

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 2.5 million internally displaced people in Yemen.
- Import restrictions eased, yet access to essential commodities still challenging.
- Jamie McGoldrick takes up RC/HC role for Yemen.



Two women find temporary shelter in a spontaneous settlement in Khamer, Amran Governorate. Photo Credit: OCHA/Muayad Khdear

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FIGURES

Total Population	26 m
# of people who need assistance	21.2 m
# of people targeted for humanitarian assistance	11.7 m
# of food insecure people	14.4 m
# of people displaced	2.5 m
# of children at risk of malnutrition	1.8 m
# of deaths since April 2015 (WHO)	>5,800
# of injuries since April 2015 (WHO)	>27,900

Source: HRP and HNO

FUNDING

1.6 billion

Requested for 2015 (US\$)

52% (\$834.0 m)

Funding against the HRP

\$1.27 billion

Total humanitarian funding received for Yemen, including \$431.9 m contributed outside the HRP

Source: FTS, 18 December 2015

Over 2.5 million people displaced

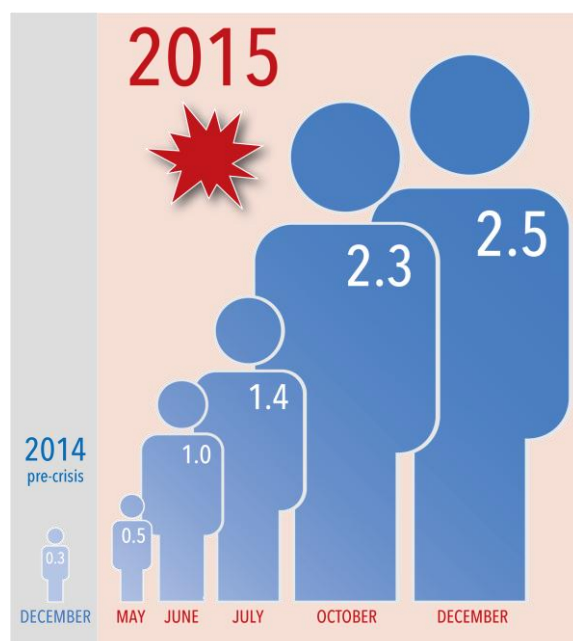
Displacement figures continue to rise across the country

The conflict in Yemen continues to force families to flee their homes, with 2.5 million Yemenis now internally displaced. This figure is eight times December 2014 numbers, when there were approximately 334,000 displaced people in Yemen. The main drivers for displacement in Yemen are conflict related: ongoing air strikes, ground attacks and an increasingly volatile security environment.

The [sixth report](#) of the Task Force on Population Movement, led by UNHCR and IOM, was released on 10 December. It indicates that over 2.5 million people, or almost one tenth of the population, are now displaced across the country, an increase of more than 200,000 since mid-October. The majority of the displaced are women and children (67 per cent). The increase in the number of displaced is due in part to improved tracking and profiling methodologies used to identify displaced people and an extended geographic reach of field teams to 82 per cent of the country.¹

Identifiable trends

Taizz Governorate hosts the largest number of displaced people (392,429), followed by Amran (288,437), Hajjah (228,453), Sana'a (191,786) and Abyan (186,983) governorates. These five governorates host 51 per cent of the displaced population. Fighting in Taizz Governorate displaced many families to neighbouring governorates in the past few months, including Ibb (+9,579 to 129,810) and Lahj (+11,004 to 44,886). Similarly, bombing in Sana'a Governorate caused a spike in displacement internally and to neighbouring Dhamar Governorate (+78,500 to 137,736). Today, nearly half of all displaced people originate from the



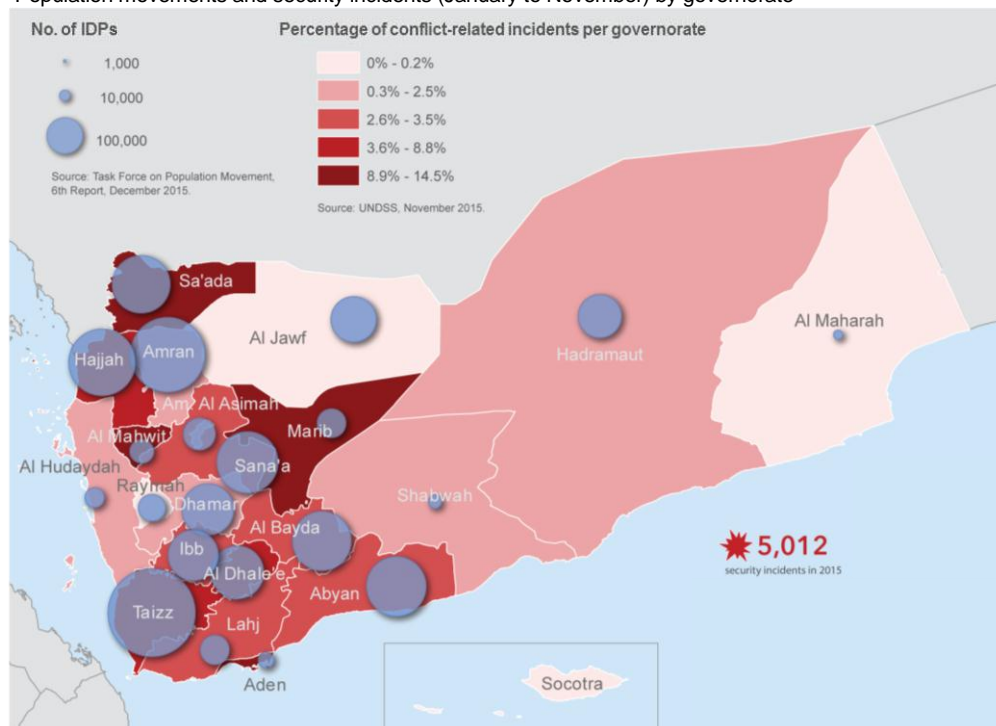
Displacement in Yemen (millions of people)
Data source: UNHCR

¹ Information on displacement was collected from 275 of the country's 333 districts. Note that ongoing hostilities prevented field teams from accessing districts in some governorates (e.g., Taizz).

governorates of Sa'ada, Taizz, and Amanat Al Asimah (Sana'a city).

In some regions, mainly in the south, people have chosen to return to their homes. However, many remain extremely vulnerable. In Aden, as ground clashes and air strikes shifted from parts of the south, the number of displaced people began dropping in mid-October from about 380,000 to approximately 12,000 in December. Yet many returnees desperately need assistance to rebuild their homes and restart their lives. They lack food, essential household items, water and sanitation services and shelter. However, in most parts of the country, it is too early to talk about returns, as the security environment remains extremely unpredictable. Obstacles to return include lack of livelihood opportunities, unexploded ordnance and landmines and, to a lesser extent, damage sustained to their homes.

Population movements and security incidents (January to November) by governorate



Emergency shelter without sanitation facilities

Many displaced people have used their life savings to travel to safer areas. Some have found shelter with host communities, including with relatives and friends, but about half of all displaced people live in schools, public and abandoned buildings, tents, temporary structures, makeshift shelters or in the open. Some 42 per cent of displaced families live in rented houses, further depleting their limited resources.

Often, however, their accommodation offers little protection from the elements, is overcrowded, and lacks space for cooking and storing food. Many displaced people do not have access to functioning sanitation or bathing facilities, forcing them to use open areas where there is no separation between men and women. These living conditions expose displaced communities to additional health and security risks.

At the end of November, some 20,627 displaced people (3,387 households) were living in 212 collective centres across the country. The Governorate of Taizz has 149 centres alone. In addition to collective centres, more than 14,338 displaced people (2,340 households) are living in 20 settlements in Al Jawf, Amran, Marib and Sana'a governorates.

About 8 per cent of displaced people live with host communities. The arrival of displaced people places additional pressure on already deteriorating public services in many parts of the country.

Humanitarian partners have distributed essential household items to over 362,000 displaced people, tents to nearly 15,000 displaced people and emergency shelter materials

The damage to civilian infrastructure makes it unlikely that internally displaced people will be able to return to their homes in the near future.

to over 126,000 displaced people. Approximately 13,000 displaced people have received cash for rental subsidies.

With temperatures dropping to 0°C in parts of Yemen, an estimated 146,000 families need support to prepare for winter. Thirty per cent of these people require urgent assistance. Humanitarian partners estimate that \$16 million is required to address the clothing needs of 43,850 families and to improve emergency shelter for 23,387 families.

Finding alternative housing to schools

The new academic year, delayed by two months, resumed on 1 November. Humanitarian partners have been working to find alternative accommodation for displaced families living in schools. These efforts have reduced the number of schools accommodating the displaced from over 400 to 238 as of 1 December. In Aden, UNHCR has been coordinating with local education authorities to ensure that displaced people living in schools receive shelter solutions.

In northern and central governorates,² the protection; shelter/non-food items; education; water, hygiene and sanitation; and early recovery clusters worked closely with local authorities and displacement committees to find alternative shelter. In November, some displaced families were relocated to alternative accommodation while others received cash assistance and food rations for six months.

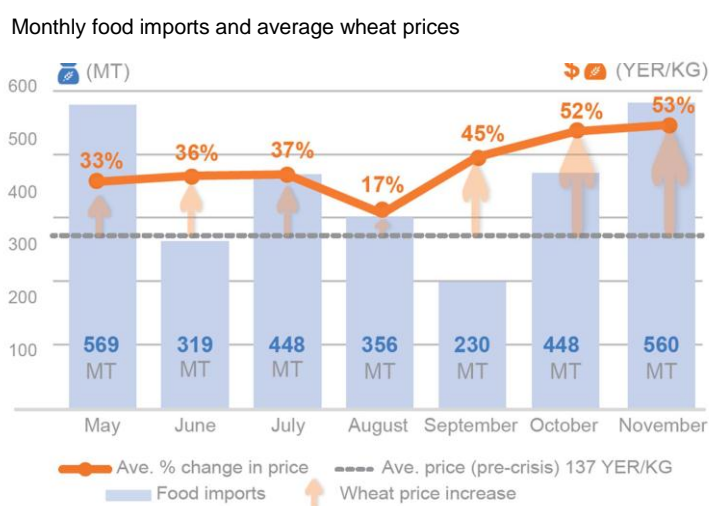
Community centres operated by UNHCR partners have provided a range of services to displaced communities in Sa'ada, Hajjah and Amanat Al Asimah governorates. This includes psychosocial support, legal advice and cash assistance.

More commercial ships sailing to Yemen

Food imports return to pre-crisis levels, but availability remains low and prices high

November imports of food returned to pre-crisis levels with 560,000 metric tons (MT) imported into the country. Similarly, fuel imports increased substantially, reaching 248,486 MT. However, import levels are still insufficient to meet in-country demand.

After months of de facto import restrictions into Yemen, there were no reports of commercial vessels being denied clearance while 72 ships berthed in the seaports of Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mukalla, Nishtun and Saleef. This is a 24 per cent increase in the number of vessels that berthed compared with October. It indicates an upward trend since August, when the number of vessels that berthed dropped to 34. Over two dozen ships that berthed in November had anchored at port in October, yet the ports' capacity remains insufficient to absorb the increasing arrival of vessels. The average delay for vessels to enter and berth at all major ports has increased, reaching 14 and eight days respectively in Al Hudaydah.



Fuel shortages have greatly affected the capacity for discharging ships. Al Hudaydah port can only discharge bulk goods, such as grain and fuel, as all cranes remain non-

² An initial focus was placed on Sana'a and Amran.

Since the escalation of conflict, merchants and shipping companies have been reluctant to sail to Yemen due to increased costs and delays

functional and beyond repair having been severely damaged by air strikes in August. In Aden, empty containers have been piling up since August, incurring additional costs to remove them, and adding to the congestion created by containers destined for merchants who cannot cross frontlines to collect them, notably from Sana'a.

Damaged or destroyed road infrastructure further complicates transportation of commodities to markets and consumers. According to the Logistics Cluster, air strikes have damaged bridges linking the ports of Al Hudaydah and Saleef with Sana'a, and Al Mokha with Taizz. The road from Aden to Dhamar is closed due to ongoing conflict, as are the parts of the coastal road linking Al Mokha with Aden.

Erratic food imports slowly normalize

Monthly tonnages of imported wheat fluctuated from 149,000 to 569,000 MT between March and November, reaching 560,000 MT in November. This represents a 25 per cent increase compared with October and a return to monthly pre-crisis levels.

Import restrictions during the conflict's first seven months have exacerbated the humanitarian situation and brought the economy to near collapse.

By the end of November, wheat flour was available in 11 governorates, according to the World Food Programme's market analysis. The price of wheat flour, however, remains at 53 per cent above pre-crisis levels. Continuing high prices together with decreased purchasing power make it difficult for Yemenis to access this staple food. One of the main drivers of high commodity prices is the cost of fuel, which keeps the milling and transportation of wheat and other grains expensive.

Severe fuel shortages over the last few months have made daily life difficult in Yemen, particularly health facilities, public services and businesses. Cooking gas, petrol and diesel are still only sporadically available across the country. Fuel is typically obtained on the black market, where the prices are double or triple pre-crisis levels.



Black-market sales of fuel due to shortages in Sana'a Governorate
Photo Credit: OCHA/Muayad Khdear

Pooled fund performance in 2015

Key allocations include:

- \$18.7 million for life-saving health care services
- \$10.2 million in support of water and sanitation services
- \$6.9 million for emergency shelter and non-food items
- \$10.5 million for emergency food assistance and support to livelihood activities

A flexible and strategic tool to address urgent needs

The Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF) for Yemen enables the flexible allocation of funding to urgent humanitarian needs. In 2015, \$55 million has been channelled to partners or committed in support of life-saving assistance through five funding allocations. During the year, the HPF has supported the activities of 16 international NGOs, 8 UN agencies and 7 national NGOs to deliver humanitarian services and assistance in difficult and hard-to-reach locations.

The fifth round of allocations

The final allocation of \$17.3 million was made available in November 2015, primarily to support the humanitarian community's cyclone response. The allocation also supported the health sector response by replenishing essential drugs and medical kits. Through this final allocation for 2015, seven UN agencies and their implementing partners will receive funding to assist 1.6 million people.

Contributors and partners to the Fund

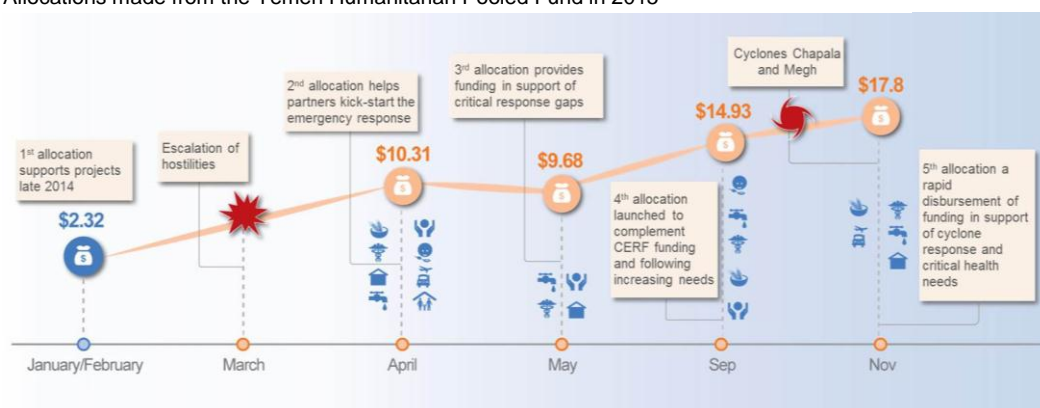
Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom generously contributed to the HPF in 2015. The

\$56.8 million contributed so far, combined with a carry-over of \$9.1 million from 2014, brings the total available funds to \$65.9 million. This represents 8 per cent of the total \$834 million received so far under the 2015 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan.

The HPF can provide funding to national and international NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and UN agencies. It has been used strategically to empower civil society to respond to the crisis and to build their capacity to respond to future needs. The Fund complements grants made by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which provided \$44 million to UN agencies in Yemen in 2015. Together, CERF and the HPF have provided approximately \$99 million in 2015.

An estimated \$11 million in HPF funding will be carried over from 2015 to 2016 to ensure that the RC/HC has sufficient funding at his disposal to meet urgent needs as they arise.

Allocations made from the Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund in 2015



Source: OCHA Yemen

Welcoming the new RC/HC to Yemen

Jamie McGoldrick takes up his new role in Sana'a

Jamie McGoldrick assumed the position of Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator on 6 December 2015 in Sana'a. He took up this position after having served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nepal and the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since August 2013. After a series of earthquakes in Nepal in April 2015, Mr. McGoldrick took on the Humanitarian Coordinator role. Prior to this, he was the Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative of UNDP in Georgia (2009-13).

Upon taking office in Sana'a, Mr. McGoldrick said: "I feel privileged to be taking up this assignment in Yemen. I am looking forward to working closely with the Humanitarian Country Team to ensure that all people in need receive the life-saving humanitarian assistance and services they require for a dignified existence."

Mr. McGoldrick has extensive experience as a senior manager with OCHA, having served as the Chief of the Humanitarian Reform Support Unit (2006-09), Section Chief for the Middle East, North Africa and Great Lakes Unit (2005-06), Section Chief for the Middle East and Central Asia Unit (2002-05), and Chief of the Asia and Pacific Section (2002). He also served as the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan (2006).

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