

YEMEN

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE



Covering 15 - 21 May 2018 | Issue 16

KEY ISSUES:

- Despite ongoing conflict, humanitarian access to parts of Al-Wazi'iyah and Mawza districts in Taizz Governorate has improved, including from Aden and Al-Turbah City.
- Hundreds of families have fled military operations in Altuhayat District, Al Hudaydah Governorate, with an estimated 705 arriving in Zabid and Al-Garrah districts.
- Heavy rains affected several governorates in the southern coastal areas as Cyclone Sagar passed the Gulf of Aden, but minimal damage was reported.
- Data collected by WHO from functioning health facilities indicate that from March 2015 to April 2018, 9,559 people have been killed and 55,616 injured in Yemen's conflict.

CHANGING ACCESS DYNAMICS IN TAIZZ GOVERNORATE

Humanitarian partners are navigating shifting frontlines in Taizz Governorate to reach people in need. Since mid-April, increased hostilities on the west coast districts of Taizz, including Dhubab, Mawza and Al-Wazi'iyah districts, have limited humanitarian partners' access, both from Ibb and Aden governorates. The fighting also displaced more than 1,260 families into Abyan, Lahj and Aden governorates.

In recent days, humanitarian access to parts of Al-Waziyah and Mawza districts has improved, including from Aden and Al-Turbah City. Humanitarian partners in Ibb and Aden Hubs are coordinating rapid assessments in accessible areas. Partners continue to identify safe routes into former conflict areas, as some locations are heavily contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants of war. Last week, the Local Council in Mawza requested assistance for 300 internally displaced families. Additional requests are expected in the coming days, as partners continue their needs assessments on the ground.



UPDATES FROM THE HUBS

Al Hudaydah Hub: Local authorities in Al Hudaydah have reported that hundreds of families have fled ongoing military operations in Altuhayat District. An estimated 705 displaced families have arrived in Zabid and Al-Garrah districts during the past couple of days; 250 families have been displaced within Altuhayat District.

In Hajjah Governorate, hundreds of families have fled hostilities along the coastal areas of Midi District to neighboring Abs and Hayran districts. Partners are identifying the displaced populations and assessing needs. Initial information indicates that most of the displaced families are already IDPs who have been displaced for the second time. Further displacement is anticipated in the coming days as the Midi frontline continues to move along the coastal areas towards Hayran District.

Aden Hub: Since December 2017, the total number of families displaced to areas accessible by the Aden

Hub has reached 15,678 households as of 13 May. Most new IDPs have come from Taizz, Al Hudaydah and Al Bayda governorates. During the reporting period, humanitarian partners continued to respond to the needs of the affected people. WFP and UNICEF availed 1,000 rapid response kits for pre-positioning in Al Mokha and Al Khawkhah.

Sana'a Hub: The Protection Cluster produced its latest Civilian Impact Monitoring (CIMP) weekly report for Amanat Al Asimah (Sana'a City), Sana'a and Marib governorates, covering the period between 10-16 May. According to the report, there were five reported incidents, a 55 per cent drop from the previous week. The five incidents were caused by airstrikes. These resulted in four civilian casualties, which was a significant drop-off from the 112 casualties in the previous week. Airstrikes on a glass factory in Nihm were assessed to have a direct protection implication for as many as 100 households, which may have lost their livelihoods. Airstrikes also hit a gas station in the Al-Qoladh area

of Bani Matar, potentially causing as many as 2,000 households in the area to experience restricted access to gas supply.

Ibb Hub: During the reporting period, heavy rains in Ma'afer District, Taizz Governorate, damaged about 580 tents at an IDP hosting site, according to the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster. In Mawza District, local authorities have appealed to the humanitarian community to assist about 300 displaced families. Humanitarian clusters and partners are following up on the request.

Sa'ada Hub: On 16 May, UNFPA reported delivering seven reproductive health kits to Al Jawf Governorate. Each kit can treat between 10,000-30,000 patients for three months. On 14 May, the new building of Haydan Hospital in Haydan District was inaugurated with support from a medical organisation.

The hospital had been damaged by conflict in October 2015. The organisation returned to the hospital and started working in the staff residence and two tents in the hospital yard in 2017, providing health services to 7,000 people, of whom 44 per cent were children under 5 years and 41 per cent were women.

PRICES AND SUPPLY OF FUEL AND GAS

The average price of diesel and petrol decreased slightly by three and five per cent respectively, in April compared to March, according to the April 2018 Market Monitoring Bulletin which is jointly produced by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) and FAO, with support from the EU.

The slight decrease was mainly due to improved availability of these fuels in official petrol stations. Petrol prices dropped in all governorates, except Dhamar, Shabwah and Abyan where the prices remained

unchanged. The sharpest decrease of 23.6 per cent was reported in Lahj, followed by Aden at 17.6 per cent.

Cooking gas availability was a challenge in April, as the scarcity that began in February continued. Official stations were still not supplying the local market, causing prices to increase and to vary widely. In Sana'a and Dhamar, cooking gas even disappeared in the unofficial market, with supplies being delivered through community leaders at 3,000 YER per cylinder of 11 kg instead of the standard 18-20 kg.

MIGRANT ARRIVALS FROM THE HORN OF AFRICA TO YEMEN

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reports that in the period 6 -12 May, its coastal search and rescue teams for migrants found 313 new arrivals (80 boys and 233 men) in Lahj Governorate. The migrants were provided with information, food, water, NFIs, and medical assistance.

Conflict and a desperate humanitarian crisis do not deter the arrival of migrants from the Horn of Africa. The migrants arrive in Yemen with the hope of continuing to seek better economic opportunities in richer Gulf countries, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Most of them head to Djibouti and take

boats to Aden to reach Lahj, Shabwah, and Hadramaut governorates, from where they continue towards KSA. During their journeys they are exposed to physical and sexual abuse, torture for ransom, arbitrary detention for long periods of time, forced labour for no pay and even death at the hands of people smugglers.

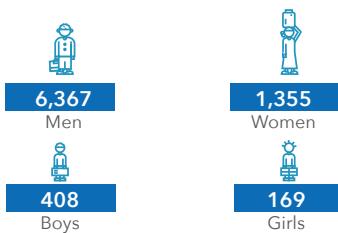
According to IOM, the total number of migrants currently in Yemen is unknown but an estimated 100,000 arrived in 2017. Since January 2018, IOM has helped 197 Ethiopian and 939 Somali migrants and refugees to return home voluntarily to date.

Migrant arrivals in April 2018

Number of migrants



Sex and age disaggregated data



Source: IOM



Migrants being interviewed by IOM upon arrival
Credit: IOM Yemen

HEAVY RAINS AS CYCLONE SAGAR PASSES NEAR SOUTHERN COASTAL AREAS

Heavy rains and flooding were reported along the coastal areas of the Gulf of Aden during the reporting period, as Cyclone Sagar moved towards Somalia and Djibouti. According to the General Authority for Civil Aviation and Meteorology of Yemen, most areas along the southern coast line were largely unaffected, except for some localized flooding which damaged infrastructure.

In Hadramaut Governorate, the rains cut off some roads and damaged electricity infrastructure. The Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster reported localized damage to houses in Mayfa'a and Brom, near Al Mukalla District. The need for support is being assessed; cluster partners are concerned that floods could further spread cholera in the weeks ahead.

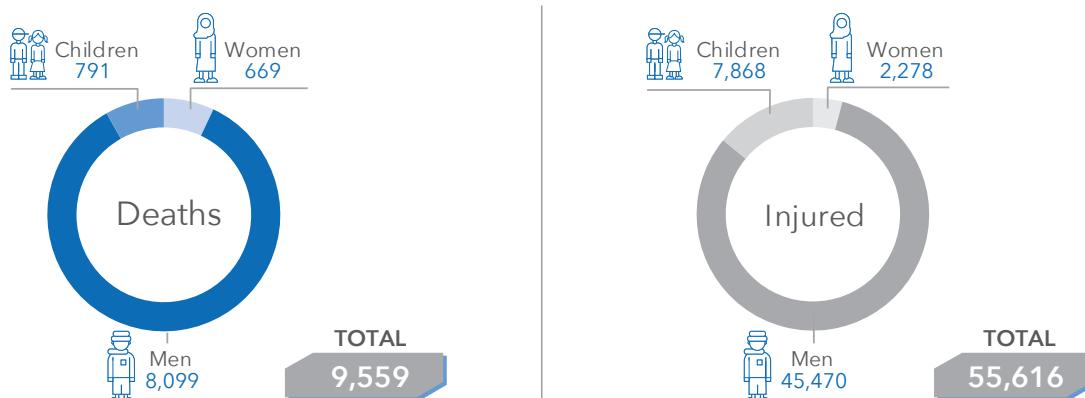


Cyclone Sagar caused limited damage to infrastructure in the southern coastal areas of Yemen. Photo: UNOCHA

WHO CASUALTY FIGURES AS OF 30 APRIL 2018

Data collected by WHO from functioning health facilities indicates that reported deaths and injuries in Yemen's conflict, from 19 March 2015 to 30 April 2018, have reached 9,559 and 55,616 people, respectively. The actual numbers are likely to be much higher.

Number of casualties by age groups



Source: WHO

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

Since April, the unofficial exchange rate of the Yemeni Rial against the US dollar across several governorates has remained stable, ranging between 482 YER in Al Baydah to 495 YER/US\$ in Abyan. The average national rate has remained at 487 YR/US\$, according to the EU-funded April monitoring report by MOPIC and FAO.

As of the second week of May, money exchange shops in the Sana'a region (all six governorates) were buying US dollars at between 480 and 485 YER/1US\$. In Aden, the exchange rate was slightly higher at 490 YER/1US\$. The current rate reflects an increase of 127 per cent compared to the period before the escalation of conflict in March 2015 when the Yemeni Rial exchanged at 25YER/US\$.

UNVIM UPDATE

During the period from 9 - 15 May 2018, six vessels discharged 122,227 MT of cargo at Yemen's Red Sea ports of Al Hudaydah and Saleef.



106,596 MT



15,631 MT



0 MT

Source: UNVIM

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