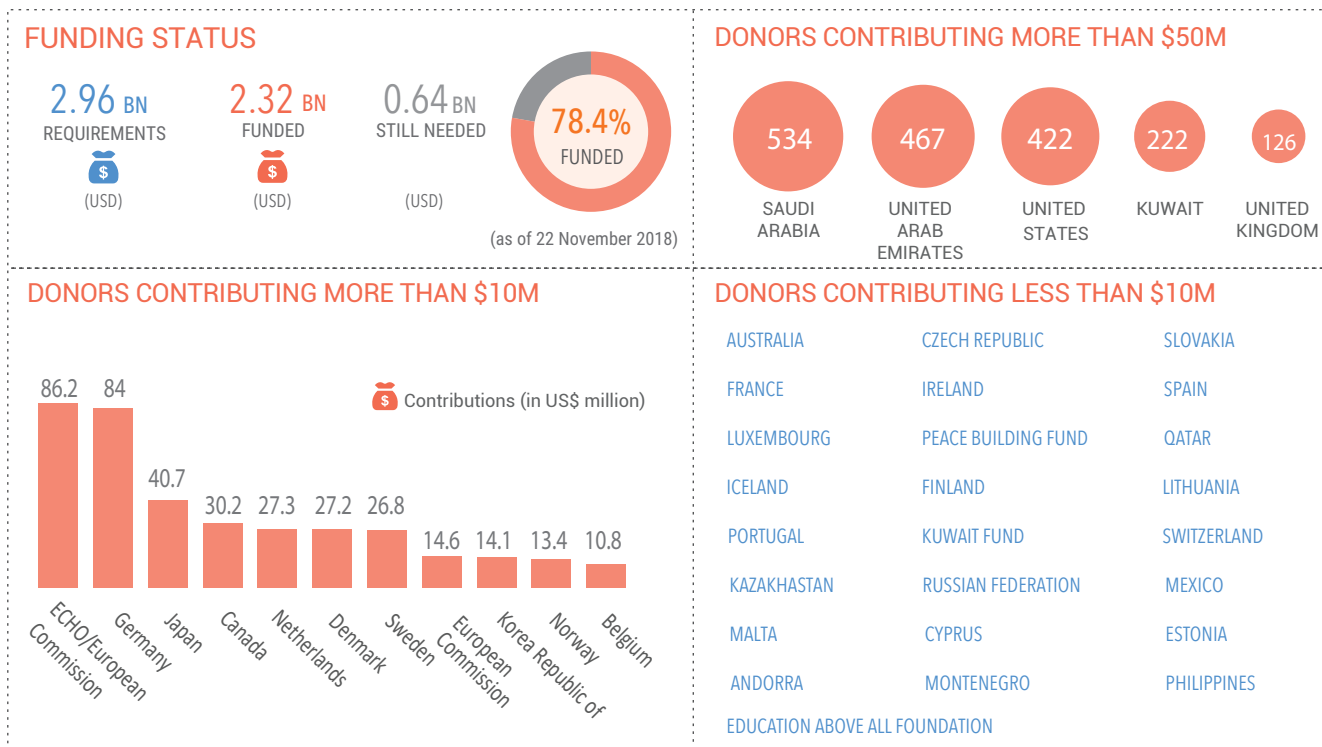
Al Hudaydah 73,546 MT

Source: UNVIM

In October, the Logistics Cluster facilitated air transport of 99 MT of relief items on behalf of IOM, UNICEF, PU-AMI and WHO. Two tentative airlifts are scheduled until the end of 2018; one is scheduled for 3 December, the other for 17 December. In October,

the Logistics Cluster facilitated the overland transport of 1,046 MT of relief items on behalf of humanitarian organizations.

FUNDING UPDATE (AS OF 21 NOVEMBER 2018)



Source: FTS

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