

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

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KEY ISSUES:

- Humanitarian agencies are increasingly worried by the likely impact of a possible military assault on Al Hudaydah City which will impact hundreds of thousands of civilians.
- Prepositioning of aid supplies continues throughout the Governorate as aid organisations plan to stay and deliver
- Forty-six migrants drown off the coast of Yemen

INCREASED CONCERNS AT A POSSIBLE MILITARY ASSAULT ON AL HUDAYDAH

As fighting continues along Yemen's western coast, humanitarian agencies are increasingly worried by the likely impact of a possible military assault on Al Hudaydah City. In a briefing to the Security Council on 11 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock said Hudaydah matters for the whole of the humanitarian operation in Yemen. He added that the UN and other humanitarian organizations are reconfiguring their presence, but intend to stay and deliver. The UN and its partners estimate that as many as 600,000 civilians are currently living in and around Al Hudaydah. In addition to being one of Yemen's most densely populated governorates, Al Hudaydah Governorate hosts the main port through which most of Yemen's imports enter, including commercial and humanitarian supplies needed to prevent famine and a recurrence of a cholera epidemic.

Humanitarian partners are doing everything possible to assist people in need and prepare for all possible scenarios. Over the last several weeks, agencies have procured and pre-positioned additional supplies, aiming to deliver 70,000 rapid response kits mainly to local warehouses in Al Hudaydah Governorate and adjacent districts of neighbouring governorates. Those kits include immediate food rations, hygiene supplies and dignity kits.

The humanitarian response in Yemen currently assists more than seven million people every month and it is considered one of the world's most difficult operating environments. Humanitarian organisations have very little margin to take on additional caseloads in what is already the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Following a briefing to the UN Security Council on 11 June, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Mark Lowcock, reaffirmed that humanitarian organizations intend to stay in Al Hudaydah and deliver assistance to people in need and outlined the three critical priorities he had asked the support of the Council.

The first priority is to ensure that all stakeholders work together to ensure that Al Hudaydah and Saleef ports remain open and operational without interruption so that humanitarian organizations can ensure continued humanitarian relief and adequate levels of essential commercial imports. In relation to this issue, the ERC asked the Council to try to influence all stakeholders to ensure that aid supplies and essential commercial imports are able, not just to enter the ports, but also to move from the ports to their final destinations and to the people who benefit from them without impediment.

As a second priority, the ERC asked the Council's help to ensure that all parties to the conflict, including all affiliated forces, meet their obligations to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, taking active steps to respect the fundamental rules of distinction, proportionality and precautions. As part of this, all parties to allow freedom of movement for civilians seeking to flee conflict-affected areas or to move out of areas where they fear conflict may escalate. Thirdly, the ERC urged the Council to support the efforts of the Special Envoy to prevent a battle for Al Hudaydah but also to move forward with the peace process.

Al Hudaydah Governorate



MIGRANTS DROWN OFF THE YEMEN COAST

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that on 6 June, 46 migrants (37 men and nine women) drowned when their vessel capsized as it approached the coast of Yemen. Over 100 migrants, reportedly all Ethiopians, were thought to be on the vessel that had left the port of Bossaso in Somalia on 5 June. IOM provided medical assistance, health, food and psychosocial support to the survivors while the ICRC and the Yemen Red Crescent made arrangements for the burial of the deceased.

This tragedy is the latest of many to have befallen migrants traveling to or from Yemen. IOM reports that over 7,000 migrants take the perilous journey from the Horn of Africa to Yemen every month through the short but treacherous Gulf of Aden in the search of better opportunities. It is estimated that, in 2017, some 100,000 people crossed the Gulf in this way.

Through its Voluntary Humanitarian Return Programme, IOM is providing transportation from Yemen for migrants to return to their home countries. In 2017, IOM assisted some 2,900 migrants and refugees to



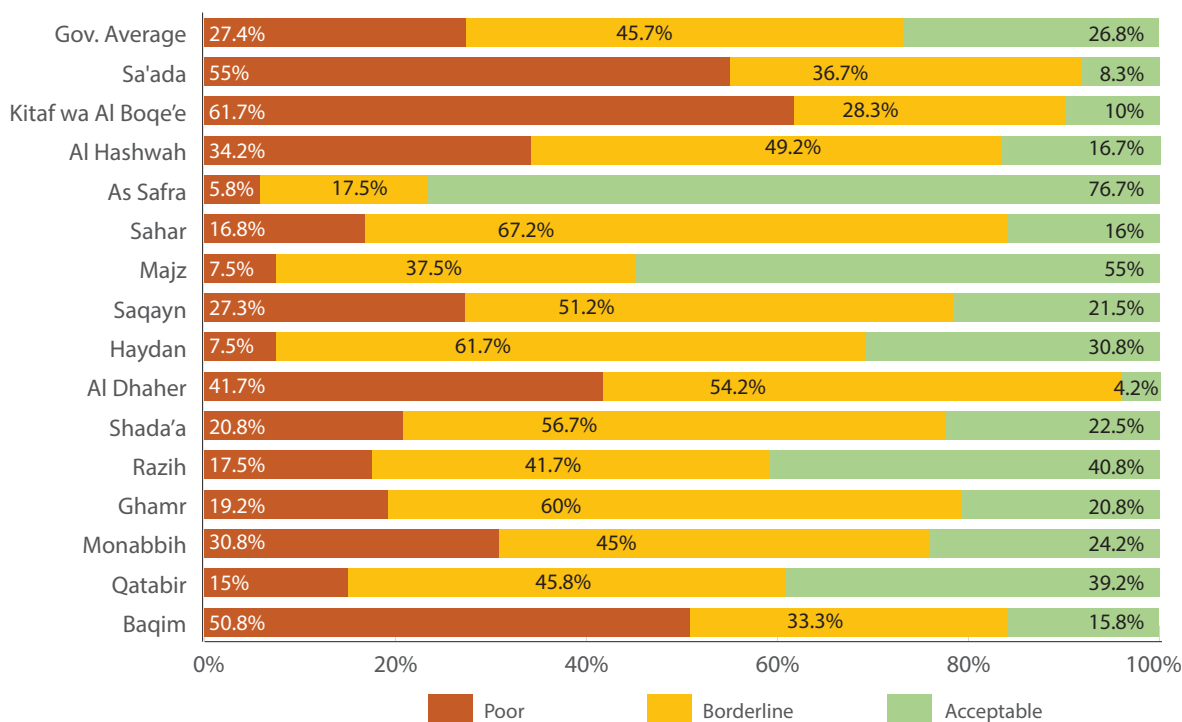
Credit: IOM Yemen - IOM assist survivors

return home from Yemen: 73 per cent of them were Somalis; 25 per cent Ethiopians and two per cent other nationalities. As of 30 May, IOM has supported the voluntary return of 298 Ethiopian and 1,064 Somali migrants and refugees. Assisted spontaneous returns of Somali refugees are carried out in collaboration with UNHCR.

HUMANITARIAN HUB UPDATES

Sa'ada: According to a WFP survey on food consumption and livelihoods-related coping strategies used by households, the proportion of households with a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS) in Sa'ada reduced from 50 per cent at the beginning of the crisis to 27 per cent today. Despite some improvement and a positive impact of the ongoing food assistance, the survey confirmed the high prevalence of food insecurity and high dependence on food assistance.

A UNHCR implementing partner has started the distribution of 1,000 Non-Food Items (NFIs) to internally displaced households and vulnerable communities in Ghamr District. Following an assessment by one of its implementing partner, UNICEF is planning to distribute WASH supplies (water filters, jerry cans, hygiene kits and chlorine tablets) to 624 households affected by the floods in Bart Al Anan District in Al Jawf Governorate.



Majority of households in Sa'ada Governorate have a poor/borderline Food Consumption Score.

Sana'a: On 5 June, several airstrikes hit populated areas within Sana'a City, one of them hit a target very close to the UN compound and affected the offices of two NGOs – all of which had been deconflicted. Nine civilians were reportedly wounded. As part the preparedness activities related to the escalation of violence along the western coast, humanitarian partners are prepositioning rapid response kits in Wusab As Safil District in Dhamar Governorate.

Ibb: Fighting has reportedly de-escalated in Taizz Governorate, except in Maqbanah District where it has continued unabated. However, no improvement in humanitarian access has been noted. A new field hospital funded by Turkey has been inaugurated in At Turbah District in Taizz Governorate. The hospital has a 50-bed capacity, an intensive care unit, two operations rooms and is equipped with x-rays machine and a laboratory. The new hospital is expected to relieve the pressure on the public and private hospitals in Ash Shamayatayn District which is hosting a significant number of IDPs.

In Ibb Governorate, IOM provided the medical supplies for 3,000 renal dialysis sessions to Al-Thawrah Hospital to cover the needs of about 180 kidney failure patients for an estimated period of two months.

Aden: As of 3 June 2018, the total number of families displaced from conflict-affected areas to areas accessible to the Aden Hub has reached 16,028 households. Most of the families recently displaced by the Sagar and Mekunu cyclones reportedly returned home.

Over the last week, cholera cases in Aden Hub increased by 32 suspected cases in Al Dhale'e Governorate,

including nine cases in Al Husha District and in Al Hussein District. Six suspected cases were reported in Lahj Governorate and two in Aden Governorate. WHO delivered 40 MT of medical supplies to Al Mahara health facilities and five mobile clinics which will be operational in the governorates of Taizz, Marib, Lahj, Abyan and Shabwah.

Al Hudaydah: Displacement from active conflict areas in Hudaydah continues to occur to various locations within the Governorate. During the reporting period, local authorities reported that an estimated 2,587 newly displaced families have fled their homes to Hudaydah City, Bait Al Faqih, Al Hussynyah, At Tuhayat, Ad Durayhimi, Zabid, Al Garrahi. However, only 625 households of these were verified. UNHCR distributed NFIs to 2068 IDPs from Midi District hosted in Bani Hassan in Abs District and are planning to provide Rental subsidies to support up to 1,500 IDP households in Hajjah city and 439 IDP families in Al Hudaydah city next week. Also, UNHCR is planning to distribute NFIs to 186 newly displaced families in At Tuhayat District.

In Al Hudaydah City, UNICEF has provided the Alqutaie'e water station with two generators with the capacity of 640 KVA as well as 1,500 solar panels to the 7 July water station. In Al Mahwit City, UNICEF provided 36,000 liters of fuel to support the water corporation. Direct Aid has completed the installation of solar systems in eight health centers in Al Mahwit and Raymah Governorates. A local partner funded by the Yemen Humanitarian Fund completed the distribution of food baskets for 3,046 households in Bani Saad District in Al Mahwit Governorate. On Kamran Island, a local implementing partner finished the distribution of food baskets to 690 families.

CHOLERA AND DIPHTHERIA UPDATE

As of 3 June 2018, a cumulative total of 1,850 suspected diphtheria cases have been reported including 98 associated deaths. The outbreak has affected 202 districts across 20 governorates with Ibb and Sana'a being the most affected. Children under 5 years of ages represent 20 per cent of suspected diphtheria cases and 37 per cent of associated deaths. The most affected age group is 5-15 year-olds, representing 44 per cent of all cases. A diphtheria vaccination campaign implemented in Sa'ada achieved only 34 per cent coverage with many people refusing to to for the vaccinations until there is treatment offered as part of integrated health services. The lack of a diphtheria isolation unit in Sa'ada Governorate is a continued concern.

The cumulative total of suspected cholera cases reported from 27 April 2017 to 3 June 2018 stands at 1,105,371, with 2,300 associated deaths across the country. Some 158 districts (out of 305 affected districts) have not reported any suspected cases for the last three consecutive weeks. There are currently 88 functional Diarrhea Treatment Centers (DTCs) and 263 Oral Rehydration Corners (ORCs) in 97 districts across 18 Governorates.

UNVIM UPDATE

During the period from 30 May to 5 June 2018, 11 vessels discharged 175,261 MT of cargo at Yemen's Red Sea ports of Al Hudaydah and Saleef.



109,349 MT



265,912 MT



0 MT

Al Hudaydah 136,671

Saleef 38,590

Source: UNVIM

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