

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 1 - 13 December 2018 | Issue 34

KEY ISSUES:

- Recent IPC analysis indicates that over 20 million face severe food insecurity in Yemen.
- The upsurge in Yemen's migrant arrivals exceeds 2018 arrivals to Europe via the Mediterranean Seaw.
- Polio campaign reaches 4.6 million children, 84 per cent of target.
- The trend of suspected cholera cases remains stable.

UN URGES ACTION TO AVERT HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE IN YEMEN

On 7 December, the preliminary results of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Food Security Analysis were released, indicating that without humanitarian food assistance over 20 million people in Yemen, representing two thirds of the population, would face severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+, that is people in crisis and above on the IPC five phase scale). Alarming, for the first time during the conflict in Yemen IPC Phase 5 (people in catastrophe) is observed, meaning that 63,500 people currently in this phase and are barely surviving. However, without large-scale food assistance, the number would be 238 000, three times higher. Only one other country in the world - South Sudan - has people suffering catastrophic food insecurity and even then, the number of people at Phase 5, at 47,000, is much smaller. Overall, 17 per cent of the Yemeni population (about 5 million people) are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 36 per cent (about 10.8 million people) are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

Ongoing hostilities remain the main driver of worsening food security, IDPs and those hosting them are the most vulnerable. The people most at risk of starvation are in Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Sa'ada ad Taizz governorates. The economic crisis and resulting high food prices, disrupted livelihoods and high levels of unemployment also affects those not in conflict areas - the cost of the minimum/survival food basket is 150 per cent higher than before the conflict.

As a result, large numbers of households in most districts across the country are forced to engage in negative coping strategies, including reducing the number of meals or size of food portions, consuming less preferred foods and prioritizing children's consumption. In addition, households have also resorted to practices that will undermine their longer-term food security, such as selling animals and household items.

In response to the situation, WFP is scaling up its food aid operation to target 12 million people per month with food and nutrition assistance next year, up 50 per cent from the 8 million targeted every month this year. The 12 million figure represents 10 million people severely food insecure and 2 million displaced people in acute need.

Food aid alone will not be sufficient to end hunger. To do this, much more is needed. The five priorities to prevent more people sliding into IPC Phase 5 and possible famine are:

1. Stop attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure;
2. Allow all imports of food, fuel and medicine;
3. Provide more foreign exchange and pay civil servants;
4. Support the scale up of the humanitarian response; and
5. Support the UN Special Envoy's efforts to end the conflict.

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PHASE DESCRIPTIONS

PHASE 1 Minimal	Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income.
PHASE 2 Stressed	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies.
PHASE 3 Crisis	Households either: - Have food consumption gaps which are reflected by high or above usual acute malnutrition OR - Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis coping strategies.
PHASE 4 Emergency	Households either: - Have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality OR - Are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihoods strategies and assets liquidation.
PHASE 5 Catastrophe/ Famine	Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death and destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine Classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality).

AL HUDAYDAH HUB

In the two weeks preceding the ceasefire agreement in mid-December, there were intermittent armed clashes and artillery exchange in several areas in and around Al Hudaydah City. Airstrikes continued sporadically in several locations including near the Al Mina, Bajil and Sukhnah, and in Ad Durayhimi and At Tuhayat districts. In Hajjah Governorate, armed clashes continued in Haradh and Hayran districts. According to the Protection Cluster, there were 114 civilian casualties in the reporting period, 35 of them fatalities. Damage was reported to houses, farms, businesses, mosques and water infrastructure.

During the reported period, WFP completed the November food basket distribution, reaching 33,582 families in Al Hudaydah Governorate, 155,467 beneficiaries in Hajjah Governorate, and 81,318 families in Al Mahwit Governorate. An international NGO, Norwegian Refugee Council, is still conducting the November food distribution in Hajjah which has so far reached 60,111 families.

SANA'A HUB

In the second week of December, the Protection Cluster reported that fighting continued in the main conflict areas. In Sirwah, Marib Governorate, an airstrike hit homes, while in Al-Haymah and Al-Kharjiyah, Sana'a Governorate, an airstrike hit homes and farms.

On 12 December, the head of OCHA Yemen paid a visit to the IDP camp in Ma'aber in the Jahran District and discussed the conditions of IDPs. Some 52 displaced families (approximately 365 people) live in the camp and need shelter, food, water and sanitation facilities as a matter of urgency.

SA'ADA HUB

Armed clashes continued in Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates during the reporting period. The Protection Cluster reported daily airstrikes and cross-border shelling incidents in Sa'ada Governorate, where the two main areas of conflict are Baqim, in the northwest of the governorate, and Razih in the west. In Al Jawf, low level hostilities reportedly continued in southwestern districts. Twenty-eight civilian casualties were reported, the majority of them as the result of airstrikes. In one incident, four civilians were killed and another nine, including a child, were injured when an airstrike hit a vehicle in Kitaf Wa Al-Boqe'e District.

On 4 December, with support from UNICEF, Sa'ada Governorate launched a four-day cholera preventative cholera campaign in five areas of Monabbih District.

An international medical NGO announced that it will stop supporting Razih Hospital at the end of the year and OCHA is working with the health cluster to identify a replacement partner.

IBB HUB

According to the Protection Cluster, hostilities continued in the main conflict areas on the western and eastern outskirts of the Taizz City, in Maqbanah in the northwest, and in the southeastern border districts of Hayfan and Al-Silw. In Damt District, on the eastern side of Ibb Governorate, armed clashes continued reportedly causing the displacement of civilians to various governorates and within Ibb. The clashes in the area since October caused displacement on both sides of the frontline and closed the Sana'a - Al Dhale'e- Aden road. As a result, travel to Sana'a or Aden now requires a long detour via Ibb City. OCHA is following up with the authorities regarding the number of displaced people and humanitarian partners are to conduct an immediate assessment of needs.

During the reporting period UNHCR started the distribution of non-food items (NFIs) and emergency shelter kits targeting 726 displaced families, who are mainly concentrated in Sa'ada, Sahar and As Safra districts. In Al Jawf UNHCR reported that the distribution of rental subsidies is ongoing targeting 2,554 displaced families. To date 1,258 families have received their first payment, while the distribution of the second payment to 1,296 families is ongoing.

ADEN HUB

Armed clashes continued in Al-Qabbaytah in northern Lahj and in Damt, in the northeast of Al Dhale'e Governorate. The Protection Cluster reported nine civilian casualties during the reporting period, including two fatalities. In Damt, two bridges in the Al Hakab area near Damt City were destroyed as a result of fighting, restricting access to the area, potentially affecting 12,969 households in the district.

As of 12 December, the number of families displaced by conflict to areas covered by and accessible to the Aden Hub reached 32,152. This figure includes 13,718 families displaced from Al Hudaydah since 1 June. OCHA and IOM conducted a joint mission to Al Dhale'e and Qa'atabah on 11 December to assess the humanitarian needs of over 900 households displaced from Damt since 5 November. RRM assistance has, so far, been provided to 460 households. Priority needs for IDPs are food, non-food items NFIs and health care. IDPs complained that they cannot enroll their children in school because they cannot afford the cost of uniforms and school supplies.

Following an increase in the number of WFP containers cleared through the Aden port in early December, with 187 cleared on 1 December alone, the number dropped to 94 in the second week of the month. WFP is introducing a barge operation to move containers from the Aden to Al Mukalla port in order to speed up the release of containers and to avoid the bureaucratic bottlenecks in Aden. On 12 December, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gave two 60 metric tonne (MT) cranes to the Aden port authorities, which will increase offloading capacity for commercial and humanitarian relief shipments.

'DRAWING PEACE DIVIDENDS' CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON MIGRATORY ROUTES TO YEMEN

In response to rising number of migrants in the region, and the poor conditions they endure, on 5 December, IOM co-hosted a conference in Djibouti with the Government of Djibouti and the King Salman Refugee Relief Centre entitled: "Drawing on Peace Dividends in the Horn of Africa to Ensure Urgent Enhancements in the Management of Migratory Flows to Yemen and the Gulf Countries." The aim of the conference was to ensure stronger cooperation between governments and partners in the protection of and humanitarian response to migrants travelling through the Horn of Africa to Gulf countries, particularly Yemen. IOM forecasts that by the end of the year nearly 150,000 migrants will have arrived in Yemen having made the perilous journey across the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, a 50 per cent increase on 2017. The upsurge in Yemen's migrant arrivals exceeds 2018 arrivals to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea (where 107,216 have arrived this year). About 92 per cent of the migrants are Ethiopian, the remainder are Somali. About 20 per cent are children, many of them unaccompanied.

IOM and UNHCR continue to support migrants and refugees in Yemen, providing humanitarian assistance and facilitating the return of those who choose to go home. IOM facilitated the return of 1,038 migrants this year through the Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme, including 408 Ethiopians, who returned to Ethiopia at the end of November. This was IOM's first air operation since 2015 and the largest voluntary return operation in Yemen to date. UNHCR has assisted 2,490 Somalis to return to Somalia from Aden by boat through the Assisted Spontaneous Return programme.



IOM staff member provides assistance during a return operation. ©IOM Yemen.

The Djibouti conference agreed on practical solutions to address the humanitarian needs of migrants, taking forward the 'Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen.' The strategy was launched earlier in the year and includes: enhancing safe, dignified and voluntary return and sustainable reintegration; ensuring humanitarian access; holding human traffickers accountable; investing in long-term development and awareness-raising initiatives; providing migrant health interventions; and continuing to exchange information and best practices on migration management.

THE POLIO CAMPAIGN REACHES 4.6 MILLION CHILDREN

The second polio vaccination campaign of the year concluded in early December, having reached 4,663,140 children, equivalent to 84 per cent of the target. Over 18,760 house-to-house vaccination teams and 2,650 fixed teams were deployed to health facilities across the country to administer the oral vaccination to children under age five; and transit teams were deployed at check points, parks and busy markets in some districts to vaccinate children on the move.

Key challenges included security, delays in data reporting due to lack of connectivity and families refusing to allow their children to be vaccinated.

Despite implementation delays in some districts, the campaign was conducted in all Governorates except for Al Khawkha District in Al-Hudaydah and Hiran in Hajjah District where insecurity obstructed the work of the vaccination teams.



Health worker administers polio vaccine to a child during the recent polio vaccine campaign. ©WHO Yemen

CHOLERA UPDATE

The latest cholera update from WHO indicated that the cumulative number of suspected cholera cases this year to 25 November was 311,288 with 401 associated deaths. Over the preceding three weeks, 214 districts reported suspected cholera cases; the proportion of suspected cases amongst children under age 5 remains 32 per cent. In the week leading to 25 November, there were 13,480 suspected cases and 11 associated deaths. The districts reporting the highest number of cases are: Bani Al Harith in Sana'a Governorate (288), Al Hali (501) and Monabbih in Sa'ada Governorate (396), and As Sabain in Amanat Al Asimah Governorate (300). The

trend of suspected cases in the three weeks to 18 November remained stable. In the week to 25 November there were 31 confirmed results, from Amanat Al Asimah (16), Al Mahwit (7), Amran (6), Al Hudaydah (1), and Sana'a(1).

UNVIM UPDATE

In the week from 28 November to 4 December, three vessels discharged at Al Hudaydah's ports: one at Al Hudaydah port and two at Saleef port, discharging a total of 75,400 MT of food and 30,432 of fuel respectively. In the week from 5 December to 11 December, one vessel discharged 24,101 MT of fuel at Al Hudaydah port.

Total cargo discharged in the period 28 November- 11 December 2018



75,400 MT



54,533 MT

Al Hudaydah:	54,533 MT
Saleef:	75,400 MT
Total cargo Discharged:	129,933 MT

Source: UNVIM

The Logistics Cluster has asked partners to share their pipelines that will require cluster support (by land, air and sea) to allow the cluster to plan accordingly. A tentative schedule for 2019, including cargo airlifts to Aden, can be found at: <https://logcluster.org/document/yemen-airlifts-tentative-schedule-2019>

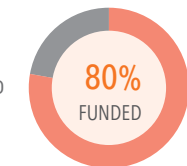
FUNDING UPDATE (AS OF 18 DECEMBER 2018)

FUNDING STATUS

2.96 BN
REQUIREMENTS
(USD)

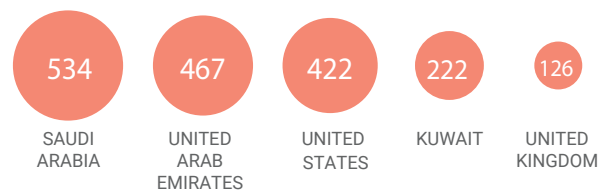
2.37 BN
FUNDED
(USD)

0.59 BN
STILL NEEDED
(USD)

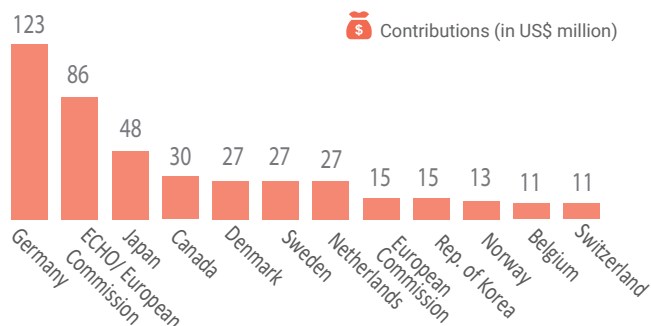


(as of 22 November 2018)

DONORS CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN \$125M



DONORS CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN \$10M



DONORS CONTRIBUTING LESS THAN \$10M

AUSTRALIA	CZECH REPUBLIC	SLOVAKIA
FRANCE	IRELAND	SPAIN
LUXEMBOURG	FINLAND	QATAR
ICELAND	KUWAIT FUND	LITHUANIA
PORTUGAL	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	SWITZERLAND
KAZAKHASTAN	CYPRUS	MEXICO
MALTA	MONTENEGRO	ESTONIA
ANDORRA	COLOMBIA	PHILIPPINES

Source: FTS