

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Covering 22 March – 17 April 2019 | Issue 6

KEY ISSUES:

- Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General, Mark Lowcock, urges donors to convert pledges into cash as the Yemen humanitarian response faces funding crisis.
- Humanitarian partners continue to scale up to meet the needs of 68,000 families displaced in Hajjah Governorate.
- Rising numbers of displaced people endure alarming conditions while partners face supply and funding shortfall.
- Rapid Response Mechanism assisted 213,589 families between June 2018 and March 2019.
- Average cost of the minimum food basket is 102 per cent higher than pre-crisis.
- Inter-Agency mission to Marib and Al Jawf identifies IDP crisis.
- Cholera Task Force expands response as suspected cholera cases reach 194,595.
- Fuel scarcity results in price hikes and lengthy queues at gas stations.

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL IMPLORES DONORS TO CONVERT PLEDGES INTO CASH AS YEMEN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FACES FUNDING CRISIS

In his address to the Security Council on 15 April, the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC), Mark Lowcock, gave an update on the situation in Yemen, highlighting that while violence has reduced in Al Hudaydah City, it has escalated elsewhere in the country. Other major issues raised by the USG/ERC included the resurgence of cholera and continuing risk of famine. Critically, the USG/ERC pointed to the challenges that humanitarians continue to face while trying to save the lives of millions of people battling hunger and disease. The first challenge is access - obstacles include lack of safe passage for aid delivery, customs and visa restrictions, and delays in approving project agreements. The second "potentially

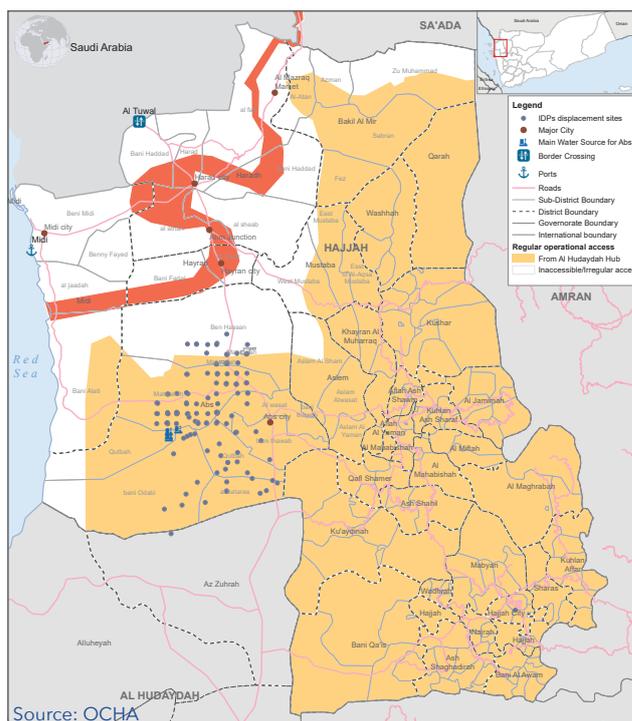
insuperable" challenge is funding. Nearly four months into the year, the UN response plan has only received US\$267 million of the \$2.6 billion pledged in February, 10 per cent of the amount pledged, 6 per cent of the total requirements, and less than 80 per cent of what had been received at this point in 2018. The USG/ERC urged donors to make payments, otherwise UN agencies and partners would have no option but to close or scale back programmes, to do so, he said, "...at a time when we are struggling to prevent widespread famine and roll back cholera and other disease - would be catastrophic." The USG/ERC ended with a plea for peace, "Without peace, we will simply go on treating the symptoms of this crisis, instead of addressing the cause."

PARTNERS SCALING UP TO MEET THE NEEDS OF 68,000 DISPLACED IN HAJJAH

Hajjah Governorate at 31 March with estimated frontline

Fighting in Hajjah has triggered two mass population movements since February. Between mid-February and mid-March, an estimated 8,400 families were displaced from Kushar District as a result of clashes between Hajour tribesmen and the de-facto authorities. At the end of March, fighting in Midi and Hayran led to the displacement of 17,000 families from Bani Hassan Sub-District. By the end of March, up to 68,000 families were estimated to be displaced within or from Hajjah; 41,000 families are in Abs and 2,500 are in northern Al Hudaydah. Most of those displaced, around 58,700 families, are scattered in 305 sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 18 districts; the majority are in 167 IDP sites in Abs District. Humanitarian partners estimate that in the worst case scenario, the shifting frontlines could displace up to 400,000 more people in the governorate.

A multi-cluster mission to Hajjah between 30 March and 2 April found gaps in the response to the displacement crisis. Negotiations are underway with the local authorities about providing assistance to people living close to conflict zones. With hundreds of thousands of local people and IDPs close to an active frontline, and fighting having already damaged civilian infrastructure, humanitarian partners are working to



Source: OCHA

improve protection monitoring and deconflict infrastructure.

A comprehensive preparedness plan focusing on pre-positioning supplies and identifying sites for fleeing IDPs is being developed. The Logistics Cluster is leading on the creation of additional warehousing capacity, and upwards of 22,000 non-food items (NFIs) and 8,500 Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) are being routed to Hajjah as part of the response scale-up. The mobilization of more partners is underway and OCHA is expediting the opening of an office in Hajjah.

In the second week of April, Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners supported 1,470 newly displaced families in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah

Governorates. In addition, Agricultural Development Organisation (ADO) provided cash assistance to 1,500 families; Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided RRM kits to 6,700 families and registered another 1,400 families; Danish Refugee Council (DRC) started emergency water trucking in three IDP sites in Doreyna al Olya, Doreyna al Sofla and Walla; and Oxfam installed 300 latrines, 30 new water points and 30 water storage tanks in Abs District and provided hygiene kits to 4,000 families. To strengthen operational capacity, UN agencies have assigned 29 UN staff to be based in Hajjah, some have already started working from the city.

RISING NUMBERS OF DISPLACED PEOPLE ENDURE ALARMING CONDITIONS WHILE PARTNERS FACE SUPPLY AND FUNDING SHORTFALLS

The Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster estimates that an additional 726,000 people may be displaced in 2019, bringing the total number of displaced people to 4 million. Between January and 7 April, 25,000 more

proportion of the displaced population who are staying in IDP hosting sites, in rented accommodation and in hosting arrangements with local community members. There are substantial gaps in the response

Displacement Trends 1 January - 7 April 2019

+25,000 HH / 175,000 ind. 75% in collective centers & spontaneous settlements



Source: Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster

families were displaced (approximately 175,000 individuals), 75 per cent of them are staying in IDP hosting sites (IDP collective centres and spontaneous settlements).

Partners have identified critical needs among a high

to displacement both in terms of supplies and funding. Across the country, there is a critical and immediate gap of NFI supplies for 122,000 families, emergency/transitional shelter supplies for 47,000 families, and rental subsidies for 40,000 families, and a total critical funding gap of \$94.5 million. Partners are working to respond to the shortfalls.

DISPLACEMENT AND RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM UPDATE

The latest figures available from IOM indicates that in November 2018, there were more than 3.6 million displaced people across Yemen, and that 1.3 million displaced people had returned to their place of origin. The governorates with the largest numbers of displaced people were Marib (21 per cent), Taizz (11 per cent), Hajjah (10 per cent), Al Hudaydah (10 per cent), Amran (7 per cent) and Amanat al Asimah (7 per cent).

The Protection Cluster reported that the estimated number of civilian casualties in Al Hudaydah City decreased by 30 per cent between December 2018 and March 2019, mainly due to the virtual halt in airstrikes. Elsewhere across the country, fighting

has increased. Humanitarian partners continued to respond to the needs of the newly displaced across the Al Hudaydah Hub area through the RRM. Between June 2018 and the end of March 2019, partners had registered 219,800 families and provided RRM packages to 213,589 families. Between 5 April and 12 April, RRM kits were provided to 3,167 newly displaced people (approximately 452 families) in the Al Hudaydah Hub area, 1,150 people (approximately 164 families) in the Aden Hub area; 1,265 people in the Sa'ada Hub area (approximately 195 families), and 366 people (approximately 52 families) in the Sana'a Hub area.

RRM Response June 2018 - March 2019

PERIOD OF DISPLACEMENT	REGISTERED IDP FAMILIES	ASSISTED WITH RRM	HUB
JUNE 2018 - 31 MARCH 2019	134,450	133,280	AL HUDAYDAH
	31,793	28,916	ADEN
	11,379	9,745	IBB
	36,178	36,178	SANA'A
	6,000	5,470	SA'ADA
TOTAL	219,800 (1,538,600 individuals)	213,589 (1,162,721 individuals)	

Source: UNFPA

AVERAGE COST OF MINIMUM FOOD BASKET IS 102 PER CENT HIGHER THAN PRE-CRISIS

In the February edition of *Market Watch*, WFP reports that the average cost of the minimum basket increased by 3 per cent between January and February, rising from YER4,637 (\$18.56) to YER4,766 (\$19.04). This means the cost of a food basket is now 102 per cent higher than in 2015, such price increases threaten the food security of millions of vulnerable households on low incomes.

165 per cent against the Rial.

The Yemeni Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Sana'a indicated in its latest Socio-Economic Brief that the prospects of the Yemeni economy stabilizing are dependent on an accelerated peace process and prioritizing economic issues. This would allow for the resumption of hydrocarbon

Exchange rate for the Yemeni rial January 2015 - January 2019



Source: FSAC

Exchange rate fluctuations continue to undermine the Yemeni economy, which relies heavily on imports denominated in US dollars. The report stipulated that the Yemeni rial depreciated in the last week of February by 6 per cent compared to January, from YER533/US\$ to YER569/US\$; when compared with the pre-crisis value, the US dollar has increased in value by

exports and the flow of more humanitarian funding. Support for the national currency and improved livelihood support is crucial, alongside paying public sector salaries, making regular cash transfers and funding basic social services. Without these measures, the humanitarian situation and economy may deteriorate further in 2019.

UPDATES FROM THE HUBS

AL HUDAYDAH HUB

According to the Protection Cluster, from the start of the year until the end of March, 36 airstrikes in Hajjah resulted in 129 civilian casualties. Intense fighting was reported in Kushar District after clashes broke out between Hajjour tribesmen and local authorities. After hostilities in Abs escalated at the end of March, they reduced in early April, but clashes continued sporadically. During the reporting period shellfire in Hays and At Tuhayta, sniper fire in Hays, and landmine incidents in Hajjah, At Tuhayta and Ad Durayhimi caused civilian casualties. Attacks also damaged homes and businesses.

SA'ADA HUB

The regular pattern of airstrikes and shelling in border districts continued throughout the reporting period, damaging homes and farms. On 26 March, an airstrike damaged Kitaf Rural Hospital; eight fatalities, including five children and a hospital worker, and nine injured, were confirmed. In a statement, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, Lise Grande, referring to the recent spread of cholera stated, "it is unconscionable that health facilities are destroyed when people need them most". The NGO, Save the Children, which supports the hospital, and other humanitarian organizations, issued statements condemning the

incident as a breach of international humanitarian law.

Fighting in Kitaf Wa Al Boqe'e continued to cause displacement during the reporting period; the number of people displaced from Kitaf since 2015 had reached 4,150 families by the end of March, 1,150 of the families were reportedly displaced in the previous two months. Movement restrictions and the escalation of fighting have slowed partners' response to recent displacement. UNFPA has concluded the registration of newly displaced families, with RRM distribution due to start imminently. WHO and Save the Children International continue to support Kitaf District Hospital.

In Al Jawf, clashes continued in areas of active conflict in Al Maton, Khab Wa Ash Sha'af and Bart Al Anan districts. On 8 April, OCHA led a UN assessment mission to As Safra and Kitaf districts to assess the needs of IDPs and host communities.

SANA'A HUB

Airstrikes in the Sana'a Hub area of operation continued during the reporting period, some causing civilian casualties and damaging homes and businesses. Affected areas included Al-Thawrah District to the north of Sana'a City, Nihm, and Sirwah in Marib to the north east. Hostilities including airstrikes, UXO and landmine incidents were reported in Qaniyah in Radman Al-Awad, and Al-Bayda. There were several mass casualty incidents during the reporting period. On 7 April, at least 11 civilians, including 5 children were killed, and 55 civilians, including 34 children and 4 women, were injured by an explosion in a warehouse in the Shu'aub District of Sana'a. The explosion seriously damaged two schools, a mosque, houses and shops. In another incident on 3 April, an airstrike reportedly hit a water truck in Al Wahbiyah in As Sawadiyah killing four civilians; the same week, an unexploded ordinance exploded in Hamdan District in Sana'a Governorate and reportedly killed two children and injured 15 civilians.

IBB HUB

According to field reports, shelling continued for nine consecutive days at the start of April in villages in the mountainous area of Al-Oud in Al Nadirah District, the east of Ibb Governorate and resulted in the displacement of residents to safer villages in the area. According to the Protection Cluster, armed clashes continued in Taizz Governorate causing civilian casualties and damaging homes. The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster mobilized a response for 97 families stranded in a conflict area in the eastern part

of Sabir Al Mawadim District, who will receive food rations for a minimum of three months.

The escalation of the conflict in Al Dhale'e Governorate for two weeks at the end of March displaced more than 982 families to areas controlled by the Government of Yemen, 512 families displaced to Damt District in Al Dhale'e Governorate and 470 to Al Nadirah in Ibb Governorate. This adds to the 380 families already displaced earlier in the month, who had received initial rapid response kits.

OCHA Head of Office was on mission in Ibb between 6 and 9 April. Following the visit, the Shelter Sub-National Cluster agreed on an action plan to address response gaps in IDP sites, including mapping and profiling 60 known IDP sites, and the immediate distribution of NFIs to sites in Dhi as Sufal District.

ADEN HUB

A reported surge in fighting in northern Al Dhale'e resulted in civilian casualties and damaged homes in the Al Aoud area of Al Qa'atabah. According to partners, escalating clashes in Qa'atabah District, particularly in the Al Aoud and Al Haqeb areas in the last week of March caused the displacement of 232 families towards Qa'atabah City, where a local partner worked on the RRM response. In the three weeks to 14 April, 1,497 families - mostly from Qa'atabah District - were displaced to areas covered by the Aden hub. Since the conflict escalated in late March, 1,430 families have been displaced to areas controlled by the de-facto authorities in the Ibb hub area, including 1,260 to Damt District and 170 to An Nadirah District. On 8 April, OCHA and IOM visited Al Dhale'e Governorate where they met with local officials, to discuss setting up a coordination mechanism for sharing data, and with humanitarian partners. The level of response remains a concern and a follow up mission is to take place the week of 14 April. Overall 43,058 families have been displaced to the Aden hub area since December 2017. On 2 April, an international NGO stopped admitting new patients to its surgical hospital in the Sheikh Othman District of Aden, one of the major trauma management sites in the south, after a group of armed men abducted a patient, who was later found dead.

On 24 March, the newly appointed Governor of the Central Bank in Aden met with the representatives of money exchange companies in Aden and agreed to unify the exchange rate and avoid speculative prices for the currency and the exchange market stabilized at YER510/US\$. There have been no major changes in value but no corresponding change in commodity prices due to a lack of confidence that stability will be maintained. A similar situation exists across the country.

INTER-AGENCY MISSION TO MARIB AND HADRAMAUT

A joint OCHA, WFP, IOM, and Resident Coordinator's office mission visited Marib and Hadramaut in the second week of April to assess access conditions in the two governorates and explore options for opening a UN hub in Marib to expand coverage and scale up the humanitarian response across eastern Yemen. The mission found that Marib Governorate is facing a major displacement crisis that requires a substantial scale-up in response efforts. In neighbouring Al

Jawf Governorate, people continue to face a very challenging humanitarian situation. IOM is mapping and assessing needs in IDP sites in Marib and Al Jawf and is managing more than 30 IDP sites in Marib Governorate; other partners are to scale up their response. Preparations for opening a UN hub in Al Mukalla are almost complete. While the hub will provide emergency response, including cyclone response, it will focus on development programming.

HUMANITARIANS RESPOND TO AN INCREASE IN SUSPECTED CHOLERA CASES

The number of suspected cholera cases has continued to rise since the start of the year. As of 7 April, 194,595 suspected cases and 406 associated deaths have been reported. Sixteen per cent of suspected cases presented with severe dehydration. While children under age 5 represent 23 per cent of total suspected cases, the elderly are most seriously affected. Seventy per cent of suspected cases are reported from six governorates: Amanat Al Asimah, Al Hudaydah, Sana'a, Amran, Ibb, and Dhamar governorates; 147 districts have been identified as a priority for response.

The focus of the response is to prevent and stop transmission. This is coordinated by the Cholera Task Force, headed by the Ministry of Public Health and Population and Ministry of Water and Environment and is supported by UNICEF and WHO. The national

surveillance system (eIDEWS) is being upgraded for real time collection, analysis, and dissemination of information for rapid case detection and timely response.

Health and WASH cluster partners have scaled up response activities. There are 169 Diarrhoea Treatment Centres and 1,043 Oral Rehydration Corners currently functioning across the country and 333 health rapid response teams (RTTs) and 750 WASH RRTs have been activated. Distribution and stockpiling of supplies, including cholera kits, hygiene kits, and water purification tablets is ongoing. An Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign is scheduled for the end of April, which will target 1.2 million beneficiaries in affected districts.

FUEL SCARCITY RESULTS IN PRICE HIKES AND LENGTHY QUEUES AT GAS STATIONS

Acute fuel and gas shortages throughout northern Yemen have led to queues of vehicles several kilometres long at gas stations with drivers sometimes waiting in line for days. Shortages have led to a notable reduction in road traffic. Fuel prices on the black market have increased to YER18,000 for 20 litres as opposed to the official price of YER7,300, and the de facto authorities are taking steps to curb black market activities. In Sana'a City, cooking gas stations are closed and the only gas available is on the black market at YER12,000 compared to the official price of YER3,300. The shortage of gasoline in local markets has significantly increased the cost of transport and threatens to lead to a hike in the price of other necessities.



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If the situation continues, it could have significant implications for the humanitarian situation. In Sa'ada Governorate, as of the week ending 11 April, some gas stations were closed and there were long queues at others. A similar situation exists in Al Hudaydah, where small quantities of gas remain available in local markets, though no change in fuel prices have been reported. Shortages have been attributed to restrictions imposed by the Government of Yemen and de-facto authorities. The Government of Yemen continues to apply Decree 75, which requires fuel importers to provide proof that imported oil derivatives were purchased through official markets. Without this proof, the Government has delayed or denied permission for ships carrying fuel imports to berth, even when these same ships have been cleared by UNVIM. In addition, traders carrying fuel overland are reported to face difficulties crossing checkpoints, particularly when seeking to enter areas controlled by de-facto authorities from Government-controlled areas for ships already cleared by UNVIM to berth. In addition, those transporting fuel overland are reported to face difficulties at checkpoints.

Since the second week of April, there have been daily protests outside the UNDP building in Sana'a, where employees of the Yemen Oil Company have erected tents. Protestors are calling on the UN to intervene to allow oil tankers stationed off the coast of Al Hudaydah to dock and discharge their cargo. As of 21 April, there were 11 ships cleared by UNVIM in the coalition holding area off the coast of Al Hudaydah containing 231,000 of fuel. Four others had been cleared by the Saudi-led Coalition, three were queuing to enter Al Hudaydah port, and one has already discharged its cargo at the port and sailed.

UNVIM UPDATE

Al Hudaydah and Saleef ports remain open. Between 20 March and 16 April, 22 vessels discharged a total of 311,238 metric tons (MT) of cargo at Al Hudaydah port, and 106,571 MT at Saleef port. Twenty ships berthed at Al Hudaydah port and two at Saleef port.



286,088 MT

Source: UNVIM

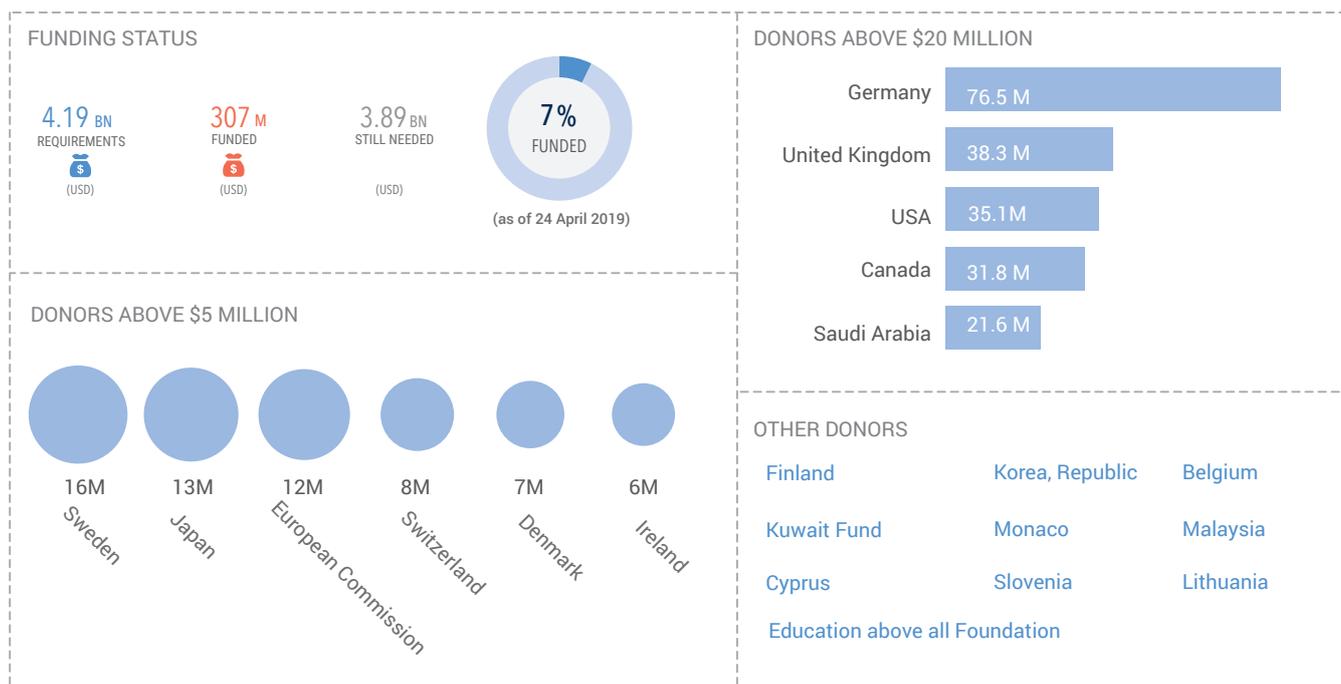


131,722 MT

Al Hudaydah 311,238 MT

Saleef 106,571 MT

FUNDING OF THE 2019 YHRP (as of 24 April 2019)



Source: FTS

For further information, please contact:

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